

Present simple

English Grammar · A1

Habits and Third Person -s

Present simple - a repeated habit



Present simple: a repeated habit: tense timeline

Present simple (present simple) describes **habits** and **facts**. The base form is the **infinitive** (base verb).

I like tea.

I like tea.

When the subject is **he** / **she** / **it**, add **-s** to the verb:

He plays football.

He plays football.

Spelling rules:

- Generally add -s: like → likes.
- Words ending in -s / -sh / -ch / -x / -o add -es: go → goes, watch → watches.
- Consonant + y ending: change y to i and add -es: study → studies.

Note: Only he / she / it take -s; I / you / we / they use the base form: They **like** tea.

Negation and Interrogative



For negatives and questions, use auxiliary verbs **do** / **does** (does for he / she / it).

Negative: Subject + **don't** / **doesn't** + base verb.

I don't like coffee.

I don't like coffee.

Question: **Do** / **Does** + Subject + base verb ?

Does she live here?

Does she live here?

Note: When using do / does, the verb returns to its **base form** (no -s): ~~Does she lives~~ × → Does she live ✓.

Common Errors

- × ~~He go to school by bus.~~ → ✓ He **goes** to school by bus. — Forgetting to add -s in third person singular is the most frequent error; check your work afterwards.
- × ~~She doesn't likes coffee.~~ → ✓ She doesn't **like** coffee. — When using does / doesn't, the verb returns to its base form.
- × ~~I very like English.~~ → ✓ I like English **very much**. — “Very much” in Chinese cannot be translated literally; very cannot directly modify a verb.
- × ~~You like tea?~~ → ✓ **Do** you like tea? — Questions must start with do / does; rising intonation alone is insufficient.