

# Present Simple - Structure

How do we make the present simple tense in English?

## Present simple of "be"

### Positive form

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

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	
	<b>Am I?</b>
	<b>Are you?</b>
	<b>Is he?</b>
	<b>Is she?</b>
	<b>Is it?</b>
	<b>Are we?</b>
	<b>Are they?</b>

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

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:

<b>play</b>	<b>work</b>	<b>live</b>
I <b>play</b>	I <b>work</b>	I <b>live</b>
you <b>play</b>	you <b>work</b>	you <b>live</b>
he <b>plays</b>	he <b>works</b>	he <b>lives</b>
she <b>plays</b>	she <b>works</b>	she <b>lives</b>
it <b>plays</b>	it <b>works</b>	it <b>lives</b>
we <b>play</b>	we <b>work</b>	we <b>live</b>
they <b>play</b>	they <b>work</b>	they <b>live</b>

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 <b>do not play</b>	I <b>don't play</b>
you <b>do not play</b>	you <b>don't play</b>
he <b>does not play</b>	he <b>doesn't play</b>
she <b>does not play</b>	she <b>doesn't play</b>
it <b>does not play</b>	it <b>doesn't play</b>
we <b>do not play</b>	we <b>don't play</b>
they <b>do not play</b>	they <b>don't play</b>

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	
	<b>Do I play?</b>
	<b>Do you play?</b>
	<b>Does he play?</b>
	<b>Does she play?</b>
	<b>Does it play?</b>
	<b>Do we play?</b>
	<b>Do they play?</b>

Wh- questions	
	<b>do I play?</b>
What	<b>do you play?</b>
Who	<b>does he play?</b>
Where	<b>does she play?</b>
When	<b>does it play?</b>
Why	<b>do we play?</b>
How	<b>do they play?</b>
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?**