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Free Grammar E-Book Level 1

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- **Shayna Oliveira**
EspressoEnglish.net

Present Simple: Be

Positive:

I am	I'm	from Japan.
you / we / they are	you're / we're / they're	from Brazil.
he / she / it is	he's / she's / it's	from India.

Negative:

I am not	I'm not	married.
you / we / they are not	You're not / You aren't We're not / We aren't They're not / They aren't	happy.
he / she / it is not	He isn't / He's not She isn't / She's not It isn't / It's not	a student.

Question:

Am	I	beautiful?
Are	you / we / they	a teacher?
Is	he / she / it	tall?

Present Simple: Be

Name:

- I'm Joanna.
- He's Paulo.
- They're Aki and Yuta.

Country / Nationality:

- I'm from the U.S. I'm American.
- My husband is from Italy. He's Italian.
- She's not Korean, she's Vietnamese.
- Are they from Australia?

Age:

- I'm 27 years old.
- How old are you?
- She's 15.
- My mother is 65 years old.

Emotions:

- I'm sad.
- She's excited.
- You're angry.
- We're happy.

Jobs:

- I'm not a student. I'm a teacher.
- Are you a doctor?
- He's a journalist.
- They're artists.

Grammar Exercise: [Present Simple: Be](#)

Articles: A, An, The



I'm going to eat **an** apple.



I'm going to eat **the** red apple.

a / an	general (one of many)	I want to buy a car. He's eating an apple. Do you have a bike? She is an old woman. I'm reading a book.
the	specific (one specific)	Tokyo is the capital of Japan. The new Chinese restaurant is very good. We like the blue car. The girl in the red dress is beautiful. I'm reading the new book by J.K. Rowling.

Articles: A, An, The

Use "an" if the word starts with the sound of a, e, i, o, u:

- **an** apple
- **an** egg
- **an** ice cream shop
- **an** open door
- **an** umbrella
- **an** hour

Use "a" if the word starts with the sound of any other letter.

Do not use "the" with countries or cities:

- ~~I live in the China.~~
I live in China.

Do not use "the" with things in general:

- ~~She likes the pizza.~~
She likes pizza.
She likes the pizza from Tony's Restaurant. (specific)

Grammar Exercise: [A, An, The](#)

This, That, These, Those

This	1 thing - near
That	1 thing - far
These	2+ things - near
Those	2+ things - far



This apple is green.



That apple is red.



These books are new.



Those books are old.

Present Simple: Positive

Use the **present simple** for things that happen regularly or things that are generally true.

I / you / we / they	work
he / she / it	works

Examples:

- I **work** in a bank.
- He **works** at the university.
- We **work** every day.
- My sister **works** at the hospital.

Special Case #1

For verbs that end in consonant + -y, we remove the -y and add -ies:

- I **study** English at school.
- Dana **studies** English at school.
- ~~Bill studys English at school~~

Other verbs like this include: cry, try, fly, carry

Special Case #2

For verbs that end in -o, -sh, -s, -ss, -ch, -x, we add -es.

- They **go** to English class on Wednesday.
- She **goes** to cooking class on Saturday.
- ~~She gos to cooking class on Saturday.~~

Other verbs like this include: watch, kiss, teach, fix

Present Simple: Negative

Use the **present simple negative** for things that are not generally true.

I / you / we / they	don't	like
he / she / it	doesn't	like

Examples:

- I **don't like** coffee.
- John **doesn't like** pizza.
- John and David **don't like** milk.
- My mother **doesn't like** to travel.

Common Errors

1) In the present simple negative, do not add -s:

- ~~Martha doesn't **likes** to dance.~~
- Martha doesn't like to dance.

2) Other common errors:

- ~~Pete **no** like bananas.~~
- ~~Pete **not** like bananas.~~
- Pete **doesn't** like bananas.

Present Simple: Questions

Use **present simple questions** to ask about things that happen regularly or things that are generally true.

Do	I / you / we / they	live in a city?
Does	he / she / it	live in a city?

Examples:

- **Do** you **live** in Brazil?
- **Does** Adam **live** in England?
- **Do** they **live** in a big house?
- **Does** she **live** near the beach?

Common Errors

1) In questions, don't use -s:

- ~~Does she **lives** close to the beach?~~
- Does she live close to the beach?

2) Don't forget DO or DOES:

- ~~Clara live in a big city?~~
- **Does** Clara live in a big city?

Present Simple: Answering Yes/No Questions

- Do you have a dog?
Yes, I do. / No, I don't
- Do I look fat in these jeans?
No, you don't!
- Does John speak Italian?
Yes, he does. / No, he doesn't.
- Does she like rock music?
Yes, she does. / No, she doesn't.
- Do we watch too much TV?
Yes, we do. / No, we don't.
- Do they understand English?
Yes, they do. / No, they don't.

Grammar Exercises:

- [Present Simple Positive](#)
- [Present Simple Negative](#)
- [Present Simple Questions](#)

Prepositions: In, At, On



	TIME	PLACE
IN	Months <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In January• In October Seasons <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the summer• In the spring Years <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2004• In 1986 Periods of the day <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the morning• In the evening <p>(exception: <i>at night</i>)</p>	Cities and countries <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Tokyo• In Japan Rooms and buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the kitchen• In the supermarket Closed spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the car• In a park

	TIME	PLACE
ON	Dates and days <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On Monday• On February 14th	Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On the bus• On a bike (exception: <i>in a car</i>) Surfaces <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On the table• On the wall

	TIME	PLACE
AT	Times <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At 6:00• At half past three• At noon	Contexts / Events <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At school• At work• At a party

Grammar Exercise: [Prepositions: In, On, At](#)

Past Simple: To Be

Positive:

I / he / she / it	was	born in 1982.
you / we / they	were	born in 1982.

Negative:

I / he / she / it	was not (wasn't)	born in Europe.
you / we / they	were not (weren't)	born in Europe.

Questions:

Was	I / he / she / it	a famous artist?
Were	you / we / they	a famous artist?

Common words used to talk about the past:

- Yesterday
- Last Sunday / last week / last month / last November / last year
- 1 hour ago / 5 days ago / 3 months ago / 10 years ago
- When I was a child... / When we were in college...

Grammar Exercise: [Past Simple: To Be](#)

Past Simple: Regular Verbs

Positive:

I / you / he / she / it / we / they	worked	yesterday
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Negative:

I / you / he / she / it / we / they	didn't work	yesterday
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Question:

Did	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	work	yesterday?
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How to form the past simple for regular verbs:

Verb	Past	Spelling
listen play	listened played	Add -ed
like decide	liked decided	Add -d
stop	stopped	One vowel + one consonant = double the final consonant and add -ed
study try	studied tried	One consonant + y → -ied

Past Simple: Regular Verbs

In past simple negative and questions, do not add -ed:

- ~~Mary didn't **liked** the movie.~~
- Mary didn't like the movie.

- ~~Did you **studied** for the test?~~
- Did you study for the test?

Examples:

- I **talked** with my mother last night.
- We **enjoyed** the party on Saturday.
- She **finished** the test early.

- He **didn't listen** to the teacher's instructions.
- They **didn't want** to join us for coffee.
- Jill **didn't stay** in a hotel last summer.

- **Did** you **watch** the news yesterday?
- **Did** they **remember** to turn off the lights?
- What time **did** your father **arrive**?

Grammar Exercise: [Past Simple Regular Verbs](#)

Past Simple: Irregular Verbs

Infinitive	Positive	Negative
be	was / were	wasn't / weren't
buy	bought	didn't buy
can	could	couldn't
eat	ate	didn't eat
get	got	didn't get
go	went	didn't go
have	had	didn't have
leave	left	didn't leave
make	made	didn't make
meet	met	didn't meet
say	said	didn't say
see	saw	didn't see
take	took	didn't take
think	thought	didn't think
understand	understood	didn't understand
wear	wore	didn't wear
write	wrote	didn't write

Past Simple: Irregular Verbs

Examples:

- Where **were** you last month?
I **was** in France.
- What **did** your sister **buy** at the mall?
She **bought** new shoes.
- What time **did** he **eat** breakfast today?
He **ate** breakfast at 6:00 AM.
- When **did** you **get** married?
We **got** married in July.
- Why **did** she **go** to London?
She **went** to London to study English.
- **Did** you **have** any pets when you were a child?
Yes, I **had** a dog.
- When **did** he **leave** the meeting?
He **left** the meeting an hour before it finished
- What **did** you **make** for dinner?
I **made** some vegetable soup.
- When **did** you **meet** your best friend?
I **met** my best friend 20 years ago.
- What **did** the teacher **say**?
The teacher **said** that she loved our class.
- **Did** you **see** Brad at the football game?
No, but we **saw** Peter and Henry.
- What **did** he **wear** to the wedding?
He **wore** a suit.
- **Did** he **write** a new book last year?
No, he only **wrote** a few magazine articles.

Grammar Exercise: [Past Simple – Irregular Verbs](#)

Present Continuous: Positive

Present continuous is for things happening **now, at the moment**.

I	am	watching
you / we / they	are	watching
he / she / it	is	watching

Examples:

- I **am watching TV** right now.
- He **is studying** at the moment.
- It **is raining** today.
- We **are thinking** about you.
- They **are playing** baseball.

It's very common to use contractions:

- **I'm** watching TV right now.
- **He's** studying at the moment.
- **It's** raining today.
- **We're** thinking about you.
- **They're** playing baseball.

Some verbs are never used in the present continuous: like, want, need, believe.

- ~~I'm believing in God.~~
I believe in God.
- ~~She's wanting a soda.~~
She wants a soda.

Present Continuous: Negative

I	am not (I'm not)	listening
you / we / they	are not (aren't)	listening
he / she / it	is not (isn't)	listening

Examples:

- I **am not working** at the moment.
- She **is not wearing** a hat today.
- You **are not listening** to the teacher.
- Pete and Jan **are not watching** TV.

There are two ways to use contractions:

- She's **not** wearing a hat today.
She **isn't** wearing a hat today.
- You're **not** listening to the teacher.
You **aren't** listening to the teacher.

Both forms are OK!

Present Continuous: Questions

Am	I	working?
Are	you / we / they	working?
Is	he / she / it	working?

Examples:

- **Are** you **writing** a letter?
- **Is** Pedro **sleeping** right now?
- **Are** the children **playing** a game or **reading** a book?
- **Is** the computer **working**?

You can put a question word at the beginning:

- **What** are you doing?
I'm writing an e-mail.
- **Where** is Sarah going?
She's going to the store.
- **Who** are they talking to?
They're talking to the teacher.
- **Why** is he running?
Because he's late for work.

Grammar Exercises:

- [Present Continuous Positive](#)
- [Present Continuous Negative](#)
- [Present Continuous Questions](#)

Present Simple or Continuous?

Present simple for things that happen **in general** or **regularly**.

Present continuous for things happening **now, at the moment**, or **current/temporary projects**.

Present Simple	Present Continuous
I work from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM every day.	I'm currently working on a new project.
Mark studies English every Tuesday night.	Mark is studying the present continuous this week.
We usually go to Europe in the summer.	Right now, we're going to the supermarket.
They always talk to their boss in the morning.	It's 9:00 AM. They're talking to him now.
Does it usually rain in the winter?	No, but it's raining at the moment. Take an umbrella.

Words that are often used with the present simple or continuous:

- **With present simple:** always, usually, often, sometimes, never, every (day/night/Monday/summer/year)
- **With present continuous:** now, right now, at the moment, currently, this week/month/year, today

Grammar Exercises: [Present Simple or Present Continuous?](#)

Countable and Uncountable

Countable nouns are things we can count – for example, cats:

- My brother has **a cat**.
- My sister has **two cats**.
- My friend has **three cats**.

Other examples of countable nouns:

- **Things** - book, table, computer, banana, shirt, television, house.
- **People** - man, woman, child, friend, sister, uncle, teacher, boss.

Uncountable nouns are words that we can't count, or can't divide into separate parts:

- **Liquids and some foods** - water, butter, rice, flour, milk
- **Ideas and concepts** - love, fun, work, money, peace, safety
- **Information** - advice, information, news, knowledge
- **Categories** - music, furniture, equipment, jewelry, meat

Countable	Uncountable
dollar / dollars	money
song / songs	music
table / tables	furniture
bottle / bottles	wine, water
report / reports	information
job / jobs	work

Countable and Uncountable

Don't add -s to make uncountable nouns plural:

- ~~I need some informations about the course.~~
- I need some information about the course.

You can use other words to help quantify uncountable nouns:

- She bought three **bottles of wine** and **five boxes of rice**.
- He gave me two **pieces of advice**: eat less and exercise more.

Grammar Exercise: [Countable and Uncountable Nouns](#)

Comparative Adjectives

Use comparatives to compare two things:



Phil is **older than** Ben.

Ben is **younger than** Phil.

For One-Syllable Words

Add **-er**

Tall	Taller
Old	Older
Fast	Faster
Long	Longer
New	Newer

- My new car is **faster than** my old car.
- I'm **older than** my brother.
- Traveling by bike takes **longer than** traveling by motorcycle.

Comparative Adjectives

For Words that end in a vowel + consonant

Double the last consonant and add -er

Big	Bigger
Hot	Hotter
Thin	Thinner

- An elephant is **bigger** than a cat.
- Brazil is **hotter** than Sweden.
- My sister is **thinner** than me.

For Words that end in consonant + y

Remove -y and add -ier.

Easy	Easier
Happy	Happier
Busy	Busier

- Reading English is **easier than** listening.
- Maria is **happier than** Dave.
- People today are **busier than** in the past.

Comparative Adjectives

For Words with 3+ syllables

Add "more" before the adjective:

Expensive	More expensive
Popular	More popular
Interesting	More interesting

- A car is **more expensive than** a computer.
- Michael Jackson's music is **more popular than** country music.
- Watching a movie is **more interesting than** studying grammar.

Adjectives with Irregular Comparatives

Good	Better
Bad	Worse
Far	Farther

- Eating fruit is **better** for your health **than** eating hamburgers.
- Cancer is **worse than** the flu.
- One mile is **farther than** one kilometer.

Grammar Exercise: [Comparative Adjectives](#)

The End!

Thanks for reading 😊

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About the teacher

My name is Shayna. I'm from the United States, and I currently live in Brazil, where I work as an English teacher and translator. I have a CELTA certification to teach English to adults, and I really enjoy helping my students communicate better.



I am 27 years old and married, and in my free time I like to read, write, play soccer, go hiking, and do *capoeira*. I also love to travel and learn about different countries and cultures – please [write to me](#) and tell me where you are from. I hope you enjoy Espresso English!