

The Present Simple Tense

(also called the simple present tense) **Simple present tense with 'be'**

The verb **'be'** is different from the other verbs in this tense. Let's look at **'be'** first:

Here's the **positive** form (positive means a normal sentence, not a negative or a question. This is sometimes called 'affirmative')

Positive	Positive Short Form
I am	I' m
you are	you' re
he is	he' s
she is	she' s
it is	it' s

we are	we' re
they are	they' re

Next, here's the **negative**. It's very easy. You only add '**not**'.

Negative	Negative short form
I am not	I' m not
you are not	you aren't
he is not	he isn't
she is not	she isn't
it is not	it isn't

we are not	we aren't
they are not	they aren't

And finally let's talk about the **question** form of the present simple with '**be**'.

Firstly, here's the '**yes / no**' **question** form:

Yes / No Questions
am I ?
are you ?
is he ?
is she ?
is it ?

are we ?

are they ?

If you'd like to make a '**wh**' **question**, you just put the question word at the front:

Wh Questions	
where	am I ?
what	are you ?
why	is he ?
who	is she ?
when	are we ?
how	are they ?

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**

- Don't forget the **'s'**! Even really advanced students do this!
- For a few verbs, there is a spelling change before the **'s'**. For example, **'study'** becomes **'studies'** . .
- There are also few verbs which are irregular in the present simple:
 1. **'have'** becomes **'has'**
 2. **'do'** becomes **'does'**
 3. **'go'** becomes **'goes'**

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

Negative (of 'play')	
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

How about the **question** form of the present simple tense?

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** ?

Just like with 'be', if you'd like to make a '**wh**' **question**, you just 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** ?