



Making sense of simple present tense

CAPS: Grade 5, Term 3

Language, Structures and Conventions:

Working with words and sentences:

Builds on understanding and use of simple present

Note

Simple present tense is used when making a statement. It tells us:

- an action is normal, usual or regular.

e.g. I *play* cricket OR She always *forgets* her homework at home.

- the person (the speaker) believes something is true, was true and will still be true in the future.

e.g. Cats *drink* milk. OR Policemen *catch* robbers and thieves.

[Hint: The verb tells us about the action.]

Activity 1

Correct me if I'm wrong. Fill in the correct form of the verb in each sentence.

An example has been done for you.

Example

Thembi often **plays** netball after school [play, plays, playing]

- ① Thembo _____ the dog. [wash, washes, washs]
- ② Do you _____ sugar in your coffee? [likes, like, liks]
- ③ Many teachers _____ lessons in the evenings. [prepare, prepares, prepars]
- ④ The girls _____ the shopping for the birthday party. [does, do, dos]
- ⑤ Sipho and Anila _____ DVDs every weekend. [watches, watchs, watch]
- ⑥ It _____ a wet and windy day today. [are, be, is]
- ⑦ I _____ to school with all my friends. [goes, gos, go]
- ⑧ Thabo _____ his dog so much. [loves, love, loving]



Activity 2

Complete these sentences using the simple present tense of the verb in brackets. An example has been done for you.

Example

The aeroplane **arrives** at 6:00am on Wednesday morning. [arrive]

- ① The sun _____ around the Earth. [travel]
- ② The taxi always _____ early on Monday mornings. [leave]
- ③ The party _____ at 8:00pm. [start]
- ④ I wait until she _____ her work. [finish]
- ⑤ Please phone me when she _____ back. [come]
- ⑥ The sun _____ in the west [set]
- ⑦ The holiday _____ next Friday. [begin]

Activity 3

Right or wrong? Underline the verb in each sentence. Look at the tense then mark them right or wrong. An example has been done for you.

Example

Cate sweep the kitchen floor.

✗ Cate sweeps the kitchen floor.



①	Does he work at your supermarket?	Do he work at your supermarket?	
②	We wash the dishes after supper.	We washes the dishes after supper.	
③	He collect new books from the library.	He collects new books from the library.	
④	She can touch her nose with her tongue	She can touches her nose with her tongue.	
⑤	Pigs like mud.	Pigs likes mud.	
⑥	January is the first month of the year.	January are the first month of the year.	
⑦	A horse have four legs.	A horse has four legs.	
⑧	My dad's car is not green.	My dad's car are not green.	



Activity 4

No! No! No! Make these sentences mean the opposite of what they do now.
An example has been done for you.

Example

Susan plays netball. Susan *doesn't / does not* play netball.

Ephraim can jump very high. Ephraim *cannot jump* very high.

- ① Pieter can make scrambled eggs.
- ② I ride to school on my bike.
- ③ Leigh is from the United States of America.
- ④ Mrs Ngubane teaches Zulu.
- ⑤ The children don't know the answer.
- ⑥ He can stand on one leg.
- ⑦ My mother carries a heavy suitcase for my father.
- ⑧ Strawberries are my favourite fruit.
- ⑨ Alison doesn't like reading.
- ⑩ The sky is purple.

Teacher Tip

A simple present tense statement does not actually have to be true, but the speaker must believe it is true and/or present it as true.

