



TITRE DE LA LEÇON : THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE OF ORDINARY VERBS

Discipline : Anglais

Sous-discipline : Grammaire

Cycle : Lycée - Niveau : Terminale C et D

Introduction: Ordinary verbs are all other verbs apart from auxiliary verbs. Examples: to work; to eat; to speak; to dance; etc.

A-Form

In the affirmative form, the simple present tense has the same form as the infinitive, but we add an **s** in the third (3rd) person singular.

Examples: To work → I work; he/she/it works
To dance → I dance; he/she/it dances

Exceptions:

a)-Verbs ending in **ss, ch, sh, x** and **o** take **es** in the third (3rd) person singular of the simple present tense:

Examples: To kiss – I kiss; he/she kisses
To brush – I brush; he/she brushes
To watch – I watch; he/she watches
To mix – I mix; he/she mixes
To go – I go; he/she goes

b)-**Have** can also be used as an ordinary verb.

Examples: I **have** a headache.
This doctor **does not have** a lot of experience.

c)-Verbs ending in **y** preceded by a consonant change the **y** into **i** and then add **es**:

Examples: To carry – I carry; he/she carries
To copy – I copy; he/she copies
To try – I try; he/she tries

Affirmative form: **Subject + verb + object**

- 1-Linda makes cakes.
- 2-I play the piano.
- 3-Monkeys eat bananas

Negative form: **Subject + do not/does not + verb + object**

- 1-Linda does not make cakes.
- 2-I do not play the piano.
- 3-Monkeys do not eat bananas.

**Interrogative form: Do/does + subject + verb + object?**

- 1-Does Linda make cakes?
- 2-Do I play the piano?
- 3-Do monkeys eat bananas?

Negative interrogative form: Do/does + subject + not + verb + object?

- 1-Does Linda not make cakes?
- 2-Do I not play the piano?
- 3-Do monkeys not eat bananas?

-Contractions

The auxiliary **do** is normally contracted in the negative and negative interrogative form by **don't/doesn't**:

- Examples: I **do not** work – I **don't** work
He **does not** work – He **doesn't** work
Do I **not** work? – **Don't** I work?
Does he **not** work? – **Doesn't** he work?

- Yes or No questions

- Do** you **play** tennis? – Yes, I **do**/ No, I **don't**.
- Does** Paul **speak** Chinese? Yes, he **does**/ No, he **doesn't**
- Does** Mary **make** jewels? – Yes, she **does**/No, she **doesn't**.

-W.H questions

- Where **does** Peter **work**? – Peter (He) **works** in a hotel.
- Why **do** you **go** to school? – I **go** to school to learn to read and write.
- How **do** they **go** to school? – They **go** to school on foot.

B-Use

a)-The simple present tense is used to express habitual actions or permanent situations.

Examples:

- My father **smokes**.
- Betty only **eats** fish.
- My parents **live** in London.

b)-To talk about general truths (scientific, historical, geographical, cultural,etc.) and repeated actions or events.

Examples:

- The earth **goes** around the sun.
- Most people **learn** to swim when they are children.
- The Congo River **flows** into the Atlantic.



c)-The simple present tense is often used with adverbs of frequency such as: **always, never, occasionally, often, sometimes, usually, once, twice, and rarely.**

Example:

- He **often** goes to church by car.
- She **rarely** visits her friends.

Exercise one: **Put the verbs in brackets into the simple present tense:**

- 1-The bus (to pass) my house every hour.
- 2-He (to help) their father.
- 3-You (to watch) much TV.
- 4-She (to worry) too much.
- 5-His father (to fly) from Brazzaville to Pointe-Noire every day.

Exercise two: **Put these sentences into the negative form:**

- 1-This river freezes in winter.
- 2-They box in the gymnasium.
- 3-She dresses well.
- 4-Your children rely on you.
- 5-I mix the ingredients together.

Exercise three: **Put these sentences into the interrogative form:**

- 1-You know the answer.
- 2-Some schoolgirls wear uniforms.
- 3-He trusts you.
- 4-The stove heats the water.
- 5-The last train leaves at midnight.

Exercise four: **Put the verbs in brackets into the simple present tense:**

- 1-He (to wish) to speak to you.
- 2-John (not to go) to the cinema every day.
- 3-Water (to boil) at 100 degrees.
- 4-How many languages you (to speak)?
- 5-Jet engines (to make) a lot of noise.
- 6-A: What you (to do)? – B: I'm a doctor.
- 7-A: Where your father (to come) from? – B: He (to come) from Jamaica.
- 8-If you need money, why you (not to get) a job?
- 9-The robber (to try) to escape from prison.
- 10-The cat (to catch) mice.
- 11-He sometimes (to miss) the bus to work.
- 12-Gerdon usually (to read) his lessons at 6 o'clock.