Subject: economic English

Teacher: Djabelkhir.M

Level: 1st year Master

Department of Economics

**Simple present tense Lecture**

The **simple present tense** is used to describe actions or situations that are regular, habitual, or general truths. Here’s a breakdown of how and when to use it, along with some examples:

**1. Structure of the Simple Present**

**Affirmative Sentences:**

* **Formula**: Subject + base verb (+s/es for third-person singular)
	+ Examples:
		- **I read** books.
		- **She reads** books.
		- **They write** letters.

**Negative Sentences:**

* **Formula**: Subject + do/does not + base verb
	+ Use **do not (don’t)** for plural subjects and "I" and "you."
	+ Use **does not (doesn’t)** for third-person singular.
	+ Examples:
		- **I do not watch** TV often.
		- **He does not eat** meat.
		- **We do not play** chess.

**Interrogative Sentences:**

* **Formula**: Do/Does + subject + base verb?
	+ Examples:
		- **Do you like** ice cream?
		- **Does she work** at a hospital?
		- **Do they live** here?

**Short Answers:**

* Positive: **Yes, + subject + do/does.**
	+ Example: **Yes, I do.**
* Negative: **No, + subject + do/does not.**
	+ Example: **No, she does not.**

**2. Uses of the Simple Present**

**1. Habits and Routines**

* Actions that happen regularly or repeatedly.
* Time expressions: *always, often, usually, sometimes, rarely, every day/week, etc.*
* Examples:
	+ **I go** for a jog every morning.
	+ **She usually cooks** dinner at 7 p.m.

**2. General Truths and Facts**

* Statements that are universally true or not subject to change.
* Examples:
	+ **The earth orbits** the sun.
	+ **Water freezes** at 0°C.

**3. Permanent Situations**

* For situations that are unlikely to change soon.
* Examples:
	+ **He lives** in New York.
	+ **They work** in an IT company.

**4. Schedules and Timetables/ events**

* Used for fixed events, particularly with travel, entertainment, or organizational schedules.
* Examples:
	+ **The bus leaves** at 9 a.m.
	+ **The movie starts** at 6 p.m.

**5. Instructions or Directions**

* Often used in manuals, recipes, or guides.
* Examples:
	+ **First, mix** the flour and sugar.
	+ **Turn left** at the traffic light.

**6. Commentary or Storytelling**

* Used to describe events in sports commentary, narratives, or jokes.
* Examples:
	+ "He **kicks** the ball and **scores** a goal!"
	+ "So the guy **walks** into the room and **says**, ‘Hi!’"

**7. Feelings, Opinions, and Preferences**

* Verbs that express emotions, mental states, or likes/dislikes are often used in the simple present.
* Examples:
	+ **I think** it's a good idea.
	+ **She loves** chocolate.

**8. Future Events (in certain contexts)**

* The simple present can indicate a planned or scheduled future event, especially with timetables or programs.
* Examples:
	+ **The train arrives** at 5:30 tomorrow.
	+ **The class starts** next Monday.

**3. Spelling and Grammar Rules**

**Adding -s/-es to Verbs**

1. **For most verbs**, add **-s**:
	* **run** → **runs**, **read** → **reads**
2. **For verbs ending in -ch, -sh, -ss, -x, or -o**, add **-es**:
	* **watch** → **watches**, **go** → **goes**
3. **For verbs ending in -y**:
	* If there’s a consonant before the **-y**, change it to **-ies**:
		+ **study** → **studies**
	* If there’s a vowel before the **-y**, just add **-s**:
		+ **play** → **plays**

**4. Common Time Expressions with the Simple Present**

* **Always**: "She always **smiles** at strangers."
* **Often**: "They often **visit** their grandparents."
* **Usually**: "We usually **eat** dinner at 8 p.m."
* **Sometimes**: "I sometimes **go** for a walk after dinner."
* **Rarely**: "He rarely **misses** his workouts."
* **Never**: "She never **lies**."
* **Every day/week/month/year**: "I **go** to the gym every week."

**5. Common Mistakes to Avoid**

**1. Forgetting to add -s or -es for third-person singular:**

* Incorrect: **She like** apples.
* Correct: **She likes** apples.

**2. Using the wrong auxiliary verb in negatives or questions:**

* Incorrect: **He don’t know.**
* Correct: **He doesn’t know.**

**3. Adding -ing unnecessarily:**

* Incorrect: **She is always playing soccer.**
* Correct: **She always plays soccer.**

**4. Misusing the simple present for ongoing actions:**

* Incorrect: **I work** now. (If it's happening now, use present continuous.)
* Correct: **I am working** now.

**6. Practical Tips for Mastery**

1. **Practice regularly** with examples from daily life:
	* Write down what you do each day using the simple present.
2. **Use time expressions** to clarify meaning:
	* Example: "I walk to school every day."
3. **Listen to native speakers** or read simple texts (children's books, short stories) to observe how the tense is used naturally.

**Examples in Full Context**

**Dialogue:**

* A: **Do you like** coffee?
* B: Yes, I **do**. I usually **drink** two cups a day.
* A: **Does your brother drink** coffee too?
* B: No, he **doesn’t**. He **prefers** tea.

**Daily Routine Description:**

"Every morning, I **wake up** at 7 a.m. I **brush** my teeth and **take** a shower. Then, I **eat** breakfast. I usually **go** to work by bus, and I **arrive** at the office by 9 a.m."