

Simple Present Tense

About this activity

'Simple Present Tense' is a writing task that applies the simple present tense to create sentences.

Stage 1: warm up	<p>Ask learners what they know about tenses. Discuss past, present, future and take some examples from a variety of learners.</p>
Stage 2	<p>Focus on simple present tense. Explain that the simple present tense is used for facts, generalisations, and truths that are not affected by the passage of time. It can also be used for what happens daily/habitually.</p>
Stage 3	<p>Discuss some examples of simple present tense. Some examples here can be used but also take ideas from learners.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My son lives in London. 2. She plays football. 3. He goes to hockey every day. 4. She loves to play football. 5. Does she go to school? 6. It is usually sunny here every day. 7. It smells awful in the bathroom. 8. Leah showers twice a day. 9. He gets up early every day. 10. They speak English in the United Kingdom.
Stage 4	<p>Show the learners a selection of images which include a diverse range of people, each doing different activities e.g person at a fuel pump, person cooking with children, person watering flowers, family playing games with one parent, person caring for a baby. If you are unable to display pictures, you could also draw these types of images. Explain that the task is to write sentences in the simple present form based on the pictures. Focus on daily tasks and encourage a wide range of pronouns. If there are any activities in this list that are dissimilar from the gender stereotypical or norm activities in your context, use this as an opportunity to begin a discussion around this. For example: Do many females play basketball in our school/country? Why is that? Facilitate this discussion with curiosity and without judgement.</p>

Stage 5	Before learners begin to compose their sentences, draw attention to the gendered pronouns that they may use – he/him/his and she/her/hers. Encourage learners to apply the neutral pronouns of they/them/their in the sentences.
Stage 6: Plenary	Ask learners to share any sentences they are proud of.

Gender Responsive Notes

Ensure gender neutral language throughout; mixed gender groups if groups are used; ensure answers are taken from a variety of learners. Ensure gender representation in the images you select.

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