

# The Writing Center

## DLA: The Present Tenses (Simple Present & Present Progressive)



This DLA is a writable PDF form. You can enter your answers directly into this document.

**YOU MUST DOWNLOAD AND SAVE THIS FILE TO YOUR COMPUTER.**

**Do not complete this form in a web browser. You will not be able to save your work.**

Student Name:

### Important Note

To get completion credit for this DLA, make sure you complete all the required activities. If you'd like help while working on a specific DLA, you can meet with a specialist at the Writing Center. Keep in mind that you might need to schedule a second appointment to review your work, check your understanding, and get your completion credit. You can only review **ONE** DLA per appointment. (Check the last section of this DLA for information on making your appointment and receiving completion credit for your work).

### 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

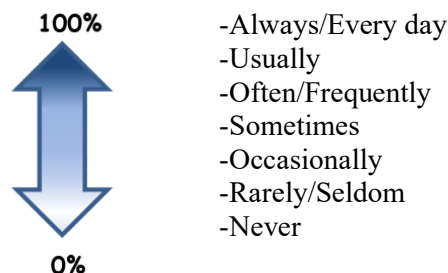
Use the simple present tense to express:

### 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.

We often 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: is**

**you/we/they...plural: 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 <b>–s</b> form	hope eat	hopes eats
When the base form ends in <i>ss, sh, ch</i> , or <i>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 <i>i</i> and add <b>–es</b>	carry worry	carries worries
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	pays enjoys
Add <b>–es</b> to <i>go</i> and <i>do</i>	go do	goes does

## 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?

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

### ☐ 2. Online Quiz

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/presenttensesdlaquiz> and take the DLA quiz. You must score at least 75% on the quiz before meeting with a specialist. After you complete the task, please take a screenshot of the page that has your score and show it to your specialist. Do not exit the quiz until you take the screenshot.

## 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:

General Information or Fact:

Non-Action Verb:

Action happening right now or for a temporary time:

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

### □ 3b. Create Sentences

Write statements or questions below of each of the scenarios. You must use a different subject and verb every time.

A negative statement in the simple present tense:

An affirmative statement in the present progressive tense:

A question in the simple present tense:

A question in the present progressive tense:

### □ 4. Review the DLA/Receive Completion Credit

1. Go to [EAB Navigate](#) and make an appointment (online or in-person).
2. Attend your session and be prepared to explain your understanding of the information you've learned in the DLA. Consider the main concept you learned and how you might use this in your future assignments/classes.
3. If your professor asks you to provide proof, you can review the "appointment summary report" through EAB Navigate (app or desktop). You will find all Writing Center appointments under "appointment summary reports" (app or desktop). Look for the summary report for your DLA appointment. This is where your writing specialist will indicate the title of your DLA and state whether it is "completed" or "not completed." If it is marked as "not completed," book a follow up appointment to complete.

Note: Appointment summary reports are also sent weekly to your instructor on record. If there is an issue, please contact us at [writingcenter@mtsac.edu](mailto:writingcenter@mtsac.edu) or (909) 274-5325.

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.

**Revised December 2025**