

Present Simple

The Present Simple tells us about something that ALWAYS, NEVER or REGULARLY happens:

I play tennis every Friday evening.

- + To make the Present Simple, you just have to use the verb (e.g. play, go, do, eat, read, speak). However, when it is HE, SHE or IT, you have to add -(e)s to the verb:

He plays tennis every Friday evening.

He usually goes to the supermarket after work.

There are some key words that tell you that you have to use the Present Simple. These include:

always, usually, sometimes, occasionally, never, often, on Mondays, every, regularly, normally

- If the sentence is negative, or contains “not”, then you have to use don’t/doesn’t + whole verb. Use doesn’t for HE, SHE or IT, and don’t for all the rest.

I don’t play tennis every Friday evening.

He doesn’t play tennis every Friday evening.

- ? To ask a question in the Present Simple, you use do/does + whole verb. Use does for HE, SHE or IT, and do for all the rest.

For example: Do you play tennis every week?

For example: Does he play tennis every week?

Beware! If the main verb in your sentence is a (modal) auxiliary, then you don’t need to use a form of “to do”, but you re-use the verb. The verbs are: to be, to have, shall, should, will, would, can, could, may, might, needn’t

- Example:
- + He is looking rather handsome today.
 - He isn’t looking rather handsome today.
 - ? Is he looking rather handsome today?

(notice the inversion of subject and object)