

Homework Tasks Read and Exercise

Name _____ N° _____

The Present Simple Tense (also called the Simple Present Tense)

Present simple tense with other verbs:

With all other verbs, we make the present simple in the same way.

The positive is really easy. It's just the verb, with an extra 's' if the subject is 'he', 'she', or 'it'.

Let's take the verb 'play' as an example:

Positive (of 'play')

I play

you play

he plays

she plays

it plays

we play

they play

For example:

- I play tennis every week.
- He likes chocolate.
- They usually go to the cinema on Fridays.

Don't forget the 's'! Even really advanced students do this!

For a few verbs, there is a spelling change with 'he', 'she' and 'it' before the 's'.

For example, 'study' becomes 'studies'.

There are also few verbs which are irregular in the present simple:

- 'have' becomes 'has'
- 'do' becomes 'does'
- 'go' becomes 'goes'

To make the negative form, you need to use 'do not' (don't) or 'does not' (doesn't):

Negative (of 'play')

Negative Short Form

I do not play

I don't play

you do not play

you don't play

he does not play

he doesn't play

she does not play

she doesn't play

it does not play

it doesn't play

we do not play

we don't play

they do not play

they don't play

For example:

- You don't study very much.
- Julie doesn't like sport.
- We don't live in London.

We use 'do' or 'does' before the subject to make the 'yes / no' question:

Yes / No questions

do I play ?

do you play ?

does he play ?

does she play ?

does it play ?

do we play ?

do they play ?

For example:

- *Do you work in an office?*
- **Does John play cricket every weekend?**
- *Do they like travelling?*

Just like with 'be', if you'd like to make a 'wh' question, you put the question word at the front:

Wh Questions

Where do I play ?

What do you play ?

Why does he play ?

Who does she play ?

When do we play ?

How do they play ?

Make the present simple (choose positive, negative or question):

1. (they / wear suits to work?)

2. (he / not / say much)

3. (when / she / study?)

4. (she / know a lot about cooking)

5. (we / make dinner at the weekends)

6. (I / not / leave work on time very often)

7. (she / meet her brother every week?)

8. (they / find London's weather cold)

9. (we / use the computer every day?)

10. (you / not / smoke)

When should I use the Present Continuous?

Present Uses

1: First, we use the present continuous for things that are happening at the moment of speaking. These things usually last for quite a short time and they are not finished when we are talking about them.

- I'm working at the moment.
- Please call back as we are eating dinner now.
- Julie is sleeping.

2: We can also use this tense for other kinds of temporary situations, even if the action isn't happening at this moment.

- John's working in a bar until he finds a job in his field. (He might not be working now.)
- I'm reading a really great book.
- She's staying with her friend for a week.

Compare this with the present simple, which is used for permanent situations that we feel will continue for a long time.

- I work in a school. (I think this is a permanent situation.)
- I'm working in a school. (I think this is a temporary situation.)

3: We can use the present continuous for temporary or new habits (for normal habits that continue for a long time, we use the present simple). We often use this with expressions like 'these days' or 'at the moment'.

- He's eating a lot these days.
- She's swimming every morning (she didn't use to do this).
- You're smoking too much.

4: Another present continuous use is for habits that are not regular, but that happen very often. In this case we usually use an adverb like 'always', 'forever' or 'constantly'. Often, we use the present continuous in this way to talk about an annoying habit.

- You're forever losing your keys!

- She's constantly missing the train.
- Lucy's always smiling

Future Uses

5: The next use is for definite future arrangements (with a future time word). In this case we have already made a plan and we are pretty sure that the event will happen in the future.

- I'm meeting my father tomorrow.
- We're going to the beach at the weekend.
- I'm leaving at three.

We can't use this tense (or any other continuous tense) with stative verbs.

Exercise

Present Continuous All Forms

Make the present continuous:

1. (she / go home now)

2. (I / read a great book)

3. (she / not / wash her hair)

4. (the cat / chase mice?)

5. (she / cry?)

6. (he / not / study Latin)

7. (we / drive to London?)

8. (they / watch TV?)

9. (where / she / go now?)

10. (I / not / leave now)
