

# THE SIMPLE PRESENT: Talk about Facts and General Truths

This is the beginning of the **Simple Present Tense** series.

At the end of this first lesson, you will be able to talk about facts and general truths using the **Simple Present**.

**REMEMBER:** The Simple Present Tense is also known as the **Present Simple Tense**.


## THE SIMPLE PRESENT

AFFIRMATIVE FORM (+)	NEGATIVE FORM (-)	
I like	<u>FULL FORM</u> I do not like	<u>SHORT FORM</u> I don't like
You like	You do not like	You don't like
He/She/It <b>likes</b>	He/She/It <b>does not</b> like	He/She/It <b>doesn't</b> like
We like	We do not like	We don't like
You like	You do not like	You don't like
They like	They do not like	They don't like

### Examples

- He **likes** Hollywood movies. (**LIKE**)
- We **love** the food in this restaurant. (**LOVE**)
- He **cries** each time they give him an injection. (**CRY**)
- She **tries** to talk to him but he won't listen. (**TRY**)
- They **jump** really high. (**JUMP**)

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### INTERROGATIVE FORM (?)

#### YES/NO QUESTIONS

Do } I  
you  
Does } he  
she } **like**  
it  
Do } we  
you  
they

#### WH-QUESTIONS

What **do** you like ?  
Where **does** he live?  
Who **lives** here?  
How much is this?  
Why **do** you work so hard?  
When **does** the train leave?  
How often **do** they come?

## The Simple Present Tense: Talking about General Truths

We use the **Simple Present Tense** to talk about things that are generally true at the moment of speaking or writing.

### Examples:

- There **are** 54 countries in Africa.
- More than 1 billion people **live** on this continent.
- The earth **revolves** around the sun.
- Koalas **sleep** about 18 hours per day.
- Lemons **contain** more sugar than strawberries.
- Europe **lies** in the northern hemisphere.

- Many people **value** education.
- Lungs **help** us to breathe.
- A cell **is** the smallest unit of life.
- Herbivores **eat** plants only.

These are unchanging and permanent things or situations. It is true all the time that herbivores eat plants only. This will never change.

**YOUR TURN**: Can you think of at least five sentences in which you talk about something that is generally true and use the **Simple Present Tense** at the same time?

## **The Simple Present Tense: Talking about Facts**

We also use the **Simple Present Tense** to talk about factual information. You often see this in the news.

### **Examples**

- COVID-19 **is** an infectious disease that **is** caused by a coronavirus.
- Most countries **are** under lockdown.
- Hippopotamuses **kill** more people in Africa than any other animal.
- Environmental issues often **spark** vicious debate.
- China **produces** a lot of goods compared to the rest of the world.
- Depression **affects** people from all social backgrounds.
- Young man **invents** an easy-to-use app to track daily expenses. (Mostly found in newspaper headlines)
- Ships usually **rescue** stranded immigrants in the Mediterranean Sea.
- France **welcomes** around 90 million tourists each year.
- Apple **sells** more touchscreen phones than Samsung.

Journalists are supposed to report facts or events that have happened. A 'fact' is something that exists. It is real and can be proved with evidence. A 'fact' should not be made up with fake news.

**YOUR TURN**: Can you think of at least five sentences in which you give information and use the **Simple Present Tense** at the same time?

# TO BE

## AFFIRMATIVE FORM (+)

FULL FORM	SHORT FORM
I <b>am</b>	I <b>'m</b>
You <b>are</b>	You <b>'re</b>
He } <b>is</b>	He } <b>'s</b>
She } <b>is</b>	She } <b>'s</b>
It } <b>is</b>	It } <b>'s</b>
We } <b>are</b>	We } <b>'re</b>
You } <b>are</b>	You } <b>'re</b>
They } <b>are</b>	They } <b>'re</b>

## NEGATIVE FORM (-)

FULL FORM	SHORT FORM (1)	SHORT FORM (2)
I <b>am not</b>	I <b>'m not</b>	I <b>'m not</b>
You <b>are not</b>	You <b>'re not</b>	You <b>aren't</b>
He } <b>is not</b>	He } <b>'s not</b>	He } <b>isn't</b>
She } <b>is not</b>	She } <b>'s not</b>	She } <b>isn't</b>
It } <b>is not</b>	It } <b>'s not</b>	It } <b>isn't</b>
We } <b>are not</b>	We } <b>'re not</b>	We } <b>aren't</b>
You } <b>are not</b>	You } <b>'re not</b>	You } <b>aren't</b>
They } <b>are not</b>	They } <b>'re not</b>	They } <b>aren't</b>

## EXAMPLES (E.g.)

- I am a teacher.
- They aren't singers.
- It is cute.
- You are not sick.
- He is not feeling well.
- She isn't a doctor.
- Are they from Tanzania?
- Am I at the cinema?
- Languages are not difficult.
- Is Polish easy?
- Are you ok?

## INTERROGATIVE FORM

**Am I** South African?

**Are we** hardworking?

**Are you** a football player?

**Are you** popular?

**Is he/she/it** tall?

**Are they** at home?



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