

## The Present Tenses: Simple Present & Present Progressive

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_

### About This DLA

#### **Important Note**

All the activities (3) in the DLA must be completed in their entirety before meeting with a tutor and receiving credit. Where indicated, complete your work on this sheet. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor's signature included.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

Through computer and other independent work, this activity will familiarize you with the simple present and present progressive tenses and help you create sentences with correct use of these tenses.

#### **Activities (approximately 1 hour)**

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

### The Simple Present Tense

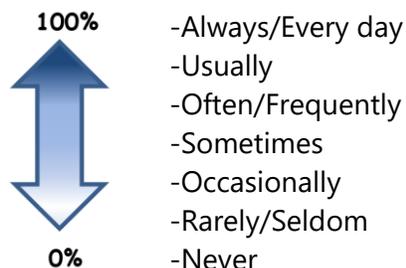
Use the simple present tense to express:

#### **1. Repeated Actions**

The simple present expresses repeated actions, such as habits, routines, hobbies, or scheduled events. It can also be things that people do not do.

Example: I **drive** to school every day. I **collect** old cars. I never **eat** after 8:00 p.m.

Often, we use adverbs of frequency for routines or habits. Here are some examples:



## 2. General Information/Scientific Facts

The simple present also expresses general information, such as personal information, likes, dislikes, and things that are true.

Example: I **work** in Walnut. I **don't like** milk. I **come** from Bolivia. Water **boils** at 100°C.

### How to Form the Simple Present

There are three forms of *be*: **am/is/are**

I **am** he/she/it/singular subjects **is** you/we/they/plural subjects **are**

We use the **-s** form when the subject is *he, she, it*, or a singular noun:

He  
She  
It  
The teacher  
My brother

} **runs.**

We use the **base** form of the verb when the subject is *I, you, we, they* or a plural noun:

I  
You  
We  
They  
My friends

} **run.**

Many times, you only add **-s** to verbs for *he/she/it*, but sometimes you need more than **-s**. Here are some spelling rules for the **-s** form:

Rule	Base Form	-s Form
Add <b>-s</b> to most verbs to make the -s form	hope eat	hopes eats
When the base form ends in <i>ss, sh, ch, or x</i> , add <b>-es</b> and pronounce an extra syllable	miss wash catch mix	misses washes catches mixes
When the base form ends in a consonant + <i>y</i> , change the <i>y</i> to <b>i</b> and add <b>-es</b>	carry worry	carr <b>ies</b> wor <b>ries</b>
When the base form ends in a vowel + <i>y</i> , add <b>-s</b> but do not change the <i>y</i>	pay enjoy	pay <b>s</b> enjoy <b>s</b>
Add <b>-es</b> to <i>go</i> and <i>do</i>	go do	go <b>es</b> do <b>es</b>

## The Present Progressive Tense

We use the present progressive tense to express:

### 1. Actions that are happening right now

The present progressive expresses on-going actions in the present.

Example: You **are reading** this page. The student **is typing** on the computer.

### 2. Actions that are happening for a temporary time

The present progressive also expresses actions that are happening for a temporary time only. Sometimes, they will use expressions like *this week, this month, this semester, this year, etc.*

Example: I **am taking** English 67 *this semester*.

## How to Form the Present Progressive

{ **am/is/are + verb-ing** }

Examples: I **am driving** on the freeway. The teacher **is talking** to a student. We **are taking** this class.

\*Non-action verbs (mental states, emotional states, possession, *be*, etc.) are usually not in a progressive form.

## How to Make Questions and Negative Statements Simple Present and Present Progressive

### Negative Statements

All verbs (except *be* since it never needs a helper) that have only one part to them (one-word verbs) **need the helper *do* or *does* and *not*** to become negative. Start with the **subject**, then ***be/do/does not***, and then the **base form** of the verb. Verbs that have two or more parts *already have* a helper, so you just add **not** between the helper and the main verb.

Examples:

I live in Brea.

He **likes** chocolate.

I **am** sad.

We **are** studying.

I **do not** live in  
Brea.

He **doesn't** like  
chocolate.

I **am not** sad.

We **aren't**  
studying.

### Questions

All verbs (except *be* since it never needs a helper) that have only one part to them (one-word verbs) **need the helper *do* or *does***. The **helper** is first, then the **subject**, and then the **base form** of the verb.

Verbs that have two or more parts *already have* a helper—the first part of the verb is the helper. You can add a wh- word at the beginning if you need it.

Examples:

She **lives** in New York.

**Does** *she live* in New York?

**Where** *does she live*?

You **are** tired.

**Are** *you tired*?

**Why** *are you tired*?

They **are** making a cake.

**Are** *they making* a cake?

**What** *are they making*?

## Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

### 1. Review the Simple Present and the Present Progressive Tenses

Review the information on this sheet. Then, answer the following questions.

a. In what situations do we use the simple present tense?

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b. In what situations do we use the present progressive tense?

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### 2. Online Quiz

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/PresentTensesDLAQuiz> and take the [Present Tenses DLA Quiz](#). You must score at least 80% on the exercises before seeing a tutor. After you complete the task, **PLEASE ASK A LAB TUTOR TO PRINT THE PAGE THAT HAS YOUR SCORE. DO NOT EXIT THE PROGRAM UNTIL THE TUTOR HAS PRINTED THIS PAGE (FREE OF CHARGE)**. If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to ask a lab tutor.

### Choose 3a or 3b Below

#### 3a. Practice with Your Own Writing

Collect some of your graded work. Find examples of sentences that contain the following:

Repeated Action:

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General Information or Fact:

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Non-Action Verb:

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Action happening right now or for a temporary time:

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**If you do not have your own essay to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (3b).**

**3b. Create Sentences**

Get the envelope that reads “The Present Tenses—Activity 3b Word Cards” in the DLA file. In it, you will find word cards. Form the following statements or questions. You must use a different subject and verb every time. Make a sentence using the word cards, write it down below, and then form another sentence. You will do this four times. (Not online)

A negative statement in the simple present tense:

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An affirmative statement in the present progressive tense:

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A question in the simple present tense:

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A question in the present progressive tense:

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**4. Review the DLA**

Go to <https://mtsac2.mywconline.com> and use the [Mt. SAC Writing Center Appointment System](#) to make a DLA appointment, or sign-up to see a tutor on the "**DLA Walk-in**" list in the Writing Center. During your session with a tutor, explain your work to demonstrate your understanding of the present tenses. Refer to your own graded writing (or the completed activity) and explain to the tutor strategies that you used to create sentences with simple present and present progressive.

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center's website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, [access@mtsac.edu](mailto:access@mtsac.edu), (909) 274-4290.*

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