

Prepare for {IELTS}

Video Lessons



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Present simple

DIFFERENT TYPES OF VERB

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EXPLANATION

- The **PRESENT SIMPLE** is often used to describe things which are always, generally or usually true.
- When working out how to form the **PRESENT SIMPLE**, we need to focus on 6 different types of verb:
 - 1. **To be**
 - 2. **Have got**
 - 3. **There is/there are**
 - 4. Modal verbs such as **can, might, may, should** and **have to**
 - 5. Regular verbs such as **think, understand** and **play**
 - 6. Verbs which can have irregular endings, such as **go, have, do** and **try**.

EXPLANATION

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HOW TO FORM **PRESENT SIMPLE: TO BE**

THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

| | | |
|--------|-----|---|
| I | am | undecided about whether to apply for that job. |
| He/She | is | one of the most caring people you could meet. |
| It | is | difficult to appreciate how much work is involved. |
| You | are | welcome to stay with us if you come to Lisbon. |
| We | are | in a very difficult situation at the moment. |
| They | are | likely to become extinct during the coming decades. |
| You | are | better off living in the countryside. |

HOW TO FORM **PRESENT SIMPLE: TO BE**

THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

| | | | |
|--------|---------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| I | am not | (I'm not) | worried about the situation. |
| He/She | is not | (He/She isn't) | interested in applying. |
| It | is not | (It's not/It isn't) | any easier than it used to be. |
| You | are not | (You're not) | likely to get a refund. |
| We | are not | (We're not) | pleased with how it all turned out. |
| They | are not | (They're not) | focussed enough on the exam. |
| You | are not | (You're not) | keen on ice-cream. |

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE TO BE

We can use the verb **to be** to describe states, situations, locations, feelings etc.:

- Although I **am** British, I **am** not particularly proud of my nation's history.
- She **is** quite tired at the moment and, as far as I know, she **is** in bed.
- Many people **are** disappointed about the current political situation, and **are** angry that politicians do not seem to care.
- I'**m** so sorry that I'**m** in Vancouver at the same time you **are** in London.

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE TO BE

We can use the verb **to be** with negatives:

- I **am never** tired and I **am** definitely **not** tired at the moment.
- He **is not** here right now.
- Students who **are not** European often have to pay higher tuition fees. Obviously, they **are not** generally very happy about that.
- My mum **is not** at home at the moment, and my sister is at university, so she **is not** in Caracas now.

EXPLANATION

- When working out how to form the **PRESENT SIMPLE**, we need to focus on 6 different types of verb:
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HOW TO FORM **PRESENT SIMPLE: HAVE GOT**

THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

| | | |
|--------|----------|---|
| I | have got | less time than I need. |
| He/She | has got | a very bad attitude towards learning. |
| It | has got | a broken leg. |
| You | have got | too many books and not enough friends. |
| We | have got | loads of lessons this week. |
| They | have got | about a dozen guitars between them. |
| You | have got | more flowers in your garden than anyone I know. |

HOW TO FORM **PRESENT SIMPLE: HAVE GOT**

THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

| | | |
|--------|--------------|---|
| I | haven't got | much interest in wrestling. |
| He/She | hasn't got | any plans to visit Mombasa. |
| It | has not got | a steering wheel, so you can't drive it. |
| You | haven't got | much tolerance or patience. |
| We | haven't got | any sun-cream left. |
| They | have not got | the sense they were born with! |
| You | haven't got | a serious disease, so you can go to work. |

HOW TO FORM **PRESENT SIMPLE: HAVE GOT**

THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

| | | |
|--------|--------------------|---|
| I | haven't got | much interest in wrestling. |
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| They | have not got | the sense they were born with! |
| You | haven't got | a serious disease, so you can go to work. |

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE HAVE GOT

We can use **have got** to describe things we possess/own or things we do not possess/own:

- Many people **have got** more money than free time: they are cash-rich and time-poor.
- I **have got** a burning desire to visit India.
- I'm afraid she **hasn't got** the slightest interest in your plans.
- We **haven't got** enough wisdom to see that the way we are acting is destroying our planet.
- They **have not got** as much money as they need.

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE HAVE GOT

We can use **have** to describe actions. It is an irregular verb:

- Most people **have** a shower instead of **having** a bath. They say that it is more hygienic and more environmentally-friendly.
- I **have** breakfast at around half past seven in the morning and I **have** lunch just after midday. After that, I **don't have** anything else to eat until I get home.
- We are quite lucky because we **don't have** many arguments.

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE HAVE GOT

We can use **have** to describe possessions (as well as actions). This means that we never need to use **have got**:

- Many people **have** more money than free time: they are cash-rich and time-poor.
- I **have** a burning desire to visit India.
- I'm afraid she **doesn't have** the slightest interest in your plans.
- We **don't have** enough wisdom to see that the way we are acting is destroying our planet.
- They **don't have** as much money as they need.

EXPLANATION

- When working out how to form the **PRESENT SIMPLE**, we need to focus on 6 different types of verb:
- 1. To be
- 2. Have got
- 3. **There is/there are**
- 4. Modal verbs such as can, might, may, should and have to
- 5. Regular verbs such as think, understand and play
- 6. Verbs which can have irregular endings, such as go, have, do and try.

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE **THERE IS**

We use **there is/are** when we want to indicate that something exists.

We use **there is** with singular or uncountable nouns. We use **there are** with plural countable nouns:

- **There is** some doubt whether the development of social media radically changes the way we live and interact.
- **There is** no reason why pensioners should not continue to work if they are fit, healthy and physically active.
- **There is** no point complaining about what happened.
- **There is** nothing wrong with silence.
- **There are** several reasons why the public is nervous about cloning.
- **There are** many opportunities in life.

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE **THERE IS**

- **There are** significant differences between living in a major urban conurbation and living in a tiny village.
- **There are** not as many blue-collar jobs as there used to be.

This structure has several variations:

- **There seems/appears to be** a great deal of controversy surrounding the question of whether marijuana should be legalised.
- **There are said/believed to be** huge quantities of food thrown away each year.
- **There tends to be** a great deal of anger from both the media and the public whenever a murderer or rapist is given a relatively short prison sentence.

EXPLANATION

- When working out how to form the **PRESENT SIMPLE**, we need to focus on 6 different types of verb:
- 1. To be
- 2. Have got
- 3. There is/there are
- 4. **Modal verbs** such as **can, might, may, should** and **have to**
- 5. Regular verbs such as think, understand and play
- 6. Verbs which can have irregular endings, such as go, have, do and try.

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE MODAL VERBS

Most modal verbs do not agree with their subject:

- It **can be** quite difficult for teenagers to succeed academically if they lack motivation or if they have not developed appropriate study skills.
- Those earning extremely low wages **might feel** that they are being exploited by unscrupulous employers.
- The government **ought to make** changes.
- It **should be noted** that air traffic controllers work under enormous stress. (This is a passive form)
- It **must be said** that some employees in the public sector are quite lazy. (This is a passive form)

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE MODAL VERBS

Be careful! When we use **need to** and **have to** to describe an obligation, they usually work like normal verbs:

- We all **need to** take our mental health seriously.
- The government **needs to** take into account the fact that raising business taxes could force companies to re-locate to other countries.
- I **have to** finish the project and hand it in before next Friday.
- The way we treat our planet **has to** change; without radical reappraisal of our attitude towards the environment, we are headed for a catastrophe.
- You **don't need/have to** go, and she **doesn't need/have to** go either.

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PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE MODAL VERBS

Be careful! Some modals are formed with **to be**. These structures work like the verb **to be**:

- I **am able** to swim, whereas my sister **is** completely **unable** to stop herself from going under the water.
- Most schoolchildren **are allowed** to listen to music during their breaks. Obviously, they **are not permitted** to put their headphones on during classes.
- Chilean nationals **are entitled** to apply for British citizenship if they can demonstrate a relevant skill. However, they **are not allowed** to become British nationals until they have passed a language test.

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE MODAL VERBS

We can use modals with negative forms:

- I **cannot understand** how so many people ignore the world's inequalities. While those in the developed world generally enjoy a good standard of living, impoverished people struggle.
- We **should not** always **blame** others for our problems.
- It **might not be** easy to learn a new language.
- We **must not treat** animals with cruelty under any circumstances.
- Some children **do not need/have to do** homework after school.
- The house **does not need/have to be** incredibly clean.
- Candidates **are not allowed/permitted** to use dictionaries.

EXPLANATION

- When working out how to form the **PRESENT SIMPLE**, we need to focus on 6 different types of verb:
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HOW TO FORM **PRESENT SIMPLE**: REGULAR VERBS

THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

| | | |
|--------|------------|------------------------------------|
| I | understand | the situation clearly. |
| He/She | works | for a large financial institution. |
| It | depends | on a variety of factors. |
| You | prefer | sunbathing to sight-seeing. |
| We | believe | in equality and fairness. |
| They | drive | carelessly. |
| You | realise | the consequences of your action. |

HOW TO FORM **PRESENT SIMPLE**: REGULAR VERBS

THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

| | | |
|--------|------------|------------------------------------|
| I | understand | the situation clearly. |
| He/She | works | for a large financial institution. |
| It | depends | on a variety of factors. |
| You | prefer | sunbathing to sight-seeing. |
| We | believe | in equality and fairness. |
| They | drive | carelessly. |
| You | realise | the consequences of your action. |

HOW TO FORM **PRESENT SIMPLE**: **REGULAR VERBS**

THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

| | | |
|--------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| I | don't understand | what she means. |
| He/She | doesn't work | for a large financial institution. |
| It | does not depend | on the qualifications you have. |
| You | do not like | sunbathing or sight-seeing. |
| We | don't believe | in anything. |
| They | don't drive | to work. |
| You | don't realise | how important the decision is. |

HOW TO FORM **PRESENT SIMPLE: REGULAR VERBS**

THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

| | | |
|--------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| I | don't understand | what she means. |
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| We | don't believe | in anything. |
| They | don't drive | to work. |
| You | don't realise | how important the decision is. |

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE REGULAR VERBS

With the subject of **he/she/it**, regular verbs change:

- It **takes** a great deal of effort to become a fluent speaker of a foreign language. It **requires** a huge amount of dedication and patience. It also **costs** a lot of money.
- These days, the average person **lives** far longer than in the past.
- The government **wants** people to be healthier, so it **gives** money to a local organisation of volunteers. The organisation **helps** people to lose weight.
- A recent study **indicates** that a normal child who **plays** outside generally **remains** healthy, **requires** fewer medical appointments and **takes** fewer days off school.

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE REGULAR VERBS

With negative forms, we use **do not / don't** with most subjects:

- If you **don't / do not understand** the question, **do not try** to answer it.
- I **don't / do not want** to take a gap-year before going to university.
- Schoolchildren who **don't / do not have** breakfast before starting their lessons are far less likely to succeed academically.
- Many people in the developing world **don't / do not have** mobile phones or access to the internet. Providing them with smartphones would enable them to fully participate in the globalised world.
- If you **don't / do not work**, you have to rely on state benefits.

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE REGULAR VERBS

With he/she/it we use **doesn't / does not**:

- Studies reveal that the quality of a child's teacher **doesn't / does not influence** that pupil's ability to learn as much as the quality and nutritional value of her breakfast.
- The situation **doesn't / does not seem** to have worsened. The economy **doesn't / does not appear** to be entering a period of recession.
- It **doesn't / does not matter** whether you come or not.
- It **doesn't / does not rain** as much in Mexico as in Colombia.
- That approach **doesn't / does not really work**.

EXPLANATION

- When working out how to form the **PRESENT SIMPLE**, we need to focus on 6 different types of verb:
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PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE IRREGULAR VERBS

Some key verbs such as **go**, **have**, **do**, and verbs ending in **-ry** , **-ch** and **-sh** have irregular endings when the subject is **he/she/it**:

- When a child **goes** to school and **does** badly in tests, she often **worries** about the situation. It is generally the case that, if that child **tries** harder on future occasions, she will be successful.
- My sister **cries** at the slightest little thing.
- The average German adult **has** a comfortable house and a relatively good car. He or she probably **does** a semi-skilled or skilled job. Of course, this is not the case for everyone living in that country.
- She **finishes** work at five and **catches** the bus home.
- He **watches** too much television.

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE IRREGULAR VERBS

In the negative form, verbs with irregular endings look the same as regular verbs:

- I **don't try** very hard and I certainly **don't cry** when things go wrong. I probably **don't do** as much housework as I should, and I certainly **don't worry** about trivial things.
- We **don't go** out very often. We prefer to stay at home.
- My nephew **doesn't try** very hard at school. She **doesn't worry** about the prospect of getting poor grades. She gets homework from her teachers, but she **doesn't do** it. She says that she **doesn't have** time.
- She **doesn't go** out at the weekends.

TRICKY PRESENT SIMPLE SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

- **The information** about the number of immigrants entering a country **is** often published in newspapers and on websites. **Many people do not agree** with this, but **I** personally **think it makes** sense.
- **The effect** of so many new arrivals **is** that **public services become** stretched, and **ordinary people get** annoyed.
- **The number** of children in primary schools **is** higher than ever. **Some critics believe this is** because **so many foreign migrants move** to the city. **Others remain** adamant that **this is** not the cause.
- **The fact** that **waiting lists** for a hospital appointment **are** so long **has** nothing to do with the fact that large numbers of **foreign migrants have** medical needs.



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Present simple

WHEN TO USE IT

EXPLANATION

- The **PRESENT SIMPLE** is a very common tense.
- IELTS examiners quite often see it used incorrectly in the Speaking and Writing Tests.
- It is important to understand when to use **PRESENT SIMPLE**.
- It can be used to describe **things which happen again and again or often, things which are permanent, facts, possessions, feelings and opinions.**

WHEN TO USE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

To describe things which happen again and again:

- Almost every day, newspapers **are** full of stories about death and destruction.
- The public transport system **is** overcrowded every single morning.
- Students who regularly **fail** to hand in assignments to their university tutors **face** disciplinary action and even expulsion.
- It is worrying that people **eat** junk food on such a regular basis.
- Football supporters often **fight** with each other before, during and after a match.
- Many people **go** abroad for their annual holiday.

WHEN TO USE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

To describe how often things happen:

- Those with a reasonably well-paid job can **nearly always / almost invariably** afford to buy private healthcare and send their children to fee-paying schools where the quality of education is undoubtedly superior.
- **Nearly every time** I see you, you complain about your job.
- I know you go shopping on **Wednesdays** but I wonder if I could pop round for a chat.
- Studies reveal that schoolchildren **are usually/generally/normally** tired in the middle of the afternoon and that their ability to perform **tends** to be diminished.

WHEN TO USE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

To describe how often things happen:

- Those who are brought up to respect others **very infrequently / virtually never commit** serious violent crimes.
- **At the beginning of each year**, many of us **make** a resolution to behave better, lose weight or stop smoking. **In the vast majority of cases**, we **break** these promises within days or weeks.
- **Every summer**, thousands of tourists **pack** their bags and **head off** for a couple of weeks of sun.
- Voters **often / relatively frequently / sometimes feel** that the politicians they elect **fail** to tell the truth.

WHEN TO USE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

To describe things which are permanent:

- Oxygen **is** a key component of our planet's atmosphere.
- Couples generally **disagree** about many things, especially financial matters.
- Temperatures **rise** during the spring and summer and **fall back** during autumn and winter.
- Studies indicate that rich people **suffer** less from stress than those on lower incomes.
- Thousands of people **live** in the outskirts of major cities and **commute** to work every day.

WHEN TO USE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

To describe facts:

- Tokyo **is** obviously one of the biggest and most important cities in the world.
- Children **are** born with many of the abilities they need in later life.
- The **USA** **is** currently the world's biggest economy, though this is likely to change in the foreseeable future.
- In Europe, dogs and cats **are** the most popular pets.
- These days, more people **live** in urban areas than in the countryside.
- Motorists who drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol **face** lengthy custodial sentences if they are caught.

WHEN TO USE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

To give an opinion:

- I wholeheartedly **believe** that we must condemn any parent who smacks a child.
- I fully **support** the idea that prisoners should be rehabilitated and given help to re-integrate themselves into society after being released.
- Most experts **suggest** that future wars will be fought over scarce resources such as water and oil.
- I **consider/think** it inappropriate for young children to be on the streets after dark.
- I vehemently **oppose** the idea that taxes should be increased.

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WHEN TO USE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

To give an opinion:

- Articles in the media **criticise** parents for allowing their offspring to eat junk food and become obese; at the same time journalists often **praise** fast-food manufacturers for being socially responsible.
- **There is a widely-held view** that criminals are entirely to blame for their law-breaking. However, some research indicates/suggests that this is not entirely the case.
- **It is often thought to be the case** that young drivers are less risk-averse than older ones.

WHEN TO USE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

To describe feelings:

- I **adore** swimming in the sea.
- I **love** spending time with my brothers and sisters, even though we sometimes squabble.
- We don't get on well. I **can't stand/bear** arrogant people like that.
- I absolutely **abhor/detest** racist attitudes.
- I know she is my boss and I am supposed to sit there quietly, but some of the things she says really **disgust** me.
- Scientists **urge** the government to provide them with more funding for vital research and **plead with** policy-makers to give them longer to reach satisfactory conclusions.

WHEN TO USE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

To describe possession:

- I am quite envious of anyone who **owns/possesses** a Bugatti.
- The exam **consists of** four different sections.
- The box **contains/includes** all the ingredients you need to make a wonderful meal.
- My job **entails/involves** dealing with customers' complaints and working with the manager.
- Doctors and nurses **have** a tremendous sense of duty and dedication.
- Wise people **keep/maintain** a sense of perspective.

WHEN TO USE **PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE** IN **IELTS WRITING TASK 1 (ACADEMIC)**

At the beginning of **IELTS Writing Task 1 (academic)**:

- **The information provided** **explains** the growth in air-traffic over a fifty-year period beginning in 1965.
- **The diagram** **illustrates** how plastics are made.
- The **statistical information under discussion** **shows** how much electricity was generated in the year 2001 and how this energy was used.
- **The figures** **demonstrate** how many parents sent their children to private schools between 1980 and 2010.
- **The tables given** **refer to** the number of legal and illegal music downloads over a six-year period commencing in 2009.



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PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Decide which is the correct form of the present simple tense:

1. She **live/lives** in a large house.
2. I **have/have got** a shower every morning.
3. She **don't/doesn't** have much to do today.
4. We all **want/wants** to visit you.
5. They **play/plays** chess every Tuesday.
6. The manager **need/needs** to try harder.

ANSWERS

1. She **lives** in a large house.
2. I **have** a shower every morning.
3. She **doesn't** have much to do today.
4. We all **want** to visit you.
5. They **play** chess every Tuesday.
6. The manager **needs** to try harder.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Try to complete each sentence with a form of the auxiliary verb **to do**:

1. I _____ not know where he went.
2. _____ she live around here?
3. I _____ like chocolate. I've always disliked it.
4. _____ you come here often?
5. What time _____ she usually get to work?

ANSWERS

1. I **do** not know where he went.
2. **Does** she live around here?
3. I **don't** like chocolate. I've always disliked it.
4. **Do** you come here often?
5. What time **does** she usually get to work?