

The Simple Present



Subject + Verb + Complement

References:

Ediger, A. M. & Lee, L. (2014). Present, past and future forms. In *Elements of success 3A* (pp. 3-38). Oxford University Press.

How do we use it?

We use the structure

subject + **verb** +
complement (S+V+C)

- Everybody **has** the duty to vote.
- I **am** fine.
- She **is** very proud to be part of this group.

We use it to describe:

- general statements or timeless truths (as in 1-2)
- habits or routines (as in 3-4)
- present states (as in 5-6)

1. Most adults **need** about eight hours of sleep a night.
2. An apple a day **keeps** the doctor away.
3. I never **go** to bed after 7:00 p.m.
4. Math class **starts** at 10:00 a.m.
5. I **want** to go to the beach.
6. My leg **doesn't hurt** anymore!

It's important to determine the correct subject - verb agreement, but it's not always easy! For example:

- When 2 subjects are connected with "and" (as in 7)
- When there's a prepositional phrase after the subject (as in 8)
- When the subject is an indefinite pronoun (as in 9-10)

7. My friend and my sister **like** this pizza place.
8. The difference between us **is** hard to explain.
9. Nobody **is** here yet.
10. **Does** anything exciting ever **happen** here?

Spelling Analysis

Irregular verbs often change their spelling in the third-person singular form. Here are some examples:

<i>Base form</i>	<i>Third- person singular</i>	<i>Base form</i>	<i>Third- person singular</i>
Buy	Buys	Finish	Finishes
Destroy	Destroys	Wish	Wishes
Pay	Pays	Catch	Catches
Identify	Identifies	Watch	Watches
Cry	Cries	Pass	Passes
Copy	Copies	Quiz	Quizzes
Go	Goes	Fix	Fixes
Do	Does	Tax	Taxes

Rules of base form → third-person singular

- When the base form of a verb ends in consonant+ -y, we change the -y to -i and add -es. For example; *reply* transforms into *replies*.
- When the base form of a verb ends in vowel + -y, we just add an -s. For example; *buy* transforms into *buys*.
- When the base form of the verb ends in -ss, -ch, -sh, -x, or -zz, we add -es instead of -s.

Practice:

Fill out the blanks on the following paragraph.

Many people today _____ jobs frequently. As a matter of fact, some studies say that the
(change)
average person _____ at least 7 jobs before they _____ age 30. What may be more
(hold) (reach)
surprising, though, is that many people _____ several careers in their lifetime.
(have)