Module: Grammar

Level: Second year

**Lecture 01: Present Tenses**

**1. Verb Tenses:**

\*A **tense** is a form of the verb which shows the time at which an action happens in the **time of speech** to specify reference-point for **event time**. It comes from the Latin word "tempus", which means "time".

\*Tense is the relationship between the form of the verb and the time when the action happens or the state it describes. There are simple tenses, continuous tenses where the verb is formed with the auxiliary ‘be’ and the present participle, and perfect tenses where the verbs are formed with the auxiliary ‘have’ and the past participle.



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| **Aspect** | **tense** | | |
| **Present** | **Past** | **Future** |
| ***Simple (*Indefinite*)*** | Simple present | Simple past | Simple future |
| ***Continuous***  ***(Progressive)*** | Present continuous | Past continuous | Future continuous |
| ***Perfect (*Complete*)*** | Present Perfect | Past Perfect | Future Perfect |
| ***Perfect Continuous*** | Present Perfect Cont. | Past Perfect Cont. | Future Perfect Cont. |

**1. The Simple Present Tense**

**1.1. Form**

In the affirmative the simple present has the same form as the **infinitive** but adds an **“s”** for the third person singular.

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| Affirmative Negative Interrogative Negative interrogative |
| I work I do not work Do I work? Don’t I work? |
| you work you do not work Do you work? Don’t you work? |
| he/she/it does. doesn’t work Does she/he/it work? Doesn’t he/she/it work? |
| we work we don’t work Do we work? Don’t we work? |
| they work they do not work Do they work? Don’t they work? |

**Spelling notes**

* Verbs ending in **ss, sh, ch, x** and **o** add **“es”**, instead of **“s”** alone, to form the third person singular:

*I kiss, he kisses I box, he boxes*

*I rush, he rushes I do, he does*

*I watch, he watches I go, he goes*

* When **“y”** follows a consonant we change the y into **“** **i"** and add **“es”**:

*I carry, he carries I copy, he copies I try, he tries*

But verbs ending in **y** following a vowel obey the usual rule:

*I obey, he obeys I say, he says*

**1.2. USE**

The main use of the simple present tense is to express habitual actions.

*Mr. Brown generally* ***leaves*** *the house at eight o'clock in the morning.*

*I* ***play*** *football every weekend*

This tense does not tell us whether or not the action is being performed at the moment of speaking and if we want to make it clear we must add a verb in the present continuous tense.

e.g. *He* ***works*** *in marketing . He is working*

*My dog barks a lot but It is not barking at the moment.*

2. In informal instructions:

* *You* ***take*** *300 g of flour and* ***add*** *three eggs.*

3. Something that is true in the present:

* *I* ***am*** *19 years old/ London* ***is*** *the capital of Britain.*

4. Something that is always true (natural and scientific laws, and simple facts):

* *The human body* ***contains*** *206 bones.*

5. We often use adverbs of frequency and adverb phrases such as “never, rarely, often, seldom, sometimes, usually, frequently, always, never,usually, every week, on Mondays, twice a year etc.” with the present simple:

* *I sometimes* ***go*** *to the gym/ she never* ***plays*** *football.*

Or with time clauses expressing routine or habitual actions.

* *Whenever it rains, the roof leaks*
* *When you open the door, a light goes on.*

6. Planned future:

* *The next train* ***leaves*** *this evening at 17.00. (Future timetables).*

Use with: this evening, at 10 o'clock, tomorrow.

* *I won't g****o*** *out until it* ***stops*** *raining. (Future in time clauses).*

Use with: until, when, as soon as, after, before.

7. Newspapers Headlines

* *Peace Talk Fail*

8. Instead of the Present Continuous form of certain verbs which are not used in the Continuous (stative verbs, these are verbs of opinion such as *believe, like, doubt,* and verbs of perception: *see, hear, know, understand,* etc.):

* *I* ***believe*** *this house is haunted’.*
* *I often* ***hear*** *strange noises at night.*