Simple Present Tense

I *sing*

How do we make the Simple Present Tense?

subject + auxiliary verb + main verb
            do   base

There are three important **exceptions**:

1. For positive sentences, **we do not normally use the auxiliary**.
2. For the 3rd person singular (he, she, it), we add **s** to the main verb or **es** to the auxiliary.
3. For the verb **to be**, we do not use an auxiliary, even for questions and negatives.

Look at these examples with the main verb *like*:

	subject	auxiliary verb		main verb	
+	I, you, we, they			like	coffee.
	He, she, it			like**s**	coffee.
-	I, you, we, they	do	not	like	coffee.
	He, she, it	do**es**	not	like	coffee.
?	Do	I, you, we, they		like	coffee?
	Do**es**	he, she, it		like	coffee?

Look at these examples with the main verb *be*. Notice that there is no auxiliary:

	subject	main verb		
+	I	am		French.
	You, we, they	are		French.
	He, she, it	is		French.
-	I	am	not	old.
	You, we, they	are	not	old.
	He, she, it	is	not	old.

?	Am	I		late?
	Are	you, we, they		late?
	Is	he, she, it		late?

How do we use the Simple Present Tense?

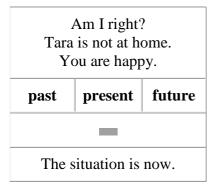We use the simple present tense when:

- the action is general
- the action happens all the time, or habitually, in the past, present and future
- the action is not only happening now
- the statement is always true

John drives a taxi.		
past	**present**	**future**
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It is John's job to drive a taxi. He does it every day. Past, present and future.		

Look at these examples:

- I live in New York.
- The Moon goes round the Earth.
- John drives a taxi.
- He does not drive a bus.
- We meet every Thursday.
- We do not work at night.
- Do you play football?

Note that with the verb **to be**, we can also use the simple present tense for situations that are not general. We can use the simple present tense to talk about **now**. Look at these examples of the verb "to be" in the simple present tense - some of them are **general**, some of them are **now**:

Am I right? Tara is not at home. You are happy.		
past	**present**	**future**
	▬	
The situation is now.		

I am not fat.
Why are you so beautiful?
Ram is tall.

past	present	future

▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬

The situation is general. Past, present and future.