

Grammar

Module 1: Let's Chat

Simple Present Tense		
The simple present is also called present simple or present indefinite. It is a verb tense used to show repetition, habit, or generalisation. It can be used to talk about scheduled actions in the near future or in some cases, actions happening now.		
Questions are made with 'does' and 'do' and negative forms are made with 'does not' and 'do not.'		
Statement	Question	Negative
They speak English.	Do they speak English?	They do not speak English.
In the third person singular, -s or -es is added. Questions are made with 'does' and negative forms are made with 'does not.'		
She speaks English.	Does she speak English?	She does not speak English.

Simple Present Uses

1. Repeated Actions	
The simple present expresses the idea that an action is repeated. The action can be a habit, a hobby, a daily event, a scheduled event, or something that often happens. It can also be something a person often forgets or usually does not do.	
Examples: → I play football. → He does not play tennis. → Does he play tennis?	→ He never forgets his wallet. → Every twelve months, the Earth circles the Sun.
2. Facts or Generalisations	
The simple present indicates that the speaker believes that a fact was true before, is true now, and will be true in the future. It is also used to make generalisations about people or things.	
Examples: → Cats like fish. → Birds do not like fish.	→ Do goats like fish? → Sabah is not in Indonesia. → Mirrors are not made of wood.
3. Scheduled Events in the Near Future	
Used to talk about scheduled events in the near future. This is most commonly done when talking about scheduled events.	
Examples: → The train leaves tonight at 8 p.m. → The bus does not arrive at 8 p.m., it arrives at 10 p.m.	→ When do we board the plane? → The party starts at 7 o'clock. → What time does class begin tomorrow?
4. Now (Non-Continuous Verbs)	
The simple present is sometimes used to express the idea that an action is happening or is not happening now. This can only be done with non-continuous verbs and certain mixed verbs.	
Examples: → I am here now. → She is not here now.	→ They need the file now. → They do not need the file now.

The Present Continuous Tense		
To show an ongoing action. It is also used to show that an action is going to take place in the near future. Formed using <i>am/is/are</i> + present participle .		
• Statement: You are eating .	• Question: Are you eating?	• Negative: You are not eating .
In the third person singular, <i>-s</i> or <i>-es</i> is added. Questions are made with ‘does’ and negative forms are made with ‘does not.’		
She speaks English.	Does she speak English?	She does not speak English.

Present Continuous Uses

1. Now	
To express the idea that something is happening now, at this very moment. It can also be used to show that something is not happening now.	
Examples: → We are not watching television now.	→ Are you sleeping?

2. Longer Actions in Progress Now	
To say that we are in the process of doing a longer action which is in progress; however, we might not be doing it at the moment.	
Examples: → I am studying to become a lawyer.	→ Aren’t you teaching at the school now?

3. Near Future	
To indicate that something will or will not happen in the near future.	
Examples: → I am meeting some friends tonight.	→ Isn’t he coming with us tonight?

4. Repetition and Irritation with ‘Always’	
Expresses the idea that something often happens. The meaning is like simple present, but with negative emotion. Remember to put ‘always’ or ‘constantly’ between ‘be’ and ‘verb + ing.’	
Examples: → He is always coming to work late.	→ She is constantly singing . I wish she would stop.

Comparisons

→ Adjectives are used to compare one noun to another.

Spelling Rules	Examples
Adjectives of one syllable, you can add <i>-er</i> .	long – longer; short – shorter; nice – nicer
Adjectives of two syllables, but ends in <i>-y</i> , you can change the end to <i>-ier</i> .	lucky – luckier; happy – happier
Adjectives of two syllables and more, use <i>more + adjective</i> .	handsome – more handsome; caring – more caring
Use ‘ <i>as-as</i> ’ to compare two same adjectives.	“He’s as tall as his father.”
Use ‘ <i>than</i> ’ when comparing two adjectives that are not similar.	“This sum is more difficult than the last one.”
When one thing is less than another, use ‘ <i>less than</i> ’ or ‘ <i>not as – as</i> ’.	“They are less interesting than I thought.”
Change form when you compare irregular adjectives.	good – better; bad – worse; far – further