

THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

(I do)

Look at these sentences :

1. A Muslim testifies that there is no deity but Allah and that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is His Messenger.
2. Universities sometimes offer financial assistance to students who are in straitened circumstances.
3. The Earth goes round the sun.

The underlined verbs are in the Simple Present Tense. We use this tense when we want to talk about a fact or an action that happens habitually or from time to time. The Simple Present Tense is often used with adverbs of frequency like the following:

always	frequently	rarely	never
generally	often	scarcely	now and again
usually	occasionally	hardly	every day /week/month/year
normally	sometimes	seldom	from time to time

We make negative and interrogative forms of the Simple Present Tense by using DO or DOES followed by the infinitive; e.g.

1. Muslims do not eat pork or lard.
2. How long does it take you to go from Abha to Riyadh by car?

Exercise 2

Put the verbs in parentheses into the Simple Present Tense:

1. The Faculty Council (meet) at 1.00 P.M. every Monday.
2. Nothing (succeed) like success. (An English proverb)
3. Arabic majors (study) Philology and Lexicology.
4. Arabic, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Amharic all (belong) to the Semitic family of languages; they (not descend) from Indo-European.
5. Charity (begin) at home. (An English proverb)
6. A poet usually (use) imagery, figures of speech, and metre.
7. Man (propose); God (dispose). (An English proverb)
8. Citrus fruit (not grow) in tropical regions; it usually (grow) in the temperate zone.
9. Actions (speak) louder than words. (An English proverb)
10. How many letters of recommendation the Admissions Office (require) from the applicant?
11. One good turn (deserve) another. (An English proverb)
12. The patient (not take) the medicine regularly?

We also use the Simple Present when we are talking about timetables, programmes, etc.; e.g.

1. What time does the lecture begin?
2. The train leaves Dammam at 8.30 and arrives in Riyadh at 12.00.

Exercise 3

Put the verbs in parentheses into the correct tense:

1. The plane (leave) for Medinah at 7.15.
2. The National Industries Fair (open) on the 1st of Safar.
3. The Olympic games (start) next Tuesday.
4. What time the next bus (arrive)?
5. Registration for the first term (end) on the 30th of Rajab.

Exercise 4

- A. Write FIVE sentences in the Simple Present Tense, using an adverb of frequency (e.g. "often," "never," etc).
- B. Put each of the sentences you have formed into the question form.
- C. Write a sentence using both the Simple Present Tense and the Present Continuous Tense.