

Present Simple - Form

How do we make the present simple tense in English?

Present simple of "be"

Positive form

Full form	Short form
I am	I' m
you are	you' re
he is	he' s
she is	she' s
it is	it' s
we are	we' re
they are	they' re

For example:

- I'**m** a student.
- It'**s** sunny today.
- They **are** at home.

Negative form

Put **“not”** after the verb.

Full form	Short forms	
I am not	I'm not	-
you are not	you're not	you aren't
he is not	he's not	he isn't
she is not	she's not	she isn't
it is not	it's not	it isn't
we are not	we're not	we aren't
they are not	they're not	they aren't

For example:

- I'm not a student.
- He's not at school.
- She isn't at work.
- We are not happy.
- They aren't Australian.

Question forms

Invert the subject and the verb, and put a question word ("what", "who", etc.) at the beginning for wh- questions.

Yes/No questions	
	Am I?
	Are you?
	Is he?
	Is she?
	Is it?
	Are we?
	Are they?

Wh- questions	
What	am I?
Who	are you?
Where	is he?
When	is she?
Why	is it?
How	are we?
etc.	are they?

For example:

- **Am I** right?
- **Is it** heavy?
- **Are they** here already?
- How **are** you?
- What **is** it?
- Who **is** the new teacher?
- Why **are** they always late?

Present simple of other verbs

Positive form

Use the base form (the infinitive without "to") and add an **-s** for "**he**", "**she**" and "**it**".

Here are some examples:

play	work	live
I play	I work	I live
you play	you work	you live
he plays	he works	he lives
she plays	she works	she lives
it plays	it works	it lives
we play	we work	we live
they play	they work	they live

For example:

- I **play** tennis.
- She **works** at a hotel.
- We **live** in a big city.

For some verbs, the spelling changes for "he", "she" and "it".

Note these rules:

1. If the verb ends in **-s, -z, -sh, -ch or -x**, add **-es** to the base form.
For example: pass → passes; buzz → buzzes; brush → brushes; teach → teaches;
fix → fixes
2. If the verb ends in a **consonant + y**, remove the **"y"** and add **-ies**.
For example: study → studies; try → tries; fly → flies

Note: If the verb ends in a **vowel + y**, just add **-s**.

For example: play → plays; buy → buys

3. The verbs **"do", "go" and "have"** are irregular in the present simple:
do → does; go → goes; have → has
Note: The pronunciation also changes significantly for **do/does**.

For example:

- She always **passes** her exams.
- The bee **buzzes** around the flowers. (it **buzzes**)
- He **brushes** his teeth before he **goes** to bed.
- George **teaches** English. (he **teaches**)
- It **flies** across the sky.
- He **does** yoga every Monday.
- Ethel **has** two brothers. (she **has**)

Negative form

Put "**do not**" or "**does not**" between the subject and the main verb.

The contraction of "**do not**" is "**don't**" and the contraction of "**does not**" is "**doesn't**".

Here we will use "**play**" as the main verb.

Full form	Short form
I do not play	I don't play
you do not play	you don't play
he does not play	he doesn't play
she does not play	she doesn't play
it does not play	it doesn't play
we do not play	we don't play
they do not play	they don't play

For example:

- I **don't play** tennis.
- You **don't know** him.
- He **does not like** garlic.
- It **doesn't rain** a lot here in summer.
- We **don't do** pilates.

Question forms

Put **“do”** or **“does”** before the subject and put a question word (what, who, etc.) at the beginning for wh- questions.

Yes/No questions	
	Do I play?
	Do you play?
	Does he play?
	Does she play?
	Does it play?
	Do we play?
	Do they play?

Wh- questions	
	do I play?
What	do you play?
Who	does he play?
Where	does she play?
When	does it play?
Why	do we play?
How	do they play?
etc.	

For example:

- **Do you play** piano?
- **Does he work** here?
- How **do you make** ice cream?
- What **does she do?** (= What is her job?)
- Where **do they live?**

Advanced grammar point

In old-fashioned English, and even in some formal contexts today, **"have"** is often treated similarly to **"be"** in present simple negative sentences and questions. You might see these structures in older books.

In other words, for **negative sentences**, we use "not" without "do" or "does".

Modern English:

- **You don't have time.**
- **She doesn't have a house.**

Old-fashioned English:

- **You haven't time.**
- **She hasn't a house.**

Note: "You have not time" and "She has not a house" are also correct, but they are very rare.

For **questions**, we simply invert the subject and the verb.

Modern English:

- **Do you have time?**
- **Does she have a house?**

Old-fashioned English:

- **Have you time?**
- **Has she a house?**