**PRESENT SIMPLE**

**The -s form - 3. Ps. Sg.**

has three spoken realizations: [iz], [z], and [s] and two spellings, -**s** and -**es**.

1. **It is pronounced [iz]**

catch – catch**es**

2. **It is pronounced [z]** and spelled -**s** after bases ending in other voiced sounds:

describe – describes

Note the four irregular -s forms:

do [du:] – does [daz]

say [sei] – says [sez]

have [hæv] – has [hæz]

3. **It is pronounced [s]** and spelled **-s** after bases ending in other voiceless sounds:

cut – cuts

-y, the **-y** changes into -i- and the ending is -es (**-ies**):

carry – carries, study – studies

but: play – plays

**Present Simple is used to express:**

**1. habitual or repeated actions at present**:

John smokes a lot.

**2. universal statements**:

The earth revolves round the sun.

**3. a state or action in progress at the present moment:**

(with verbs that do not usually form the progressive tense**: to see, to hear, to understand**, etc.)

I see what you mean.

**4. ‘the present period’**:

My father works in a bank.

**5. future, especially a fixed arrangement of things:**

The train leaves at 7.30 tomorrow morning.

**6. past actions to make them more vivid:**

Napoleon leaves France at the head of a great army and crosses the frontier of Russia.

**7. observations and declarations in the course of conversation:**

We live in difficult times. – I agree.

**The auxiliary do has the following functions:**

a) It assists in forming the **negation** of all the lexical verbs in the Present Simple

I understand it. – I **do not/don’t** understand it. (Nerozumím tomu)

He understands it. – He **does not/doesn’t** understand it. (Nerozumí tomu)

b) It assists in forming the **question** of all the lexical verbs:

**Do you understand? – Do you not/don’t you understand?**

(Rozumíš? Chápeš to?) – (Cožpak nerozumíš? Copak to nechápeš?)

**Does he understand? – Does he not/doesn’t he understand?**

(Rozumí? Chápe to? – (Nerozumí tomu?)

**Where do you live?** (Kde bydlíš?)

Note: The question is formed **without do** if the question word is the **subject of the clause** and

**the clause is positive**. Such questions are introduced by the interrogative pronouns who, what, which, how many, how much, etc.:

**Who saw you?** (Kdo tě viděl?)

**What causes this change?** (Co tuto změnu způsobuje?)

**How many people help you?** (Kolik lidí ti pomáhá?)

But with question words as objects, do must be used:

**Who do you see?** (Koho vidíš?)

**What does this change cause**? (Co tato změna způsobuje?)

**How many people do you help**? (Kolika lidem pomáháš?)

**Použitá literatura:**

SVOZÍLEK, Roman. Přítomný prostý čas. [online]. [cit. 2013-03-03]. Dostupné z: <http://www.helpforenglish.cz/article/2009011901-pritomny-prosty-cas-tabulka>

VÍT, Marek. Přítomný čas #1. [online]. [cit. 2013-03-03]. Dostupné z: <http://www.helpforenglish.cz/article/2008011901-pritomny-prosty-cas-1>

**Present Progressive**

is used to express:

**1. a momentary action in progress:**

What are you looking for? (Na co se díváš?)

What are you doing? – I’m just tying up my shoe-laces.

**2. a present action** (in a broad sense) that is **marked** in one way or other (made topical,

emotional, etc.):

Are we eating the right kind of food?

**3. temporary situations:**

The river is flowing very fast after last night’s rain.

**4. near future:**

He is moving to London.

**5. repeated actions:**

I’m always hearing strange stories about him.

Form: **Subject + tvar slovesa be + -ingový tvar slovesa**

I **am**   
you **are**   
he **is**   
she **is**   
it **is**  work**ing**  
  
we **are**   
you **are**   
they **are**

Negation:

I am **not** doing   
you are **not** doing   
he is **not** doing, she is not doing, it is not doing   
we are **not** doing   
they are **not** doing

Question

**Am I** doing it?   
**Are you** sleeping?   
  
**Is he** working?   
**Is she** reading a book?   
**Is it** happening?   
  
**Are we** playing tennis?   
**Are they** going home?

**The -ing form**

is a straightforward addition to the base:

sleep – sleeping

divid**e** – dividing (e is deleted)

stop – stopping - doubling of consonant

prefer – preferring

carry – carrying)

**Note**: BrE breaks the rule with respect to certain other consonants:

signal – signalling

AmE, however, keeps the single consonant:

signal - signaling

**Present tenses in typical contexts**

**1. The Present Simple and Present Progressive in commentaries:**

In radio commentaries on sport, the Simple Present is used to describe rapid actions

completed at the moment of speaking and the progressive is used to describe longer-lasting

actions:

Moore **passes** to Charlton. Charlton **makes** a quick pass to Booth. Booth is away with

the ball, but **he’s losing** his advantage.

**2. The Present Simple and Present Progressive in narration**

When we are telling a story or describing things that have happened to us, we often use

present tenses (even though the events are in the past) in order to sound more interesting and

dramatic. The progressive is used for the ‘background’ and the simple tense for the main

events:

**I’m driving** along this country road and I’m completely lost. Then I **see** this old fellow.

**He’s leaning** against a gate. **I stop** the car and ask him the way.

**3. The Present Simple in demonstrations and instructions (step-by-step instructions)**

First (you) boil some water. Then (you) warm the teapot. Then (you) add three

teaspoons of tea. Next, (you) pour on boiling water ...

**4. The Present Simple in synopses (e.g. reviews of books, films, etc.)**

Kate Fox’s novel is an historical romance set in London in the 1880’s. The action

takes place over a period of 30 years ...

<http://www.helpforenglish.cz/article/2006102001-spelling-pravopisne-zmeny>

<http://www.helpforenglish.cz/article/2006120405-pritomny-cas-prubehovy>

<http://www.helpforenglish.cz/article/2006100401-pritomny-prubehovy-cas>

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