

# English

## Using the Simple Present Tense



Australian Government  
AusAID



## To the Learner

Dear Learner,

Hello! How are you today? What did you learn in the previous module?

Are you ready to take another trip to the world of Language?

That's good!



## Let's Learn This

In grammar, tense is the form of the verb that indicates the time of action or assertion. Thus, the function of tense is to show time.

This module will give you lots of ideas and exercises using the simple present tense of the verb.

Have fun!



## Let's Try This

Read through the list of proverbs. Pick out the correct verb form that will complete each. Write your answer on a sheet of paper.

1. A rolling stone (gather, gathers) no moss.
2. Still waters (run, runs) deep.
3. Love (make, makes) the world go round.
4. Actions (speak, speaks) louder than words.
5. Too many cooks (spoil, spoils) the broth.

Check if your answers are right. Look at the Answer Key.



## Let's Study This

Read the paragraph and identify the verbs.

Like other animals, insects grow and change. They become adults, and then later on, they die. Before they die, some of the adults produce their young. The changes and the growth in the life of an organism, like an insect, make up a life cycle. A life cycle is a pattern that is repeated again and again.

1. What is the selection about?
  2. Do insects grow like other animals?
  3. Do they produce offspring?
- What are the verbs used in the paragraph?
  - Do they tell about habitual action? Do they express general truths or facts?

Go over these sentences.

1. Insects grow and change.
2. They become adults.
3. An insect undergoes a life cycle.
4. A caterpillar grows into a young butterfly.

What two forms of verb in the present tense are shown in the sentences?

Which form is used with plural subjects? With singular subjects?

The verbs grow, change and become are in the simple or base form. They do not end in -s or -es. They go with plural subjects. This form is referred to as the plural verb form.

On the other hand, undergoes and grows are verbs used with singular subjects -insect and caterpillar. They end in -es and -s, respectively.

This form is referred to as third person singular form.

The simple present form of the verb denotes present time. It has several functions to express a present action, a general truth, to refer to a habitual action, to indicate a permanent condition, and to state a present fact, simple futurity or habitual present.

Here are other verbs. Note carefully their simple or base form and third singular form.

Verb	Simple	Third Person Singular
develop	develop	develops
begin	begin	begins
hatch	hatch	hatches
do	do	does



## Let's Do This

Write the correct form of the verbs in parentheses. Use a sheet of paper.

1. Father (take) me to the school every morning.
2. My brother (swim) well.
3. They (prefer) to hold the party in the house.
4. Marian (take) care of her pets well.
5. The Santoses (live) in Los Amigos.

Finished?

Check your answers using the answer key.

What's your score?

Great Job!



## Let's Do More

Complete the following sentences using the words inside the box.

Make sure to write the correct present form of the verb. Get a sheet of paper and start doing it now!

receive

admire

read

prepare

go

1. Every morning Mother \_\_\_\_\_ our breakfast.
2. The chosen family \_\_\_\_\_ the Model Family of the Year Award.
3. All of the children, except the youngest, \_\_\_\_\_ to school everyday.
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ her talent in art.
5. We \_\_\_\_\_ our favorite story books every weekend.

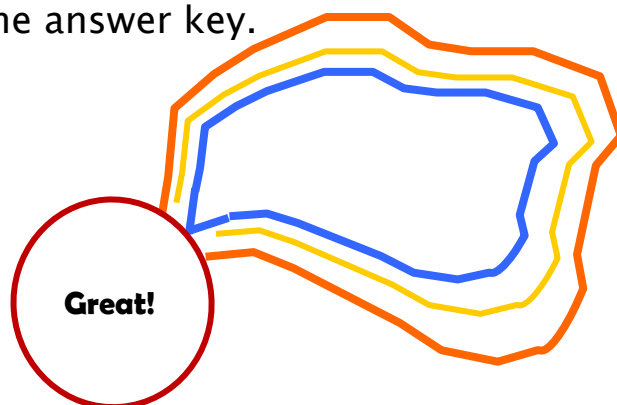
Are you finished?

Check your answers against the answer key.

What's your score?

Good work learner!

Here's a medal for you!



## Let's Remember This

The present tense of the verb does not only tell what we habitually do. It also expresses general truth or facts.

The verb form for the simple present tense are the base form and the -s or -es form. The base form goes with the plural subject nouns or pronouns. The -s or -es form goes with singular subject nouns and pronouns.

The be forms used are am, is or are.



## Let's Test Ourselves

Copy on the paper the correct form of the verb from the given choices in the parenthesis.


A horse 1) (is, are) a four-legged, solid-hoofed animal with a flowing mane and tail. As a domesticated for loads, it 2) (carries, carry) riders. Horses 3) (is, are) considered beautiful and graceful animals. They 4) (requires, require) good grooming. Good grooming 5) (includes, include) brushing, combing and rubbing its shiny coat and cleaning its hooves.

Are you done?

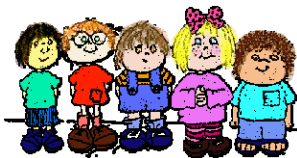
Check your answers against the answer key.

Congratulations!

You made it!

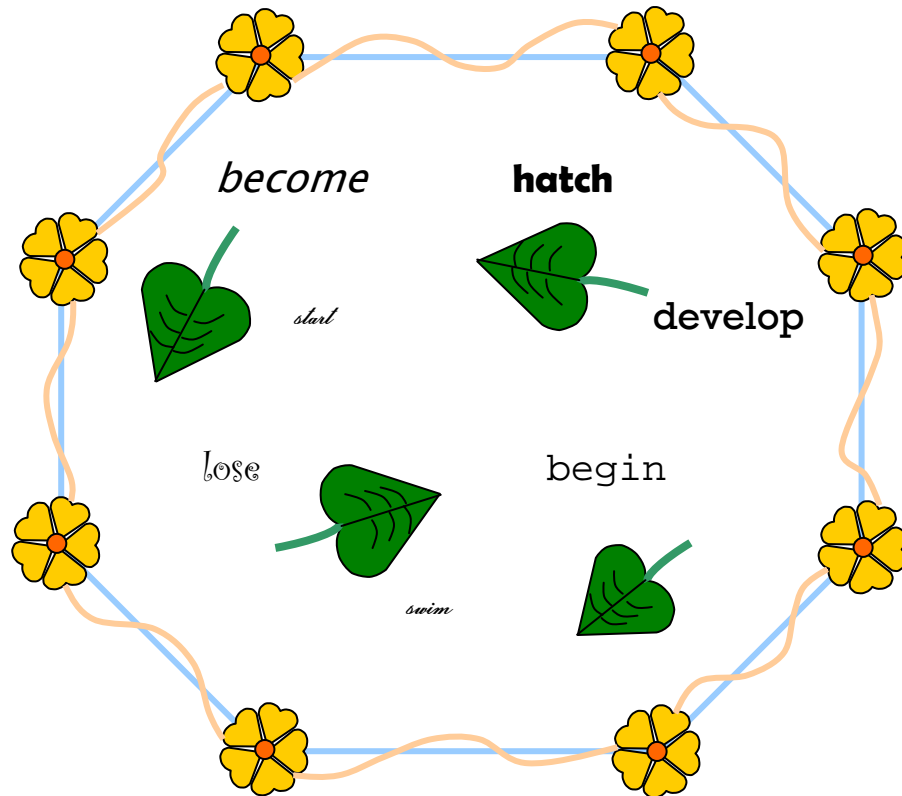
If you got 4–5 correct answers, you get a .

If not, do the exercise in Let's Enrich Ourselves.



## Let's Enrich Ourselves

Zach loves frogs. He wants to know how tiny eggs develop into adult frogs. Let's help him by completing this paragraph. Use the words that are floating on the pond.



Most frogs \_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_ life underwater as tiny eggs encased in jelly. Fish-like creatures called tadpoles \_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_ from frog's eggs. They \_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_ through the water by moving their long tail from side to side. Within a month, most tadpoles \_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_ to breathe at the surface of the water and \_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_ limbs. Then the frog \_\_\_\_6\_\_\_\_ their fishy tails and \_\_\_\_7\_\_\_\_ adult frogs.



## Answer Key

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### Let's Try This

1. gathers
2. run
3. makes
4. speak
5. spoil

### Let's Do This

1. takes
2. swims
3. prefer
4. takes
5. live

### Let's Do More

1. prepares
2. receives
3. go
4. admire
5. read

### Let's Test Ourselves

1. is
2. carries
3. are
4. require
5. includes

### Let's Enrich Ourselves

1. start
2. hatch
3. swim
4. begin
5. develop
6. lose
7. become