

TALK ABOUT THE PRESENT USING THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

This is the fourth post in the [Simple Present Tense](#) series.

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to talk about the present using the **Simple Present Tense** or the **Present Simple Tense**.

REMEMBER: We can also use this tense to:

- talk about facts and general truths.
- talk about habits and daily routines.
- give instructions and directions

THE SIMPLE PRESENT

AFFIRMATIVE FORM	NEGATIVE FORM	INTERROGATIVE FORM	EXAMPLES
<p>I } like You } like</p> <p>He/She/It likes</p> <p>We } like You } like They } like</p> <p>He, She, It LIKES this food.</p>	<p>FULL FORM I, You, We, You, They DO NOT LIKE</p> <p>SHORT FORM I, You, We, You, They DON'T LIKE</p> <p>He, She, It does not love apples. doesn't love apples.</p>	<p>YES/NO QUESTIONS Do I, you, we, you, they like?</p> <p>WH-QUESTIONS What do I, you, we, you, they like?</p> <p>Does he/she/it like this food? What does he/she/it like?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I like him.• She loves her friend.• They like this film.• We start at noon.• He goes to school by bike.• They watch TV every evening.• I eat bananas and bread at breakfast.• You work very hard.



The Simple Present Tense: Talk about the Present (1)

Descriptions

We usually use the **Simple Present Tense** when we describe someone or something in the present.

Examples:

- He is tall and slender.
- It is big.
- These flowers are beautiful.
- That house looks expensive.
- She seems nice.

Longer Description

Jane is a fifteen-year-old student at Hillview High School. She has got two brothers and one sister. Her parents are primary school teachers and they work not far from their house.

This young teenager is slightly tall and plump. However, her hair is short and curly. She is a beautiful girl and she knows it!

Jane likes sports and films. Her current favourite football team is Real Madrid. She also loves comic strips and wants to become a writer in the future.

Her friends think she is a lovely person but sometimes she gets quite angry if you are not too careful about what you say to her.

All in all, this girl has got a cheerful disposition and she believes that the world is good if only you give it a chance.

YOUR TURN: Can you describe someone or something using the Simple Present Tense? Give as much information as you can!

ADJECTIVES FOR DESCRIBING OBJECTS

BASIC

CLASSIC

DOMESTIC

ELECTRIC

PLASTIC

FANTASTIC

ETHNIC

CASUAL

TRADITIONAL

EXCEPTIONAL

SPECIAL

METAL

PROFESSIONAL

FUNCTIONAL

TYPICAL

PRACTICAL

ECONOMICAL

ACADEMICAL

ELECTRICAL

HISTORICAL

MYSTICAL

USEFUL

AWFUL

HELPFUL

HARMFUL

POWERFUL

SHAMEFUL

WONDERFUL

ENORMOUS

HAZARDOUS

RIDICULOUS

MARVELLOUS

DANGEROUS

INDIGENOUS

TREMENDOUS

COSTLY

STURDY

ECO-FRIENDLY

HANDY

TRENDY

FANCY

PRICY

BREAKABLE

DURABLE

FLEXIBLE

ADORABLE

CHANGEABLE

INFLAMMABLE

COUNTABLE

TIME-SAVING

MONEY-SAVING

TIME-CONSUMING

SPACE-CONSUMING

BORING

FASCINATING

FRIGHTENING

Takondwa: Hi Rachel! How are you today? How is the quarantine?

Rachel: Hi Takondwa, long time no see! I'm fine, what about you? Oh, the quarantine is boring!

Takondwa: It is, I agree with you. I'm doing well considering the circumstances. I want to go back to school though. I miss our friends and even the teachers!

Rachel: Ha, ha, ha, you bet! I miss Mr Phiri, can you imagine that? I miss his punishments!

Takondwa: Well, at least we are not sick. The situation is quite bad at the moment

Rachel: I know. 2020 is a strange year, I tell you. Right now, the future looks very uncertain. I just hope that things get back to normal very soon. I'm tired of not knowing.

Takondwa: Me too but we should make the most of the free time that we have now. Who knows? Maybe this is the only free time we will have in a very long, long, time.

Rachel: How is school though? I mean, are you still studying?

Takondwa: Yes, I am. I have a private tutor and my parents help me too. I still want to become an engineer, you know. How about you? Who is helping you?

Rachel: My parents do help me from time to time and I also got a private tutor. We have the lessons using Skype. It's not as good as when we are at school but that will do for the time being.

Takondwa: I wish you good luck Rachel. We are both ambitious girls and we will not let Rona get the best of us!

Rachel: Thank you Takondwa! Good luck too and all the best!

Takondwa: Talk to you later!

Rachel: Bye for now! Thank you for calling Takondwa.

Takondwa: It was my pleasure! Bye Rachel!

Rachel: Bye!

YOUR TURN: Imagine a dialogue in which the characters use the **Simple Present Tense**. Be as creative as possible!

TO BE

AFFIRMATIVE FORM (+)

FULL FORM	SHORT FORM
I am	I 'm
You are	You 're
He } is	He } 's
She } is	She } 's
It } is	It } 's
We } are	We } 're
You } are	You } 're
They } are	They } 're

NEGATIVE FORM (-)

FULL FORM	SHORT FORM (1)
I am not	I 'm not
You are not	You 're not
He } is not	He } 's not
She } is not	She } 's not
It } is not	It } 's not
We } are not	We } 're not
You } are not	You } 're not
They } are not	They } 're not

EXAMPLES (E.g.)

- I am a teacher.
- They aren't singers.
- It is cute.
- You are not sick.
- He is not feeling well.
- She isn't a doctor.
- Are they from Tanzania?
- Am I at the cinema?
- Languages are not difficult.
- Is Polish easy?
- Are you ok?

INTERROGATIVE FORM

Am I South African?

Are you a football player?

Is he/she/it tall?

Are we hardworking?

Are you popular?

Are they at home?



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