

01 The present simple

The present simple is used to make simple statements of fact, to talk about things that happen repeatedly, and to describe things that are always true.

See also:

Present continuous **4** Present for future events **19** Adverbs of frequency **102**

1.1 THE PRESENT SIMPLE

To make the present simple of most verbs, use the base form (the infinitive without "to").

I **eat** lunch at noon every day.

The base form of the verb "to eat."

Adverbs of frequency are often used with the present simple.



She **eats** lunch at 2pm every day.

With "he," "she," and "it," add "-s" to the base form.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

We **drink** coffee every morning.



She **drinks** coffee every morning.



We **start** work at 9am.



He **starts** work at 11am.



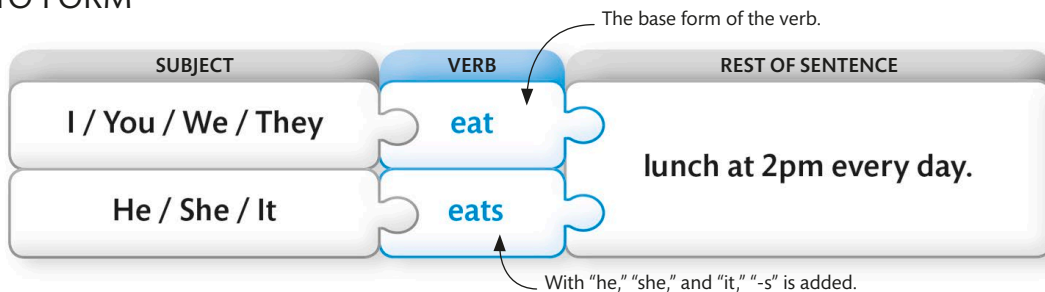
They **leave** work at 5pm.



Rob **leaves** work at 7pm.



HOW TO FORM



1.2 "-S" AND "-ES" ENDINGS

With some verbs, "-es" is added for "he," "she," and "it."
These include verbs ending with "-sh," "-ch," "-o," "-ss," "-x," and "-z."

I **go** to bed.

He **goes** to bed.

"-es" is added to verbs ending with "-o."

I **finish** work.

He **finishes** work.

"-es" is added to verbs ending with "-sh."

I **watch** TV.

She **watches** TV.

"-es" is added to verbs ending with "-ch."

I **cross** the road.

She **crosses** the road.

"-es" is added to verbs ending with "-ss."

I **fix** cars.

She **fixes** cars.

"-es" is added to verbs ending with "-x."

Their phones **buzz** all day.

His phone **buzzes** all day.

"-es" is added to verbs ending with "-z."

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Tom **does** the dishes every evening.



He **washes** the windows on Fridays.



She **teaches** English to six students.



He **blushes** when he's embarrassed.



! COMMON MISTAKES FORMING THE PRESENT SIMPLE

When the present simple is used with "he," "she," "it," or one person's name, it always ends in "-s" or "-es."

An "s" is added to the base form "start."

He **starts** work at 11am. ✓

He **start** work at 11am. ✗

"Start" without an "s" is only used for "I," "you," "we," and "they."

There is no need to add the auxiliary verb "do" when forming the present simple. It is only used to form questions and negatives.

I **eat** lunch at noon every day. ✓

I **do eat** lunch at noon every day. ✗

"Do" is only used as an auxiliary verb when forming negatives or questions.

1.3 "BE" IN THE PRESENT SIMPLE

"Be" is an important verb with an irregular present simple form.



I am 25 years old.



You are a chef.



He is happy.

"Are" also follows "we" and "they."

"Is" also follows "she" and "it."

HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT	"BE"	REST OF SENTENCE
I	am	happy.
You	are	
He / She / It	is	
We / They	are	

FURTHER EXAMPLES

I am a doctor.



Contractions can also be used.

We're late for work.



They are students.



He's American.



My grandma is 92 years old.



Ruby's seven years old.



1.4 "HAVE" IN THE PRESENT SIMPLE

"Have" is an irregular verb. The third person singular form is "has" not "haves."

I have a garage.



"Has" is used for the third person singular: "he," "she," and "it."

She has a yard.



HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT	"HAVE"	OBJECT
I You We They	have	a garage.
He She It	has	

FURTHER EXAMPLES

I have a car.



The cat has a new collar.



You have a sister.



He has a cold.



I have a painful back.



Thomas has a driving lesson today.



They have the same dress.



Jack has a bad headache.



They have a new baby.



Sarah has coffee with Tom every Tuesday.

