

Grammar Reference

UNIT 1

PRESENT SIMPLE

Affirmative		Interrogative	
I work	you work	he works	she works
it works	we work	you work	they work
Negative			
Long form		Short form	
I do not work	you do not work	he does not work	she does not work
it does not work	we do not work	you do not work	they do not work
I don't work	you don't work	he doesn't work	she doesn't work
it doesn't work	we don't work	you don't work	they don't work

Form

- We form the present simple with the subject (noun or personal pronoun) and the verb.

Affirmative

- The third person singular takes **-s** or **-es** in the affirmative.

Negative

- We use **subject + don't + main verb** in all persons in the negative except the third person singular. We use **subject + doesn't + main verb** in this person.
I don't play, he doesn't play.

Interrogative

- We use **do + subject + verb** in all persons except for the third person singular. We use **does + subject + verb** in this person.
Do you like football? Does he like tennis?

Spelling: 3rd person singular affirmative

- Most verbs take **-s** in the third person singular.
I work - he works
- Verbs ending in **-ss, -sh, -ch, -x** or **-o** take **-es**.
I go - he goes
- Verbs ending in a **consonant + y** drop **-y** and take **-ies**.
I fly - he flies
- Verbs ending in a **vowel + y** take **-s**. *I play - he plays*

Pronunciation

-s or **-es** in the third person singular is pronounced:

- /s/** with verbs ending in **/f/, /k/, /p/** or **/t/** sounds.
he sits
- /ɪz/** with verbs ending in **/s/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/** or **/z/** sounds.
he watches
- /z/** with verbs ending in **all other sounds**.
he plays

Use

We use the present simple for:

- daily routines, repeated actions** or **habits**.
I get up at seven every day.
- permanent states**.
I live in London.

Time expressions used with **present simple**: *every hour/day/week/month/summer/year etc, usually, always, every morning/evening/afternoon/night, in the morning/afternoon/evening/night, at night etc.*

Short Answers

Do you...?	Yes, I do./Yes, we do. No, I don't./No, we don't.
Does he/she/it...?	Yes, he/she/it does. No, he/she/it doesn't.
Do they ...?	Yes, they do. No, they don't.

In short answers we use **"Yes"** or **"No"** the subject pronoun and **do/don't** or **does/doesn't**.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS (to be + verb -ing)

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
I'm playing	Am I playing?	I'm not playing
you're playing	Are you playing?	you aren't playing
he's playing	Is he playing?	he isn't playing
she's playing	Is she playing?	she isn't playing
it's playing	Is it playing?	it isn't playing
we're playing	Are we playing?	we aren't playing
you're playing	Are you playing?	you aren't playing
they're playing	Are they playing?	they aren't playing

Form

We form the present continuous with the verb "to be" and add **-ing** to the base form of the main verb.

Use

- We use the present continuous for: **actions happening now, at the moment of speaking.**
*I'm **playing** tennis now.*
- actions happening around the time of speaking.**
*We're **looking** for a flat at the moment.*
- fixed arrangements in the near future.**
*I'm **seeing** John tomorrow.*

Time expressions used with the **present continuous**:
now, at the moment, at present.

Short Answers

Are you ...?	Yes, I am./Yes, we are. No, I'm not./No, we aren't.									
Is <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td>he</td></tr><tr><td>she</td></tr><tr><td>it</td></tr></table> ...?	he	she	it	Yes, <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td>he</td></tr><tr><td>she</td></tr><tr><td>it</td></tr></table> is. No, <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td>he</td></tr><tr><td>she</td></tr><tr><td>it</td></tr></table> isn't.	he	she	it	he	she	it
he										
she										
it										
he										
she										
it										
he										
she										
it										
Are they ...?	Yes, they are. No, they aren't.									

In short answers we use "Yes" or "No", the **subject pronoun** and the verb "to be" in the correct form. We do not repeat the main verb with the -ing.