SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

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.**

**Be careful! The simple present is not used to express actions happening now.**

EXAMPLES

* **For habits**  
  He drinks tea at breakfast.  
  She only eats fish.  
  They watch television regularly.
* **For repeated actions or events**  
  We catch the bus every morning.  
  It rains every afternoon in the hot season.  
  They drive to Monaco every summer.
* **For general truths**  
  Water freezes at zero degrees.  
  The Earth revolves around the Sun.  
  Her mother is Peruvian.
* **For instructions or directions**  
  Open the packet and pour the contents into hot water.  
  You take the No.6 bus to Watney and then the No.10 to Bedford.
* **For fixed arrangements**  
  His mother arrives tomorrow.  
  Our holiday starts on the 26th March
* **With future constructions**  
  She'll see you before she leaves.  
  We'll give it to her when she arrives.

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. |

NOTES ON THE SIMPLE PRESENT, THIRD PERSON SINGULAR

* In the third person singular the verb **always ends in -s**:  
  *he want****s****, she need****s****, he give****s****, she think****s.***
* Negative and question forms use DOES (= the third person of the auxiliary 'DO') + the infinitive of the verb.  
  *He want****s****ice cream.****Does****he want strawberry? He****does****not want vanilla.*
* Verbs ending in **-y** : the third person changes the **-y** to **-ies**:  
  *fly --> fl****ies****, cry --> cr****ies***  
  **Exception**: if there is a vowel before the -**y**:  
  *play --> play****s****, pray --> pray****s***
* Add **-es** to verbs ending in:**-ss, -x, -sh, -ch**:  
  *he pass****es,****she catch****es,****he fix****es,****it push****es***

EXAMPLES

* **He goes** to school every morning.
* **She understands** English.
* **It mixes** the sand and the water.
* **He tries** very hard.
* **She enjoys** playing the piano.