Chapter 1

Simple Present Tense (p.5)

The simple present tense has several uses. We use the simple present tense when we talk about facts and general truths.

Examples
The sun sets in the west.
Water freezes at 0°C.
Water and oil don’t mix.

We also use the simple present tense when we talk about habitual or repeated actions.

Examples
I usually get up at 6:00 AM.
Canadians often go skiing in the winter.
Every now and then I take a taxi to work.

The simple present tense is formed in this way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Interrogative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I take courses.</td>
<td>I don’t take courses.</td>
<td>Do I take courses?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You take courses.</td>
<td>You don’t take courses.</td>
<td>Do you take courses?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He takes courses.</td>
<td>He doesn’t take courses.</td>
<td>Does he take courses?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She takes courses.</td>
<td>She doesn’t take courses.</td>
<td>Does she take courses?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It takes time.</td>
<td>It doesn’t take time.</td>
<td>Does it take time?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We take courses.</td>
<td>We don’t take courses.</td>
<td>Do we take courses?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They take courses.</td>
<td>They don’t take courses.</td>
<td>Do they take courses?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercise 1
Underline the time expressions below which can be used with the simple present tense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>every day</th>
<th>now</th>
<th>in the evenings</th>
<th>once in a while</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>on weekdays</td>
<td>at this time</td>
<td>twice a month</td>
<td>every now and then</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on Tuesdays</td>
<td>tomorrow</td>
<td>at night</td>
<td>at lunch time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sometimes</td>
<td>in the mornings</td>
<td>last night</td>
<td>tonight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise 2
Select the correct form of each verb to complete the following paragraph.

Facts about Canada
Canada (1)_____(be) the second largest country in the world. The only country bigger than Canada (2)_____ (be) Russia. Canada (3)______ (extend) from the Pacific Ocean in the west to the Atlantic Ocean in the east. Canada (4)_______ (have) the world’s largest coastline. Canada (5)_____ (have) nearly one-quarter of the world’s fresh water. There (6)______ (be) about two million lakes in Canada. Forests (7)______ (cover) almost half of the country. Half of the world’s forests (8)_____ (be) in Canada. Canada and its neighbour to the south, the USA, (9)______ (share) the longest undefended border in the world. Canada (10)_____ (consist) of ten provinces and three territories. The name Canada (11)_____ (come) from an Iroquois word which (12)_____ (mean) village or settlement. Canada (13)_____ (be) a parliamentary democracy, but it (14)_____ (be) also a monarchy. The head of state (15)_____ (be) Queen Elizabeth. Canada (16)_____ (be) a bilingual country. Many Canadians (17)_____ (speak) both English and French. Most people (18)_____ (live) in the southern part of the country. Almost 80 per cent of the people (19)_____ (live) in cities and towns. The three largest cities (20)_____ (be) Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver.

Exercise 3
Select the correct form of each verb to complete the following paragraph.

The Game of Hockey
One of the most popular and most exciting sports in the world (1)______ (be) hockey. Hockey (2)_____ (be) one of Canada’s official sports. It (3)_____ (be) a team sport. Hockey teams (4)_____ (play) against each other during the hockey season, which (5)_____ (run) from September to May. Each team (6)_____ (consist) of five skaters and a goalie who (7)_____ (defend) the goal. The objective (8)_____ (be) for each team to score goals against the other team’s goalie. Each player (9)_____ (carry) a stick and they (10)_____ (use) these sticks to pass or shoot the puck (a small rubber disk) around the rink. The players (11)_____ (wear) special padding and helmets and they (12)_____ (wear) skates. A game (13)_____ (consist) of three 20-minute periods with 15 minutes rest between each period.

Adverbs of Frequency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>always</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80–90%</td>
<td>usually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>often/frequently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30–40%</td>
<td>sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>rarely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>never</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We use adverbs of frequency to tell how often something happens with the simple present tense. We place these adverbs after the verb *to be* and before other verbs.

**Examples**
I always take the bus to school.
I never take taxis to school.
It usually takes me half an hour to get to school.
I am never late for school.
If the weather is nice I sometimes walk home from school.
My friends and I are usually tired after school.

**Exercise 4**
Write sentences using the words and phrases given.

1. Monica / live / far from / school / so / she / not walk / to school
   Monica lives far from school so she doesn’t walk to school.

2. She / sometimes / get up / late and then she / be / always / in a hurry

3. She / never / have time / for breakfast / on those days

4. She / often / have people / over after school

5. Monica and her friends / rarely / go out for meals

6. Because / they / be / students / they / be / usually / short of money

7. They / sometimes / buy / groceries / and cook supper

8. Their cooking / be / usually / pretty good
Exercise 5
Use the correct form of one of the following verbs to fill in the blanks in the conversation below. Some verbs may be used more than once.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>try</th>
<th>cause</th>
<th>sound</th>
<th>get</th>
<th>need</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
<td>have</td>
<td>know</td>
<td>jog</td>
<td>take</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>show</td>
<td>consume</td>
<td>replace</td>
<td>enjoy</td>
<td>plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eat</td>
<td>smoke</td>
<td>go</td>
<td>work</td>
<td>join</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>like</td>
<td>hit</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>be</td>
<td>make</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>understand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Michalski: I’m afraid, Melanie, that you don’t take very good care of yourself.
Melanie: What ______ you ______?
Dr. Michalski: Well, your tests ______ that your diet is too high in cholesterol.
Melanie: I’m afraid I (negative) ______ what you mean.
Dr. Michalski: ______ you ______ five or six servings of vegetables every day?
Melanie: I (negative) ______ a great many vegetables because I (negative) ______ most of them.
Dr. Michalski: Why (negative) ______ you ______ to eat more salads? ______ you ______ a lot of meat?
Melanie: Why yes. I usually ______ meat for dinner every night.
Dr. Michalski: You ______ to eat more grains and cereals. ______ more bread and pasta, especially whole grain bread and pasta, and ______ less meat.
Melanie: OK, all right. ______ my diet the only problem?
Dr. Michalski: How many cigarettes ______ you ______ on a daily basis?
Melanie: I ______ through a package of cigarettes every two or three days.
Dr. Michalski: Smoking ______ damage to your lungs, to your heart, and to all your other organs, too. What about quitting?
Melanie: I (negative) ______ about that. My husband ______ too. He (negative) ______ to quit. I ______ smoking. What ______ I ______ it with?
Dr. Michalski: A lot people ______ out or ______ aerobics or other fitness activities. ______ a health club or if that (negative) ______ like fun, ______ or ______ long walks four or five times a week.
Melanie: OK, I ______ the point. Exercising ______ better for me than smoking.
Dr. Michalski: That’s right! You ______ the nail on the head. Quitting smoking ______ sense health wise and financially. Exercising ______ you stronger and healthier.
**Present Progressive Tense**

We use the present progressive tense to talk about an action or event in progress at the moment of speaking.

**Examples**

I am studying English now.

We are learning about tenses in English this week.

The present progressive tense is formed in this way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Interrogative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am taking two courses.</td>
<td>I am not taking four courses.</td>
<td>Am I taking the right courses?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are taking three courses.</td>
<td>You aren’t taking five courses.</td>
<td>Are you taking short courses?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He is taking three courses.</td>
<td>He isn’t taking two courses.</td>
<td>Is he taking easy courses?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She is taking one course.</td>
<td>She isn’t taking ten courses.</td>
<td>Is she taking hard courses?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is getting cold now.</td>
<td>It isn’t getting warm.</td>
<td>Is it getting humid?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are taking two courses.</td>
<td>We aren’t taking six courses.</td>
<td>Are we taking good courses?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are taking four courses.</td>
<td>They aren’t taking two courses.</td>
<td>Are they taking long courses?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exercise 6**

Underline the time expressions below which can be used with the present progressive tense.

Now | at this time | for the time being | at the present time | at present
--- | ------------ | ------------------ | ------------------ | -------
yesterday | sometimes | usually | always | at this moment
this week | this month | never | this year | today
these days | right away | right now |

**Exercise 7**

Use the correct form of the verb to fill in the blanks in this conversation.

**Tony**: (read) **Are** you still **reading** the newspaper?

**Margot**: I (go) __________ through the classified ads right now. You can have the paper in a moment.

**Tony**: (look) _______ you _______ for a new place to live?

**Margot**: Not for myself. A friend of mine (try) ______________ to find an apartment and a job.

**Tony**: (need) _______ she _______ furniture too? I (try) ___________ to sell my bedroom set and my couch.

**Margot**: She (not/ search)______________ for furniture at the moment. She (plan)___________ to rent a furnished place.

**Tony**: What kinds of jobs (advertise) _______they__________ in the newspaper these days?
Margot: Some stores (hire) ________ sales staff at the present time.
Tony: What kind of salaries (offer) _______ they______________?
Margot: They (pay) __________ over $15 an hour. I (see) _______ that they (hold)
___________ a job fair downtown today.
Tony: Let me see the paper please. I (go) _______ down there right away.
Margot: But Tony, I (read)_________ still ________ it. I’m not finished yet!

Present Progressive Tense for Future Plans (p.9)

We also use the present progressive tense to talk about future plans. When we talk about future plans we need to use a future time reference in the sentence.

Example
I am taking a vacation next month.
My family and I are going to France in June.
Maria is travelling to South America next summer.

Exercise 8
Dorothy and Frank are making a list of things they plan to do next summer. Read the list and write sentences about four things Dorothy is doing and four things Frank is doing next summer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dorothy’s Plans</th>
<th>Frank’s Plans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>visit friend in Nova Scotia</td>
<td>apply to engineering program at U of T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get driver’s license</td>
<td>buy a car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>redecorate apartment</td>
<td>quit smoking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buy new furniture</td>
<td>go camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take a French course</td>
<td>take the TOEFL test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get a dog</td>
<td>get married</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ________________________________________________
2. ________________________________________________
3. ________________________________________________
4. ________________________________________________
5. ________________________________________________
6. ________________________________________________
7. ________________________________________________
8. ________________________________________________
Exercise 9
Use the present progressive or the simple present to complete the conversation below.

Joe: Hi Monica. Long time, no see!
Monica: Hi Joe. I haven’t seen you in ages either. What ______ you ______ (do) these days?
Joe: Not too much. I _____ still ______ (study) English and I _____ still ______ (work) part-time in the evenings.
Monica: You ______(be) always so busy. ______you _____ (not/have) any time for your friends anymore?
Joe: It’s true. My work __________ (take) up a lot of my time, but I _____ always _____ (try) to find ways to see my friends. In fact, let me ask you a question. What _____you (do) ______ this weekend?
Monica: This weekend is really busy. I__________ (visit) my sick girlfriend on Friday evening and I___________(do) her grocery shopping for her. Then on Saturday morning, I __________ (go) to an interview for a part-time job. On Saturday afternoon, I __________ (play) tennis with my roommate. On Saturday evening, I __________ (go) to the opera. On Sunday, my parents __________ (come) over and we __________ (go) out for brunch.
Joe: What a busy schedule you ________ (have)! Would you like to get together on Sunday evening?
Monica: I would love to, but the only problem is that I ________ (have) some people over on Sunday night. But never mind, Joe, why _________you__________ (not come) over too?
Joe: I’d really like that. ______ I _______ (interfere) in your busy social life if I come?
Monica: Not at all. We ____just_______ (order) some pizza and _______ (spend) some time socializing. Come over.