

Basic English grammar

TO BE : ETRE

Positive			Negative		Questions
I	am	'm	am not	'm not	Am I ?
You	are	're	are not	aren't	Are you ?
He, she, it	is	's	is not	isn't	Is he, she, it ?
we	are	're	are not	aren't	Are we ?
you	are	're	are not	aren't	Are you ?
they	are	're	are not	aren't	Are they ?

Yes/No questions - be (am, are, is)

Subject and verb change their position in statement and question.

statement	You are from Germany.
question	Are you from Germany?

We always use the short answer, not only "Yes" or "No".

If the answer is "Yes", we always use the long form.

Example: Yes, I am.

If the answer is "No", we either use the long or the contracted form (short form).

Example: No, I am not - No, I'm not.

Are	you	from Germany?	Yes,	I	am.
			No,	I	am not. 'm not.
Is	he	your friend?	Yes,	he	is.
Are	Peter and John	from England?	Yes,	they	are.

Questions with question words - be (am, are, is)

Question word	Verb	Rest	Answer
Where	are	you from?	I'm from Stuttgart.
What	is	your name?	My name is Peter.
How	are	Pat and Sue?	They're fine.

TO HAVE : AVOIR, posséder

Positive		Negative	Questions
I	have got ('ve got)	haven't got	have I got ?
You	have got ('ve got)	haven't got	have you got ?
He, she, it	has got ('s got)	hasn't got	has he, she, it got ?
we	have got ('ve got)	haven't got	have we got ?
you	have got ('ve got)	haven't got	have you got ?
they	have got ('ve got)	haven't got	have they got ?

*Has Mary got a car? Yes, she **has**.*

*Has she got an American car? No, she **hasn't**. She has got a Seat.*

Form of the Simple Present

We use the infinitive of the verb. In the 3rd person Singular (he, she, it - or a name) we put an -s to the end of the infinitive.

infinitive - 3rd person Singular (he, she, it) **infinitive + -s**

Affirmative sentences:

I/we/you/they **play** football.

He/she/it **plays** football.

Negative sentences:

We use the auxiliary **do**.

I/we/you/they **do not play** football.

He/she/it **does not play** football.

NOTE: We often use short forms in negative sentences in the Simple Present:

I/we/you/they **don't play** football.

He/she/it **doesn't play** football.

Questions:

Do I/we/you/they **play** football?

Does he/she/it **play** football?

Simple Present - Spelling

Be careful with some words when using the 3rd person singular.

1) verbs ending in a sibilant [s] [z] [ʒ] [ʒ] [ʒ] [ʒ] [dʒ] or verbs ending in -o preceded by a consonant

We add **-es** to the infinitive.

Examples:

I watch - he **watches**

I pass - he **passes**

I go - he goes

I do - he does

2) verbs ending in -y

verbs ending in 'y' preceded by a vowel (a, e, i, o, u): Add -s.

Example:

I play - he plays

verbs ending in 'y' preceded by a consonant: Change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'.

Example:

I hurry - he hurries

Special verbs in the Simple Present

1) have as a full verb		
<i>affirmative sentence</i>	<i>negative sentence</i>	<i>question</i>
I, we, you, they:		
I have breakfast.	I do not have breakfast.	Do I have breakfast?
he, she, it:		
He has a shower in the morning.	He does not have a shower.	Does he have a shower?

2) be as a full verb		
<i>affirmative sentence</i>	<i>negative sentence</i>	<i>question</i>
I am from Britain.		
I am not from Britain.	Am I from Britain?	
he, she, it:		
He is from Britain.	He is not from Britain.	Is he from Britain?
we, you, they:		
We are from Britain.	We are not from Britain.	Are we from Britain?

We often use the short forms with this verb.

3) do as a full verb		
<i>affirmative sentence</i>	<i>negative sentence</i>	<i>question</i>
I, we, you, they:		
I do an exercise.	I do not do an exercise.	Do I do an exercise?
he, she, it:		

He does an exercise.	He does not do an exercise.	Does he do an exercise?
-----------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

4) modal auxiliaries can, could, may, must, need, will etc.		
<i>affirmative sentence</i>	<i>negative sentence</i>	<i>question</i>
every time (I, he, she, it, we, you, they):		
I can play tennis.	I cannot play tennis.	Can I play tennis?

NOTE:

We can substitute **don't (can't)** for **do not (cannot)**.

Modals have the same form every time regardless the subject. We do not add an -s to the infinitive