

Present Simple

1. Formation

The present simple has the **form of the infinitive**. But in the **3rd person singular** only, we add **–s**. **Negative statements** and **questions** are formed with **do/does**.

I write. She writes.
I don't write. She doesn't write.
Do I write? Does she write?

2. Use

We use the present simple to say that something happens **repeatedly, regularly, normally, often, always** or **never**. It often occurs with phrases of time such as *always, never, often, sometimes, and usually*, as well as *every summer, on Fridays, after midnight*, etc.

I often go to bed after midnight.

The present simple is used to talk about something **permanent** which is not limited to a particular time.

Most young people like trendy clothes.

The present simple is used to talk about **texts**, e.g. novels, short stories, newspaper articles, **films** or **plays**.

The novel describes life in an African village.

We use the present simple to describe a **series of action**, e.g. when giving **information** or **instructions**.

How do I get to the station? – First you go along Victoria Street, then you turn left...

We use the present simple to say that a future event is a fixed part of a **timetable**, a **programme** of events, a **schedule** or suchlike (the 'timetable future'). Verbs such as *arrive, open, close, start* or *stop* are often used this way.

The next train from Dover arrives at 8.25.