

**University of Basrah**

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Lecture 1**

**First Stage \  
Subject: English**

## **Simple Present Tense**

### **English Grammar Rules**

The simple present tense in English is used to describe an action that is regular, true or normal.

We use the present tense:

#### **1. For repeated or regular actions in the present time period.**

- I **take** the train to the office.
- The train to Berlin **leaves** every hour.
- John **sleeps** eight hours every night during the week.

#### **2. For facts.**

- The President of The USA **lives** in The White House.
- A dog **has** four legs.
- We **come** from Switzerland.

#### **3. For habits.**

- I **get up** early every day.
- Carol **brushes** her teeth twice a day.
- They **travel** to their country house every weekend.

#### **4. For things that are always / generally true.**

- It **rains** a lot in winter.
- The Queen of England **lives** in Buckingham Palace.
- They **speak** English at work.

## Verb Conjugation & Spelling

We form the present tense using the base form of the infinitive (without the TO).

In general, in the third person we add 'S' in the third person.

Subject	Verb	The Rest of the sentence
I / you / we / they	speak / learn	English at home
he / she / it	speaks / learns	English at home

The spelling for the verb in the third person differs depending on the ending of that verb:

1. For verbs that end in **-O**, **-CH**, **-SH**, **-SS**, **-X**, or **-Z** we add **-ES** in the third person.

- go – goes
- catch – catches
- wash – washes
- kiss – kisses
- fix – fixes
- buzz – buzzes

2. For verbs that end in a **consonant + Y**, we remove the **Y** and add **-IES**.

- marry – marries
- study – studies
- carry – carries
- worry – worries

NOTE: For verbs that end in a **vowel + Y**, we just add **-S**.

- play – plays
- enjoy – enjoys
- say – says

## Negative Sentences in the Simple Present Tense

To make a negative sentence in English we normally use Don't or Doesn't with all verbs EXCEPT **To Be** and **Modal verbs** (can, might, should etc.).

- Affirmative: You speak French.  
Negative: You **don't** speak French.

You will see that we add **don't** between the subject and the verb. We use **Don't** when the subject is **I, you, we** or **they**.

- Affirmative: He speaks German.  
Negative: He **doesn't** speak German.

When the subject is **he, she** or **it**, we add **doesn't** between the subject and the verb to make a negative sentence. Notice that the letter **S** at the end of the verb in the affirmative sentence (because it is in third person) disappears in the negative sentence. We will see the reason why below.

## Negative Contractions

**Don't = Do not**

**Doesn't = Does not**

I **don't** like meat = I **do not** like meat.

There is no difference in meaning though we normally use contractions in spoken English.

## Word Order of Negative Sentences

The following is the word order to construct a basic negative sentence in English in the Present Tense using **Don't** or **Doesn't**.

Subject	don't/doesn't	Verb*	The Rest of the sentence
I / you / we / they	don't	have / buy	cereal for breakfast
he / she / it	doesn't	eat / like etc.	

\* Verb: The verb that goes here is the base form of the infinitive = The infinitive without TO before the verb. Instead of the infinitive **To have** it is just the **have** part.

Remember that the infinitive is the verb before it is conjugated (changed) and it begins with **TO**. For example: to have, to eat, to go, to live, to speak etc.

### Examples of Negative Sentences with Don't and Doesn't:

- You **don't** speak Arabic.
- John **doesn't** speak Italian.
- We **don't** have time for a rest.
- It **doesn't** move.
- They **don't** want to go to the party.
- She **doesn't** like fish.

### Questions in the Simple Present Tense

To make a question in English we normally use Do or Does. It has no translation in Spanish though it is essential to show we are making a question. It is normally put at the beginning of the question.

- Affirmative: You speak English.  
Question: **Do** you speak English?

You will see that we add **DO** at the beginning of the affirmative sentence to make it a question. We use **Do** when the subject is **I, you, we** or **they**.

- Affirmative: He speaks French.  
Question: **Does** he speak French?

When the subject is **he, she** or **it**, we add **DOES** at the beginning to make the affirmative sentence a question. Notice that the letter **S** at the end of the

verb in the affirmative sentence (because it is in third person) disappears in the question. We will see the reason why below.

We **DON'T** use **Do** or **Does** in questions that have the verb **To Be** or **Modal Verbs** (can, must, might, should etc.)

### Word Order of Questions with Do and Does

The following is the word order to construct a basic question in English using **Do** or **Does**.

<b>Do/Does</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb*</b>	<b>The Rest of the sentence</b>
Do	I / you / we / they	have / need want etc.	a new bike?
Does	he / she / it		

\*Verb: The verb that goes here is the base form of the infinitive = The infinitive without **TO** before the verb. Instead of the infinitive **To have** it is just the **have** part.

Remember that the infinitive is the verb before it is conjugated (changed) and it begins with **TO**. For example: to have, to eat, to go, to live, to speak etc.

### Examples of Questions with Do and Does:

- **Do** you need a dictionary?
- **Does** Mary need a dictionary?
- **Do** we have a meeting now?
- **Does** it rain a lot in winter?
- **Do** they want to go to the party?
- **Does** he like pizza?

## Short Answers with Do and Does

In questions that use do/does it is possible to give short answers to direct questions as follows:

<b>Sample Questions</b>	<b>Short Answer (Affirmative)</b>	<b>Short Answer (Negative)</b>
Do you like chocolate?	Yes, I do.	No, I don't.
Do I need a pencil?	Yes, you do.	No, you don't.
Do you both like chocolate?	Yes, we do.	No, we don't.
Do they like chocolate?	Yes, they do.	No, they don't.
Does he like chocolate?	Yes, he does.	No, he doesn't.
Does she like chocolate?	Yes, she does.	No, she doesn't.
Does it have four wheels?	Yes, it does.	No, it doesn't.

However, if a question word such as **who**, **when**, **where**, **why**, **which** or **how** is used in the question, you can not use the short answers above to respond to the question.

## English Terms

1. **assembly**

the act of constructing something, as a piece of machinery

2. **beam**

a long thick piece of material used in construction

3. **brainstorm**

try to solve a problem by thinking intensely about it

4. **bridge**

structure allowing passage across a river or other obstacle

5. **collaborate**

work together on a common enterprise or project

6. **combustion**

a reaction of a substance with oxygen to give heat and light

7. **component**

one of the individual parts making up a larger entity

8. **composite**

consisting of separate interconnected parts

9. **compression**

the process of becoming smaller or pressed together

10.computer science

the branch of engineering science that studies (with the aid of computers) computable processes and structures

11.concrete

a strong hard building material made with gravel and cement

12.configuration

an arrangement of parts or elements

13.construction

the act of building something

14.control

a mechanism that directs the operation of a machine

15.criterion

the ideal in terms of which something can be judged

16.current

a flow of electricity through a conductor

17.dam

a barrier constructed to contain the flow of water

18.data

a collection of facts from which conclusions may be drawn



19.deform

alter the shape of (something) by stress

20.design

the act of working out the form of something

21.designer

someone who creates plans to be used in making something

22.digital

using or characteristic of computerized technology

23.dimension

the magnitude of something in a particular direction

24. efficiency

the ratio of the output to the input of any system

25. efficient

being effective without wasting time, effort, or expense

26. electricity

a physical phenomenon that can produce light, heat and power

27. energy

any source of usable power

28.engine

motor that converts energy into work or motion

29.engineering

applying scientific knowledge to practical problems

30.experiment

the act of conducting a controlled test or investigation

31.friction

the resistance when a body is moved in contact with another

32.fuel

a substance that can be consumed to produce energy

33.gear

a toothed wheel that engages another toothed mechanism

34.heat

a form of energy transferred by a difference in temperature

35.impact

a forceful consequence; a strong effect

36.machine

a device for overcoming resistance by applying force

37.machinery

mechanical or electrical devices collectively

38.material

the substance that goes into the makeup of a physical object

39.mechanics

the branch of physics concerned with the motion of bodies

40.mechanism

device consisting of a piece of machinery

41.modeling

the act of representing something

42.motion

a change of position not entailing a change of location

43.problem

a question raised for consideration or solution

44.proposal

something suggested, as a plan or assumption

45.pump

a device that moves fluid or gas by pressure

46.raw material

material suitable for manufacture or use or finishing

47. recycling

the act of processing used or abandoned materials for use in creating new products

48. reproducible

capable of being reproduced

49. resistance

any mechanical force that tends to slow or oppose motion

50. robot

a mechanism that can move automatically

51. simple machine

a device for overcoming resistance at one point by applying force at some other point

52. simulation

representing the real world by a computer program

53. sketch

preliminary drawing for later elaboration

54. solution

a method for solving a problem

55. technology

the practical application of science to commerce or industry

56.tension

a stress that produces an elongation of a physical body

57.trial

the act of testing something

58.unstable

lacking fixity or firmness

59.valve

a mechanical device for controlling the flow of a fluid

60.variable

a quantity that can assume any of a set of values

61.velocity

distance traveled per unit time in one direction

62.voltage

the rate at which energy is drawn from a source

63.volume

the amount of 3-dimensional space occupied by an object