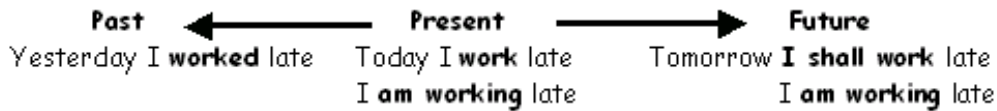




Using the simple present

The tense of a verb tells us **when** the action was done. The action can be done in the past, present or future.



When do I use the present tense?

There are two types of present tense: the continuous present and the simple present. The **simple present** is explained here.*

Use the simple present form of a verb when:

- The action takes place now.
eg I want you to help me now.
- The action is something that happens regularly.
eg I walk the dog everyday.
- You are describing things that are generally true.
eg Train travel is expensive.

NOTE: When **'he'**, **'she'** or **'it'** is doing the action, remember to add **'s'**, **'es'** or change the **'y'** to **'ies'**. For example:

- I like football, we like football, he **likes** football.
- I always try hard, we always try hard, she always **tries** hard.
- I watch a lot of films, we watch a lot of films, he **watches** a lot of films.
- I seem ok, we seem ok, it **seems** ok.

***For more information about the continuous present, see the factsheet 'Using the continuous present'.**