

Simple Present: Negatives and Questions

Introduction

In the simple present tense, negative forms and question forms are made using the auxiliary verb “do”. This page explains the rules.

1. Forming a negative

Negatives in the simple present are formed by adding **don't** or **doesn't** before the simple form of the verb:

Subject	Auxiliary	Example
I	don't	I don't sing
You	don't	You don't sing
He	doesn't	He doesn't sing
She	doesn't	She doesn't sing
It	doesn't	It doesn't sing
We	don't	We don't sing
They	don't	They don't sing

In other words, only third person singular subjects (he, she and it) have **doesn't** — the rest have **don't**.

2. Forming a yes/no question

Yes/no questions are also created using the auxiliary do. This time, the auxiliary is placed before the subject. Here are the rules:

Auxiliary	Subject	Example
Do	I	Do I sing?
Do	you	Do you sing?
Does	he	Does he sing?
Does	she	Does she sing?
Does	it	Does it sing?
Do	we	Do we sing?
Do	they	Do they sing?

3. Forming a WH- question

WH- questions (using words such as “**what**”, “**when**”, and “**where**”) are also created by putting the auxiliary do before the subject. Then, you add the **WH- word** at the beginning. Here are some examples:

Statement	Yes/no question	WH- question
I sing	Do I sing?	What do I sing?
You fight.	Do you fight?	Why do you fight?
He lives	Does he live?	Where does he live?



Complete the sentences, choosing the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. David _____ table-tennis. (play/plays)
2. They _____ to school on foot. (go/goes)
3. School _____ at 6.30. (finish/finishes)
4. The dog _____ in the kennel. (sleep/sleeps)
5. The children _____ the street to school. (cross/crosses)
6. Mr. Wilson _____ in a bank. (work/works)



Rewrite the sentences beginning with she.

1. They collect stamps. She _____
2. I go to school by bus. She _____
3. We drive to work. She _____
4. They hurry home every day. She _____
5. They wash their hands before meals. She _____
6. We play basketball twice a week. She _____



Fill in with do or does.

1. _____ Ronald play basketball?
2. _____ they work in an office?
3. _____ you like English?
4. _____ Susan usually go to a disco at the weekend?
5. _____ Bob and Patrick collect stamps?
6. _____ the cat sit by the fireplace?



Complete the sentences with do / don't / does / doesn't.

1. _____ you like Maths? Yes, I _____.
2. _____ Sally like reading? Yes, she _____.
3. _____ Mathew play soccer every Saturday? No, he _____.
4. _____ Charles and Ann spend the afternoon together? Yes, they _____.
5. _____ the cat like lying in the sun? Yes, it _____.
6. _____ Jane and Mary go shopping on Saturday? No, they _____.