

Present simple tense

Form

Positive statement: *I play, He plays*

Negative statement: *I do not play (I don't play), He does not play (He doesn't play)*

Question form: *Do you play? Does he play?*

Negative question: *Do you not play? (Don't you play?) Does he not play? (Doesn't he play?)*

The passive voice: *The game is played. The letters are written.* (See more at Active and passive voice.)

Spelling

We only use -s ending (plays) in the third person singular.

We add -es to the verbs that end in ss, sh, ch, x and o: misses, finishes, watches, mixes, goes.

If the verb ends in a consonant and -y, we change -y into -i and use the -es ending: carry - carries, try - tries.

But: play - plays, because this verb ends with a vowel and -y.

The auxiliary verb *do* is not used to make questions and negative statements with modal verbs and the verb *to be*.

Are you a student? Is he in London? I am not at home. He is not happy. Can you sing? Must I come? I cannot swim. He mustn't stay.

If the *wh-* pronoun introducing the question (*who, which*) is the subject of the question, we do not use the auxiliary verb *do*. Compare the following sentences.

Who knows you? (who is the subject)

Which cars belong to you? (which cars is the subject)

But: *Who do you know? (who is the object)*

The negative question normally expresses a surprise.

Doesn't he work?

Use

1. We use the **present simple tense** for activities that happen again and again (everyday, sometimes, ever, never).

Examples: *I sometimes go to school by bike. You don't speak Greek. Do they get up early?*

He often travels. She doesn't work. Does she ever help you?

2. We use it for facts that are always true.

Examples: *Our planet moves round the sun. Lions eat meat.*

3. With a future time expression (tomorrow, next week) the present simple is used for planned future actions (timetables).

Examples: *The train leaves at 8.15. They return tonight.*