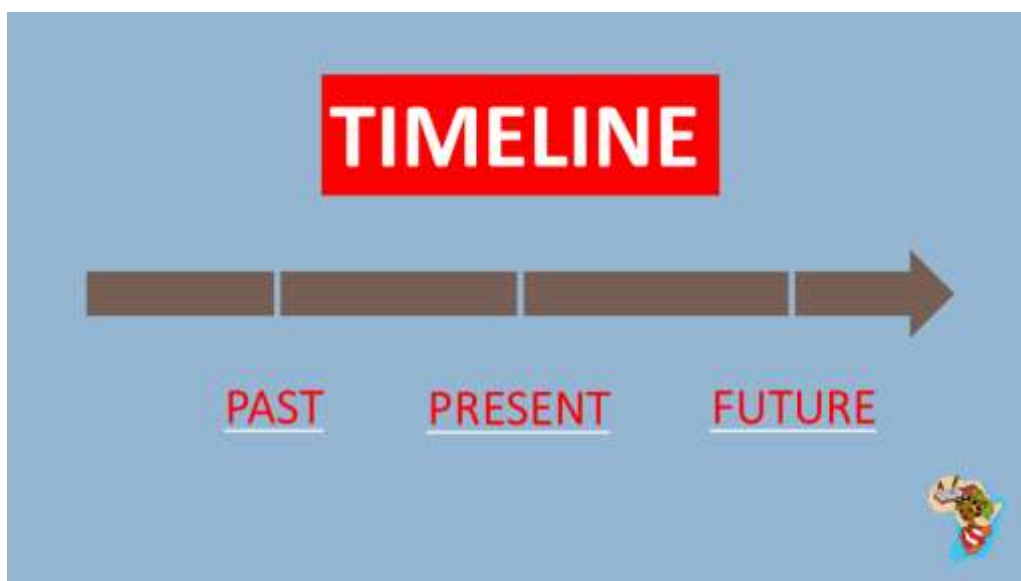


RULES FOR THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE



This is the last lesson in the [Simple Present Tense](#) series.

By now, you know that we can use the **Simple Present Tense** or the **Present Simple Tense** to:

- talk about facts and general truths.
- talk about habits and daily routines.
- give instructions and directions.
- talk about the present.

At the end of this fifth and last lesson, you will be able to answer the following questions in detail:

- What is the structure of the **Simple Present Tense**?
- How do we conjugate the **Simple Present Tense**?
- When and how do we use it?

REMEMBER: A verb tense sheds more light on the time of an **action**, an **event** or a state of **being**.

This time can be in the Past, Present or Future.

[Rules for the Simple Present Tense \(1\): Structure](#)

The **Simple Present Tense** has a very basic structure that is easy to remember.

Let's take a look at the examples below.

1. I love apples.
2. I do not like apples.
3. I don't like apples.
4. Do you like apples?

Can you describe the sentences above? How are they made? The questions below can help you with your description.

1. Where is the Subject?
2. Where is the Verb?
3. Can you spot the Object?
4. What about the Auxiliary?
5. Where is the word that shows that the sentence is negative?

Here are the answers:

Subject: Pronoun 'I'

Verb: Love

Object:

Apples

Auxiliary: Do

Expression of negation: Not (Full form), N't (contracted form)

THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

STRUCTURE

AFFIRMATIVE FORM → SUBJECT + VERB + OBJECT

E.g. I like sports.

NEGATIVE FORM → SUBJECT + AUXILIARY + NOT + VERB + OBJECT

E.g. I do not/ don't like sports.

INTERROGATIVE FORM → AUXILIARY + SUBJECT + VERB + OBJECT

E.g. Do you like sports?



YOUR TURN: Break down three sentences in the **Simple Present Tense**. Observe how the sentences are made and try to find their structure.

Rules for the Simple Present Tense (2): Conjugation

Let's take a look at the previous examples again.

1. I love apples.
2. I do not like apples.
3. I don't like apples.
4. Do you like apples?

In these examples, there is a statement, two negative sentences and a question. Can you locate them?

Here are the answers:

Statement or Affirmative Sentence: I love apples.

Negative sentences: I do not like apples. / I don't like apples.

Question or Interrogative sentence: Do you love

apples? How do we conjugate the Verbs?

I love apples.

You love apples.

He loves apples.

She loves apples.

It loves apples.

We love apples.

You love apples.

They love apples.

Verbs ending with

Y


I try all the time.

THE SIMPLE PRESENT

AFFIRMATIVE FORM (+)	NEGATIVE FORM (-)	
I like You like He/She/It likes We like You like They like	<u>FULL FORM</u> I do not like You do not like He/She/It does not like We do not like You do not like They do not like	<u>SHORT FORM</u> I don't like You don't like He/She/It doesn't like We don't like You don't 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				
	he				
Does	she it		like		
	we				
Do	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?

You try all the time.

He **tries** all the time.

She **tries** all the time,

It **tries** all the time.

We try all the time.

You try all the time.

They try all the time.

Did you notice what happened? Yes, **Y** became **IES** when the Verb was used with Third-person singularPronouns (HE, SHE and IT).

Look at the chart below. What do you think?

Rules for the Simple Present Tense (3): Usage

When and how do we use the **Simple Present Tense**?

We use it to:

Talk about facts and general truths.

E.g. The earth revolves around the sun.

Talk about habits, repeated actions and daily routines.

E.g. I wake up at six o'clock in the morning.

Talk about the present.

E.g. I'm tired now.

Talk about the future.

E.g. She arrives at eight this evening.

Give instructions and directions

E.g. You mix the flour with all the dry ingredients.

Tell a story.

E.g. He walks into the crowded room. Everyone stares at him.

YOUR TURN: Can you think of sentences that illustrate these different values of the **Simple Present Tense**? Be imaginative!