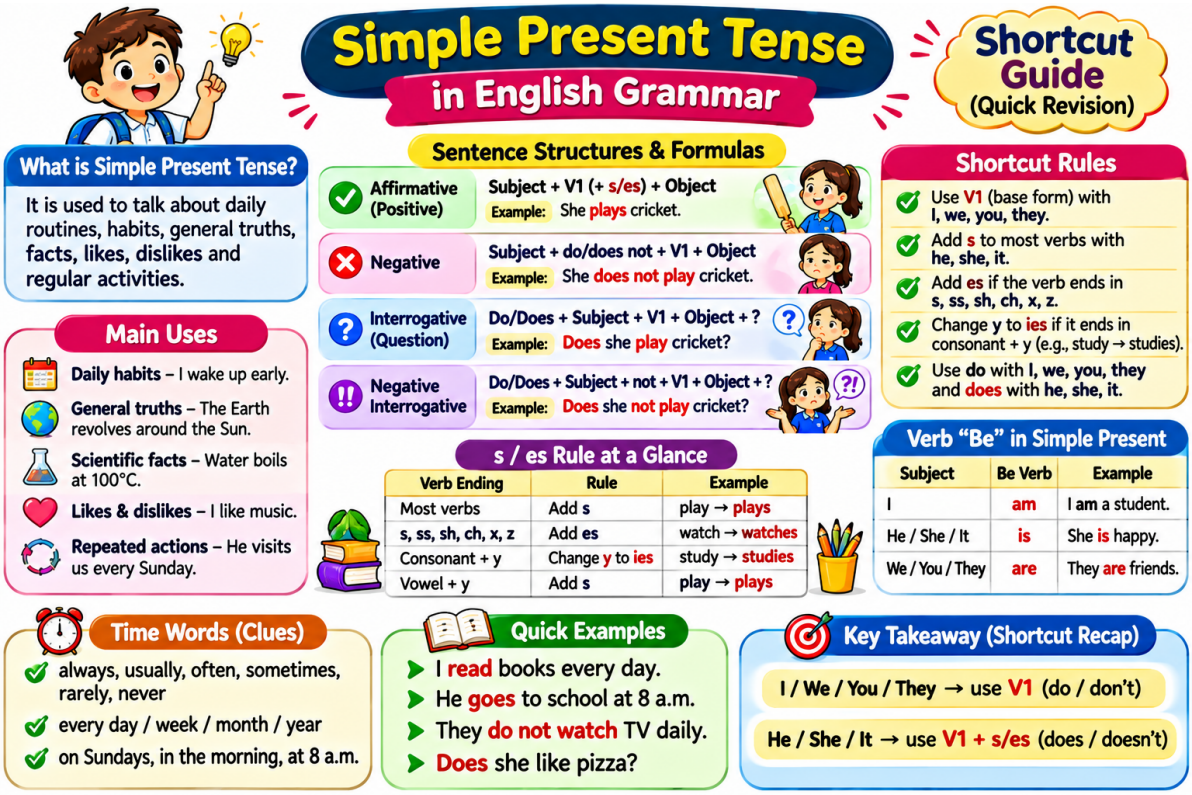
SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

Complete Study Guide • Visual Examples • Rules • Practice Worksheet • Answer Key



What you will learn

Section	Study goal
Meaning and uses	Understand when the Simple Present is used.
Sentence patterns	Build positive, negative and question forms.
Verb rules	Choose V1, add -s/-es, and use do/does correctly.
Visual examples	Compare sentence forms and everyday situations.
Worksheet + answers	Practise independently and check your work.

Suitable for Classes 5–10, beginners and English learners.

1. What Is the Simple Present Tense?

The Simple Present Tense describes habits, routines, repeated actions, general truths, facts, preferences and regular situations. It can also describe fixed schedules, such as a train timetable.

Remember: The word “present” does not mean that an action must be happening at this exact moment. It often describes what happens regularly or what is generally true.

Visual example: habit, fact and preference

Meaning	Example	What it tells us
Daily habit	I walk to school every day.	The action is repeated.
General truth	The Earth revolves around the Sun.	The statement is generally true.
Preference	Mina likes mangoes.	It describes a feeling or preference.
Fixed schedule	The bus leaves at 8:15 a.m.	It describes a timetable.

Common time expressions

always • usually • often • sometimes • rarely • never • every day • every week • on Mondays

These expressions are clues, not strict requirements. A Simple Present sentence does not need to contain a time word.

2. Main Uses with Visual Examples

Daily habits

Example: I brush my teeth twice a day. (Calendar icon: a repeated daily action.)

Repeated actions

Example: They play badminton on Sundays. (The action happens regularly.)

Facts and general truths

Example: Plants need water to grow. (A statement that is generally true.)

Likes and dislikes

Example: He enjoys drawing. (A preference or feeling.)

Instructions

Example: You turn left at the next street. (A direction or instruction.)

Timetables

Example: The library opens at 9 a.m. (A fixed schedule.)

3. Four Sentence Structures

For ordinary action verbs, use the following patterns. V1 means the base form of the verb, such as play, read, work or study.

A. AFFIRMATIVE (POSITIVE)

Subject + V1 (+ s/es) + Object

Example: She plays cricket.

B. NEGATIVE

Subject + do/does + not + V1 + Object

Example: She does not play cricket.

C. INTERROGATIVE (QUESTION)

Do/Does + Subject + V1 + Object + ?

Example: Does she play cricket?

D. NEGATIVE INTERROGATIVE

Do/Does + Subject + not + V1 + Object + ?

Example: Does she not play cricket?

One verb, four forms

Sentence type	Example
Affirmative	She plays cricket.
Negative	She does not play cricket.
Interrogative	Does she play cricket?
Negative interrogative	Does she not play cricket?

Contractions: do not = don't; does not = doesn't. For example, “She doesn't play cricket.” In everyday speech, contractions are very common.

4. The Quick Subject Shortcut: Do or Does?

First identify the subject. This is the fastest way to choose the correct helping verb and main verb form.

Subject group	Affirmative	Negative	Question
I / We / You / They	play	do not play	Do ... play?
He / She / It / one name	plays	does not play	Does ... play?

Shortcut: I, we, you, they → use do in negatives/questions and the base verb in affirmative sentences. He, she, it or one name → add s/es in affirmative sentences; use does in negatives/questions.

Very important: After does or doesn't, the main verb returns to V1. Write “Does she play?” not “Does she plays?”

5. Rules for Adding -s and -es

Verb pattern	Rule	Example
Most verbs	Add -s	read → reads; work → works
Ends in -s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x or -z	Usually add -es	watch → watches; wash → washes; fix → fixes
Consonant + y	Change y to -ies	study → studies; try → tries
Vowel + y	Add -s	play → plays; enjoy → enjoys
Irregular common forms	Learn the form	have → has; do → does; go → goes

Visual spelling examples

Base verb	With he/she/it	Why?
play	plays	Vowel + y: add s
study	studies	Consonant + y: y changes to ies
watch	watches	Ends in ch: add es
go	goes	Special spelling form
have	has	Irregular form

Note: These spelling changes apply to the affirmative main verb with a third-person singular subject. They do not apply after does or doesn't.

6. The Verb “Be”: Am, Is and Are

The verb be is different from ordinary action verbs. Use am, is or are to describe identity, condition, location or a state. Do not add do/does to ordinary sentences with am, is or are.

Subject	Be verb	Positive	Negative	Question
I	am	I am ready.	I am not ready.	Am I ready?
He / She / It	is	She is happy.	She is not happy.	Is she happy?
We / You / They	are	They are students.	They are not students.	Are they students?

Common error: “Does she be happy?” is not the normal way to ask this. Say “Is she happy?”

7. Adverbs of Frequency

Adverbs of frequency tell us how often something happens.

Adverb	General meaning	Example
Always	Every time	He always checks his work.
Usually	Most of the time	We usually eat dinner at home.
Often	Many times	I often read before bed.
Sometimes	On some occasions	She sometimes cycles to school.
Rarely	Not often	They rarely eat out.
Never	Not at any time	I never skip breakfast.

Position shortcut: Put the adverb usually before an ordinary main verb: “She often sings.” With am/is/are, it usually comes after the be verb: “She is often cheerful.”

8. WH-Questions and Subject Questions

For questions asking for information, place a question word before do or does.

Pattern: WH-word + do/does + subject + V1 + ...?

Question word	Example
Where	Where do you live?
What	What does he want?
When	When do classes begin?
Why	Why does she study English?
How	How do they travel to school?

Special subject question: When who or what is the subject doing the action, do/does is generally not used: “Who teaches English?” “What makes the sound?”

9. Common Mistakes and Corrections

Incorrect	Correct	Reason
He go to school.	He goes to school.	Add s/es for he in an affirmative sentence.

Incorrect	Correct	Reason
She don't sing.	She doesn't sing.	Use does not with she.
Does he plays?	Does he play?	Use V1 after does.
They plays football.	They play football.	Use V1 with they.
She studys daily.	She studies daily.	Consonant + y changes to ies.
Does she be happy?	Is she happy?	Use the correct form of be.

10. Practice Worksheet

Try the questions without looking at the answer key. Write your answers in a notebook.

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb.

1. Rina _____ (study) English every evening.
2. My friends _____ (play) chess after school.
3. The shop _____ (close) at 9 p.m.
4. He _____ (not / like) spicy food.
5. _____ your brother _____ (walk) to school?
6. Water _____ (freeze) at 0°C under standard atmospheric pressure.
7. The baby _____ (cry) when it is hungry.
8. We _____ (not / watch) television during dinner.
9. _____ they _____ (know) the answer?
10. My teacher _____ (teach) science.

B. Change these sentences as directed.

1. She reads a story. (Make it negative.)
2. They work in a hospital. (Make it a question.)
3. Rahul plays tennis. (Make it negative.)
4. You speak French. (Make it a question.)
5. He is tired. (Make it a question.)

C. Choose the correct option.

1. My sister ____ the piano.

(a) play (b) plays (c) playing

2. ____ you visit your grandparents?

(a) Does (b) Do (c) Is

3. The bus ____ at 7:30 a.m.

(a) leave (b) leaves (c) leaving

4. She doesn't ____ coffee.

(a) drinks (b) drinking (c) drink

5. ____ he your class teacher?

(a) Does (b) Is (c) Do

6. Which sentence is correct?

(a) He don't work. (b) He doesn't works. (c) He doesn't work.

D. Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1. She go to the library every Friday.
2. Does Ravi likes mangoes?
3. They does not live here.
4. My father watch the news every evening.

5. Are she a student?

11. Answer Key with Explanations

A. Fill in the blanks

No.	Answer	Explanation
1	studies	Rina is singular; consonant + y changes to ies.
2	play	Friends is plural, so use V1.
3	closes	The shop is singular; add s to close.
4	does not like / doesn't like	Use does not + V1 with he.
5	Does; walk	Use does with your brother and V1 after does.
6	freezes	Water is treated as singular; add s to freeze.
7	cries	The baby is singular; consonant + y changes to ies.
8	do not watch / don't watch	Use do not with we.
9	Do; know	Use do with they and V1 after do.
10	teaches	The teacher is singular; add es to teach.

B. Sentence transformations

No.	Answer
1	She does not read a story. / She doesn't read a story.
2	Do they work in a hospital?
3	Rahul does not play tennis. / Rahul doesn't play tennis.
4	Do you speak French?
5	Is he tired?

C. Multiple-choice answers

No.	Answer	Explanation
1	(b) plays	My sister is third-person singular.
2	(b) Do	Use do with you.
3	(b) leaves	A timetable uses the Simple Present; bus is singular.
4	(c) drink	Use V1 after doesn't.
5	(b) Is	Use is with he in a be-verb question.
6	(c) He doesn't work.	Doesn't is followed by V1.

D. Corrected sentences

No.	Correct sentence	Reason
1	She goes to the library every Friday.	Add es to go.
2	Does Ravi like mangoes?	Use V1 after does.

No.	Correct sentence	Reason
3	They do not live here.	Use do with they.
4	My father watches the news every evening.	Add es to watch.
5	Is she a student?	Use is to form a question with be.

12. One-Minute Revision Sheet

Remember this	Shortcut
I / We / You / They	V1 in affirmative; do not / Do ...?
He / She / It / one name	V1 + s/es in affirmative; does not / Does ...?
After do / does / don't / doesn't	Always use the base verb (V1).
Verb be	Use am / is / are directly; do not add do/does.
Consonant + y	Change y to ies: study → studies.
Vowel + y	Add s: play → plays.
Question pattern	Do/Does + subject + V1 + ...?

Study tip

Read one example from each sentence type aloud. Then make your own four sentences using the same verb. For example: “He reads”, “He does not read”, “Does he read?” and “Does he not read?” Practise a little every day.

End of study guide — Keep practising with SyllabusStudy.in!