

Present Simple Tense

The present simple tense is used to give personal information, facts and truths, to talk about habits or future events and with stative verbs. The present simple is normally used with words such as ***always, normally, usually, twice a year, every day/week*** and ***in the summer/winter***.

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Subject	Verb: To travel
I	travel
You	travel
He	travels
She	travels
It	travels
We	travel
They	travel

In the affirmative, we add the letter S to the infinitive verb for the third person singular (he/she/it). There are a few exceptions though;

- If the verb ends in X, Z, S, CH, O or SH then we add ES to the third person singular
- If the verb ends in consonant plus Y, then we eliminate the Y before adding IES to the third person singular

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Subject	Do (auxiliary)	Verb: To travel
I	don't	travel
You	don't	travel
He	doesn't	travel
She	doesn't	travel
It	doesn't	travel
We	don't	travel
They	don't	travel

All negatives are formed exactly the same in the present simple tense. The verb do (don't/ doesn't) plus the infinitive verb.

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There are four possible question structures in the present simple tense and two possible short responses.

Qu	A	S	I
Where	do	I	live?
	do	you	
	does	he/she/it	
	do	we	
	do	they	

A	S	I
Do	I	sing?
Do	you	
Does	he/she/it	
Do	we	
Do	they	

Qu	A	S
Where	am	I?
	are	you?
	is	he/she/it?
	are	we?
	are	they?

A	S
Am	I?
Are	you?
Is	he/she/it?
Are	we?
Are	they?

Yes	I do
	You do
	He/She/It does
	We do
	They do

No	I don't
	You don't
	He/She/It doesn't
	We don't
	They don't

Yes	I am
	You are
	He/she/it is
	We are
	They are

No	I am not
	You aren't
	He/she/it isn't
	We aren't
	They aren't

Grammar Review

Present Continuous Tense

The present continuous tense is used to talk about events happening right now, events in process, planned future events, a before and after structure and with a change in state.

Subject	Verb to Be	Present Participle
I	am	reading
you	are	reading
he/she/it	is	reading
we	are	reading
they	are	reading

In the affirmative, we use the SuBEP structure: subject, verb to be (affirmative) and the present participle. We can also contract the verb to be and the subject together.

Subject	Verb to Be (-)	Present Participle
I	am not	reading
you	are not	reading
he/she/it	is not	reading
we	are not	reading
they	are not	reading

In the negative, we use the same SuBEP structure, but the verb to be is used in the negative form. We can also contract the negative form of the verb to be.

Verb to Be	Subject	Present Participle
Am	I	reading?
Are	you	reading?
Is	he/she/it	reading?
Are	we	reading?
Are	they	reading?

There are two question forms in the present continuous. QuBESuP, if you use a question word, and BESuP, without a question word.

Question	Verb to Be	Subject	Present Participle
What	am	I	reading?
	are	you	reading?
	is	he/she/it	reading?
	are	we	reading?
	are	they	reading?

The short response is yes or no, plus the subject and then the verb to be.

Response	Subject	Verb to Be
Yes	I	am
	you	are
	he/she/it	is
	we	are
	they	are

Response	Subject	Verb to Be
No	I	am not
	you	are not
	he/she/it	is not
	we	are not
	they	are not

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

- Normal rule (+ING): *drink* → *drinking*
- CVC rule (double last consonant +ING): *cut* → *cutting*
Exceptions: last letter W, Y or stress on first syllable (+ING only) *draw* → *drawing*
- E rule (eliminate E +ING): *drive* → *driving*
Exceptions: EE Ending (+ING only) *see* → *seeing*
- IE rule (eliminate IE + Y +ING): *die* → *dying*
- C rule (+ K + ING): *picnic* → *picnicking*

Pronunciation can be /ɪŋ/ /ɪn/ or /ən/. The ING is never stressed, always the infinitive part.

KEYWORDS

Always, still constantly, forever

These words have a negative effect and go in between the verb to be and the present participle.
E.g. *He is always complaining.*

Now, even now, any longer, anymore, no longer, this season/month/year, at this moment/time can go at the beginning or the end of the sentence. E.g. *This year, we are learning English OR We are learning English this year.*



Grammar Review

Present Simple v Present Continuous

The present simple and present continuous tenses are used in very specific situations.

Present Simple	Present Continuous
Personal Information My name is Hannah	Right Now I am teaching you
Facts and Truths The world is round	Process I'm studying to become a teacher
Habits This event never changes I play tennis every Saturday	Before and After This event can change, there is some flexibility. Adverbs of frequency are normally used. At 7am, I'm normally having a shower
Future Events Scheduled and timetabled events that are pre-planned and organised She has English class tomorrow	Future Events Planned events that aren't scheduled or timetabled and often involve other people My mum is visiting me on Saturday
Stative Verbs She wants chocolate	Change in State The children are growing up so quickly