

ENGLISH - 1

Lecture #2

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Present simple

- The simple present tense is one of several forms of present tense in English. It is used to describe **habits, unchanging situations, general truths, and fixed arrangements**. The simple present tense is simple to form. Just use the base form of the verb: (I take, you take, we take, they take) The 3rd person singular takes an -s at the end. (he takes, she takes)

The simple present tense is used:

- To express habits, general truths, repeated actions or unchanging situations, emotions and wishes:

I smoke (habit); **I work in London** (unchanging situation); **London is a large city** (general truth)

- To give instructions or directions:

You walk for two hundred meters, then **you turn** left.

- To express fixed arrangements, present or future:

Your exam **starts** at 09.00

- To express future time, after some conjunctions: *after, when, before, as soon as, until*:

He'll give it to you when you come next Saturday.



Present simple questions

Look at these questions:

Do you play the piano?


Where do you live?

Does Jack play football?

Where does he come from?

Do Rita and Angela live in Manchester?

Where do they work?




We use *do* and *does* to make questions with the present simple. We use *does* for the third person singular (*she/he/it*) and *do* for the others.

We use *do* and *does* with question words like *where*, *what* and *when*:

Where do Angela and Rita live?

What does Angela do?

When does Rita usually get up?



But questions with *who* often don't use *do* or *does*:

Who lives in London?

Who plays football at the weekend?

Who works at Liverpool City Hospital?

Here are some useful questions. Try to remember them:

Where do you come from?

Do you come from ...?

Where do you live?

Do you live in ...?

What work do you do?

Do you like ...?

Do you know ...?

Present simple negatives

Look at these sentences:

*I like tennis but I **don't like** football. (don't = do not)*

*I **don't live** in London now.*

*I **don't play** the piano but I play the guitar.*

*They **don't work** at the weekend.*

*John **doesn't live** in Manchester. (doesn't = does not)*

*Angela **doesn't drive** to work. She goes by bus.*

We use *do* and *does* to make negatives with the present simple. We use *doesn't* for the third person singular (*she/he/it*) and *don't* for the others.

Forming the simple present tense: to think

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
I think	Do I think?	I do not think
You think	Do you think?	You do not think
He thinks	Does he think?	He does not think
She thinks	Does she think?	She does not think
It thinks	Does it think?	It does not think
We think	Do we think?	We do not think.
They think	Do they think?	They do not think.



Present simple and present time

We use the present simple to talk about:

- something that is **true** in the present:

I'm nineteen years old.

I'm a student.

He lives in London.


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- something that **happens regularly** in the present:

*I **play** football every weekend.*

- something that is always true:

*The human body **contains** 206 bones.*

*Light **travels** at almost 300,000 kilometres per second.*



We often use adverbs of frequency like *sometimes*, *always* and *never* with the present simple:

I sometimes go to the cinema.

She never plays football.



Present simple and future time


We also use the present simple to talk about:

- something that is **fixed** in the future:

*The school term **starts** next week.*

*The train **leaves** at 19.45 this evening.*

*We **fly** to Paris next week.*

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- something in the future **after time words** like *when*, *after* and *before* and **after if** and *unless*:

*I'll talk to John **when** I see him.*

*You must finish your work **before** you go home.*

***If it rains** we'll get wet.*

*He won't come **unless** you ask him.*