

Simple Present: Specialized Uses

USE: By now you are familiar with the basic uses of the SIMPLE PRESENT. To review, the uses of the SIMPLE PRESENT are as follows:

- To describe habitual actions in the past

*I **get up** at 7am every morning.*

- To describe general truths

*Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.*

- To indicate states

*I **feel** very tired.*

- To indicate a scheduled future event

*The train **leaves** at 9pm tonight.*

Because the SIMPLE PRESENT is the most widely used tense in English, you will encounter a few other uses of the SIMPLE PRESENT.

You will see and hear the SIMPLE PRESENT used in the following situations:

- To verbally tell a story that happened in the past

*So, I **go** to the store and there **is** this weird person at the counter. He **has** a gun.*

- To provide commentary as an event is happening. This is usually used for sports.

*Gretzky **has** the puck. He **skates** around the defenders. He **shoots**. He **scores**!*

- To summarize an article in a newspaper headline

*Lance Armstrong **wins** the Tour de France one more time*

Match the example sentence of SIMPLE PRESENT in the right hand column with the use in the left hand column.

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| 1. When you mix blue and yellow you get green. | a) A newspaper headline |
| 2. I am excited about the party. | b) A habit |
| 3. Here I am, in the middle of nowhere, at ten o'clock at night. My backpack weighs a tonne. So I just start walking. | c) Commentary |
| 4. The flight leaves at 3pm. | d) A general truth |
| 5. I eat fish three times a week. | e) A story being told verbally |
| 6. The UN Decides to Send Peacekeepers | f) A schedule future event |
| 7. Beckham takes the kick. The ball curves over the keeper just out of his reach. It's a goal! | g) A state |