

Present simple tense

Third person singular

With the present simple we use -s ending (*say - says, travel - travels*) and -es ending (*do - does, go - goes*) in the third person singular.

Compare:

I say that I want to be a journalist. - Peter says that he wants to be a journalist.

You travel to work by car. - My father travels to work by car.

We do a lot of homework every day. - My sister does a lot of homework every day.

In present simple questions we use *does* in the third person singular + the bare infinitive (= play, not plays).

Does Peter want to be a journalist?

Does your father travel to work by car?

Spelling rules:

We add -es to the verb that ends in ss, sh, ch, x and o.

kiss - kisses, wish - wishes, watch - watches, mix - mixes, go - goes

Little Sarah kisses her puppy a hundred times a day.

Paul wishes to go on holiday to Asia.

My grandpa watches all kinds of sports on TV.

Josh goes to secondary school in Brighton.

If the verb ends in a consonant and -y we change -y into -i and add -es.

marry - marries, try - tries, cry - cries, carry - carries

My brother marries his classmate on Saturday.

Our teacher tries to explain English grammar in every lesson but we do not understand it.

My grandma cries every time she listens to Mozart.

Every police officer carries a gun in most countries.

But we do not change -y into -i in words such as *stay - stays, lay - lays, pay - pays* because they end in a vowel and -y.

Our boss always stays in luxurious hotels when he is in London.

Our dad cooks and mum lays the table before dinner.

The best customer always pays in advance.

Present simple third person exercises:

www.e-grammar.org/present-simple-third-person/

Our tip: www.e-grammar.org/pdf-books/ All PDF exercises + grammar rules in one place.

www.e-grammar.org/present-simple/