The present simple is the tense of facts, habits and routines. It is usually the first tense learners meet, and it is the one you will use most in daily English. Its base form is simply the verb itself: work, read, live, play.

The form

- I, you, we, they + base verb: They work in a bank.
- He, s

Third-person -s rules

Verb ending	What to add	Examples
most verbs	add -s	work - works, read - reads
-s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x, -o	add -es	watch - watches, go - goes
consonant + y	change y to i, add -es	study - studies, fly - flies
vowel + y	just add -s	play - plays, say - says
special verb	have becomes has	She has a bicycle.

When we use it

- Regular habits and routines: I get up at six every morning.
- Gene

Time expressions that go with it

Every day, usually, always, often, sometimes, rarely, never, on Mondays, in the morning, once a week. Words like always, usually, often and never come before the main verb, but after the verb be: She is always on time.

Example sentences

- *My brother drives a bus for a living.*
- *Cats sleep for most of the day.*
- *The library opens at nine and closes at five.*
- *He does not eat meat, but he eats a lot of vegetables.*
- *Do your parents live near you?*

Quick practice - put the verb in the right form

1. Aisha ___ (teach) English at a school in Karachi.
2. They ___ (not / watch) television during the week.

3. ___ your father ___ (work) on Saturdays?
4. The baby ___ (cry) whenever she is hungry.
5. We ___ (go) to the market twice a month.

Answers

1. teaches - third person, -ch ending, add -es.
2. do not watch (don't watch).
3. Does your father work - no -s after does.
4. cries - consonant plus y becomes ies.
5. go - we takes the base verb.