



Tikrit University

College of Education for Women

English Department

Subject : Grammar

{First and Third Year}

Lecturer: Sara Muayad Sultan

[sara.m.sultan@tu.edu.i](mailto:sara.m.sultan@tu.edu.i)

## Present Simple Tense

The **Present Simple tense** is the most basic tense in English and uses the base form of the verb (except for the verb *be*). The only change from the base is the addition of **s** for third person singular.

### How do we make the Present Simple tense?

There are two basic structures for the Present Simple:

#### 1. Positive sentences

subject	+	main verb
		<b>Present Simple</b>

#### 2. Negative and question sentences

subject	+	auxiliary <i>do</i>	+	main verb
		conjugated in Present Simple		
		<b>do, does</b>		<b>base</b>

Look at these examples with the main verb *like*:

	<b>subject</b>	<b>auxiliary verb</b>		<b>main verb</b>	
--	----------------	-----------------------	--	------------------	--

	subject	auxiliary verb		main verb	
+	I, you, we, they			like	coffee.
	He, she, it			likes	coffee.
-	I, you, we, they	do	not	like	coffee.
	He, she, it	does	not	like	coffee.
?	Do	I, you, we, they		like	coffee?
	Does	he, she, it		like	coffee?

From the above table, notice the following points...

For positive sentences:

- There is **no auxiliary verb**.
- We conjugate the main verb by adding **s** to the third person singular.

For negative and question sentences:

- The auxiliary verb (do) is conjugated in the Present Simple: *do, does*
- The main verb is invariable in base form: *base*
- For negative sentences, we insert **not** between the auxiliary verb and the main verb.
- For question sentences, we **exchange** the subject and the auxiliary verb.

### Emphatic *do*

Normally, for positive sentences we do not use the auxiliary verb *do*. But if we want to emphasize (stress) something, we may use it. For example, instead of saying "I like your dress", we could say "I do like your dress", just to show how much we like it. Here are some more examples:

- I do wish you'd stop.
- I do apologize.
- You do look smart today.

### Present Simple with main verb *be*

The structure of the Present Simple with the main verb *be* is:

subject	+	main verb <i>be</i>
		conjugated in Present Simple
		<b>am, are, is</b>

Look at these examples with the main verb *be*:

	subject	main verb <i>be</i>		
+	I	am		French.
	You, we, they	are		French.

	subject	main verb <i>be</i>		
	He, she, it	is		French.
-	I	am	not	old.
	You, we, they	are	not	old.
	He, she, it	is	not	old.
?	Am	I		late?
	Are	you, we, they		late?
	Is	he, she, it		late?

From the above table, notice the following points...

- There is **no auxiliary verb**, even for questions and negatives.
- The main verb (be) is conjugated in the Present Simple: *am, are, is*
- For negative sentences, we insert **not** after the main verb.
- For question sentences, we **exchange** the subject and the main verb.

**Reference - <https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/verb-tenses.php>**