The Present Tenses:

Simple Present & Present Progressive

| Type your information in the space below. |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student Name: | Date: |
| Instructor: | Course: |

# About This DLA

Important Note

All the activities (3) in the DLA must be completed in their entirety before receiving credit for completion. Students are welcome to meet with a tutor if they need help, but please be aware that students might need a second appointment for review and signature in that case. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor’s signature included.

## Learning Outcomes

Through computer and other independent work, this activity will familiarize you with the simple present and present progressive tenses and help you create sentences with correct use of these tenses.

## Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

# The Simple Present Tense

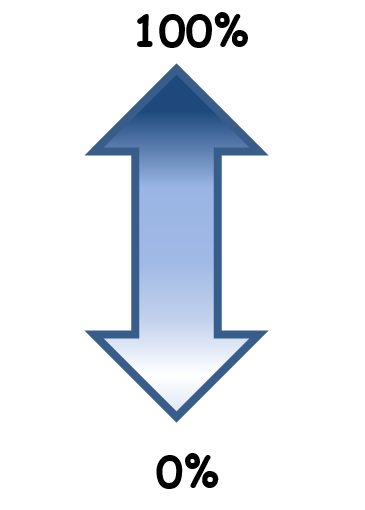
Use the simple present tense to express:

## 1. Repeated Actions

The simple present expresses repeated actions, such as habits, routines, hobbies, or scheduled events. It can also be things that people do not do.

Example: I **drive** to school every day. I **collect** old cars. I never **eat** after 8:00 p.m.

Often, we use adverbs of frequency for routines or habits. Here are some examples:



-Always/Every day

-Usually

-Often/Frequently

-Sometimes

-Occasionally

-Rarely/Seldom

-Never

## 2. General Information/Scientific Facts

The simple present also expresses general information, such as personal information, likes, dislikes, and things that are true.

Example: I **work** in Walnut. I **don’t like** milk. I **come** from Bolivia. Water **boils** at 100°C.

## How to Form the Simple Present

There are three forms of *be*: **am**/**is**/**are**

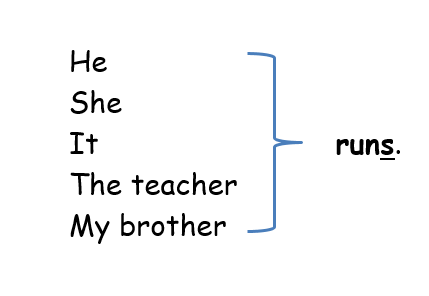
I ***am***

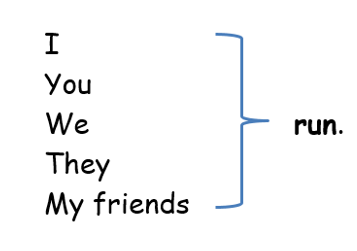
he/she/it/singular subjects ***is***

you/we/they/plural subjects ***are***

We use the ***–s*** form when the subject is *he, she, it*, or a singular noun:

We use the **base** form of the verb when the subject is *I, you, we, they* or a plural noun:





Many times, you only add **–*s*** to verbs for *he/she/it*, but sometimes you need more than ***–s***. Here are some spelling rules for the ***–s*** form:

| **Rule** | **Base Form** | **-s Form** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Add **–s** to most verbs to make the –s form | hope  eat | hope**s**  eat**s** |
| When the base form ends in *ss, sh, ch,* or *x,* add **–es** and pronounce an extra syllable | miss  wash  catch  mix | miss**es**  wash**es**  catch**es**  mix**es** |
| When the base form ends in a consonant + *y*, change the *y* to ***i*** and add **–es** | car**ry**  wor**ry** | carr**ies**  worr**ies** |
| When the base form ends in a vowel + y, add **–s** but do not change the y | p**ay**  enj**oy** | pa**ys**  enjo**ys** |
| Add **–es** to *go* and *do* | go  do | go**es**  do**es** |

# The Present Progressive Tense

We use the present progressive tense to express:

## 1. Actions that are happening right now

The present progressive expresses on-going actions in the present.

Example: You **are reading** this page. The student **is typing** on the computer.

## 2. Actions that are happening for a temporary time

The present progressive also expresses actions that are happening for a temporary time only. Sometimes, they will use expressions like *this week, this month, this semester, this year*, etc.

Example: I **am taking** English 67 *this semester*.

## How to Form the Present Progressive

**{ am/is/are + verb-ing }**

Examples: I **am driving** on the freeway. The teacher **is talking** to a student. We **are taking** this class.

\*Non-action verbs (mental states, emotional states, possession, *be*, etc.) are usually not in a progressive form.

# How to Make Questions and Negative Statements

**Simple Present and Present Progressive**

## Negative Statements

All verbs (except *be* since it never needs a helper) that have only one part to them(one-word verbs) **need the helper** ***do*** or ***does*** and ***not*** to become negative. Start with the ***subject***, then ***be/do/does not***, and then the ***base form*** of the verb. Verbs that have two or more parts *already have* a helper, so you just add **not** between the helper and the main verb.

Examples:

I live in Brea.

I **do not** *live* in Brea.

He like**s** chocolate.

He **doesn’t** *like* chocolate.

I am sad.

I *am* **not** sad.

We are studying.

We are**n’t** studying.

## Questions

All verbs (except *be* since it never needs a helper) that have only one part to them (one-word verbs) **need the helper** ***do*** or ***does***. The ***helper*** is first, then the ***subject***, and then the ***base form*** of the verb. Verbs that have two or more parts *already have* a helper—the first part of the verb is the helper. You can add a *wh*- word at the beginning if you need it.

Examples:

She live**s** in New York.

You are tired.

They are making a cake.

**Does** *she live* in New York?

**Are** *you* tired?

**Are** *they making* a cake?

**Where** *does* *she live*?

**Why** *are* *you* tired?

**What** *are* *they making*?

# Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

## 1. Review the Simple Present and the Present Progressive Tenses

Review the information on this sheet. Then, answer the following questions.

a. In what situations do we use the simple present tense?

| Write Answer Here |
| --- |
|  |

b. In what situations do we use the present progressive tense?

| Write Answer Here |
| --- |
|  |

## 2. Online Quiz

Go to http://tinyurl.com/PresentTensesDLAQuiz and take the [Present Tenses DLA Quiz](http://tinyurl.com/PresentTensesDLAQuiz). You must score at least 80% on the exercises before seeing a tutor. After you complete the task, **PLEASE ASK A LAB TUTOR OR FRONT DESK ATTENDANT TO PRINT THE PAGE THAT HAS YOUR SCORE. DO NOT EXIT THE PROGRAM UNTIL THIS PAGE HAS BEEN PRINTED (FREE OF CHARGE).** If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to ask a lab tutor.

## Choose 3a or 3b Below

## 3a. Practice with Your Own Writing

Collect some of your graded work. Find examples of sentences that contain the following:

Repeated Action:

| Write Answer Here |
| --- |
|  |

General Information or Fact:

| Write Answer Here |
| --- |
|  |

Non-Action Verb:

| Write Answer Here |
| --- |
|  |

Action happening right now or for a temporary time:

| Write Answer Here |
| --- |
|  |

**If you do not have your own essay to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (3b).**

## 3b. Create Sentences

Get the envelope that reads “The Present Tenses—Activity 3b Word Cards” in the DLA file. In it, you will find word cards. Form the following statements or questions. You must use a different subject and verb every time. Make a sentence using the word cards, write it down below, and then form another sentence. You will do this four times. (Not online)

A negative statement in the simple present tense:

| Write Answer Here |
| --- |
|  |

An affirmative statement in the present progressive tense:

| Write Answer Here |
| --- |
|  |

A question in the simple present tense:

| Write Answer Here |
| --- |
|  |

A question in the present progressive tense:

| Write Answer Here |
| --- |
|  |

## 4. Review the DLA

Go to https://mtsac2.mywconline.com and use the [Mt. SAC Writing Center Appointment System](https://mtsac2.mywconline.com/) to make a DLA appointment, or sign-up to see a tutor on the “**Walk-in**” list in the Writing Center. During your session with a tutor, explain your work to demonstrate your understanding of the present tenses. Refer to your own graded writing (or the completed activity) and explain to the tutor strategies that you used to create sentences with simple present and present progressive.

| Sign and date in the space below. |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student’s signature: | Date: |
| Tutor’s Signature: | Date: |

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center’s website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, [access@mtsac.edu](mailto:access@mtsac.edu), (909) 274-4290.

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