

Unit #1 of English

A Little About Myself

- Starla
- Canadian
- 18
- Drawing
- Language learning
- Skateboarding
- Minecraft



British English vs American English vs Canadian English

- Centre vs center
- Favourite vs Favorite
- Pronunciation
- Chips vs fries (names for certain items)
- Courgette vs Zucchini
- Analyse vs Analyze

Regular Simple Present Tense Verbs

Pronouns	To see	To give	To walk	To speak	To know	To take	To use
I	See	Give	Walk	Speak	Know	Take	Use
You	See	Give	Walk	Speak	Know	Take	Use
She/he/it	Sees	Gives	Walks	Speaks	Knows	Takes	Uses
We	See	Give	Walk	Speak	Know	Take	Use
They	See	Give	Walk	Speak	Know	Take	Use

With simple present regular verbs, the verb **does not change** unless it is referring to **she/he/it**. If you are referring to **she/he/it**, the verb takes an **s at the end**.

Irregular Simple Present Tense Verbs

Pronouns	To have	To do	To be	To go	To study	To cry	To watch
I	Have	Do	Am	Go	Study	Cry	Watch
You	Have	Do	Are	Go	Study	Cry	Watch
She/he/it	Has	Does	Is	Goes	Studies	Cries	Watches
We	Have	Do	Are	Go	Study	Cry	Watch
They	Have	Do	Are	Go	Study	Cry	Watch

Irregular Verb Rules For The Simple Present

***She/he/it** is where most irregular words change

***To be** is one of the most complicated irregular verbs

*If a verb ends in **Y** it usually gets changed out for **ies** like in **cry→cries**. (Sometimes this rule does not apply however, like with the word **obey→obeys**)

*If a verb ends in **o, sh, tch, x, or ss** it usually takes an **es** at the end of the word **go→goes, kiss→kisses, mix→mixes**.

Putting what we learnt into practice

— — —

She ____ (study) every night for her exams.

He ____ (match) the socks after laundry.

The dog ____ (go) for a walk twice a day.

He ____ (fix) his bike on the weekends.

She ____ (mix) the ingredients for the cake.

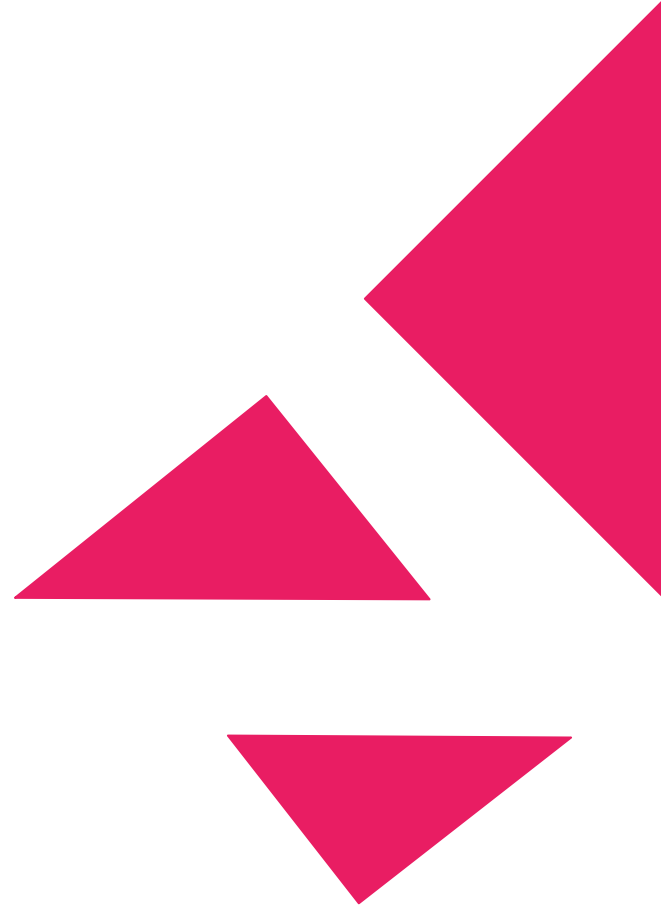
He ____ (go) to the store for groceries.

The machine ____ (box) the products quickly.

He ____ (relax) after a long day.

The artist ____ (mix) colors to create new shades.

She ____ (enjoy) playing the piano.



Putting what we learnt into practice

The boy _____ (brush) his teeth before bed.

He _____ (finish) his work early.

She _____ (catch) the ball during the game.

The teacher _____ (kiss) the baby on the cheek.

He _____ (pass) the ball to his teammate.

She _____ (miss) her family when she's away.

The teacher _____ (try) new teaching methods.

The cat _____ (hiss) at strangers.

She _____ (go) to the gym after work.

He _____ (do) his homework every day.

Putting what we learnt into practice

— — —

She ____ (echo) his words softly.

The chef ____ (wash) the vegetables thoroughly.

He ____ (carry) his books to school.

The clock ____ (tick) loudly in the quiet room.

The student ____ (guess) the answer correctly.

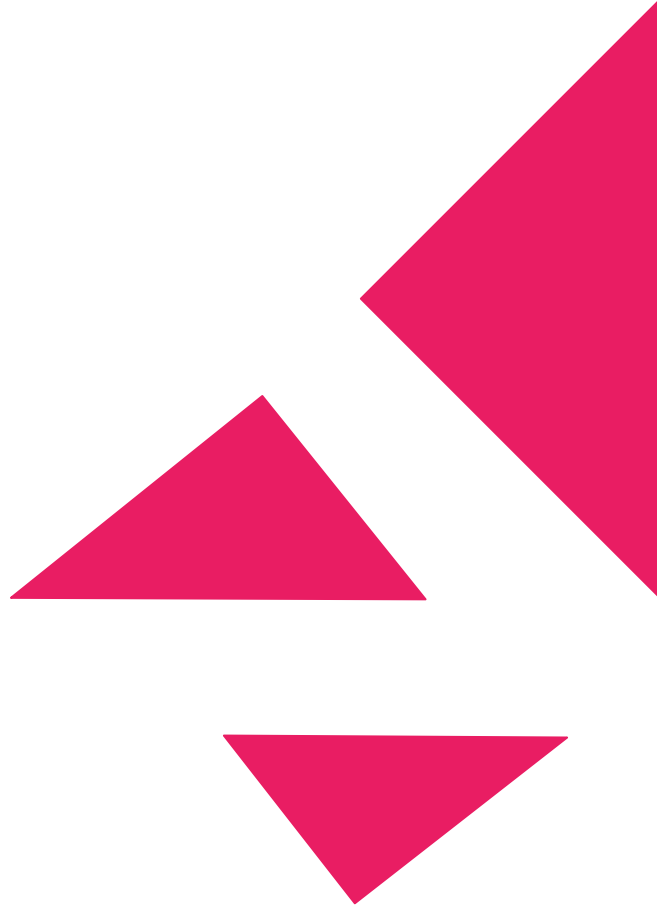
She ____ (wish) for good luck on her test.

She ____ (push) the door open gently.

The baby ____ (cry) when it's hungry.

He ____ (watch) TV in the evening.

The dog ____ (fetch) the stick happily.



Regular Simple Past Tense Verbs

Pronouns	To talk	To use	To walk	To play	To study	To cry	To watch
I	Talked	Used	Walked	Played	Studied	Cried	Watched
You	Talked	Used	Walked	Played	Studied	Cried	Watched
She/he/it	Talked	Used	Walked	Played	Studied	Cried	Watched
We	Talked	Used	Walked	Played	Studied	Cried	Watched
They	Talked	Used	Walked	Played	Studied	Cried	Watched

All regular simple past tense verbs end in **ED**. However, if the verb ends in a **Y**, the Y gets **changed to an I**.

Irregular Simple Past Tense Verbs

Pronouns	To see	To go	To be	To speak	To have	To take	To do
I	Saw	Went	Was	Spoke	Had	Took	Did
You	Saw	Went	Were	Spoke	Had	Took	Did
She/he/it	Saw	Went	Was	Spoke	Had	Took	Did
We	Saw	Went	Were	Spoke	Had	Took	Did
They	Saw	Went	Were	Spoke	Had	Took	Did

There is **no real rule** for irregular simple past tense verbs, you just have to learn them one by one unfortunately.

Putting what we learnt into practice (but simple past)

She ____ (study) every night for her exams.

He ____ (match) the socks after laundry.

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He ____ (fix) his bike on the weekends.

She ____ (mix) the ingredients for the cake.

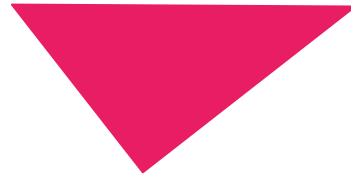
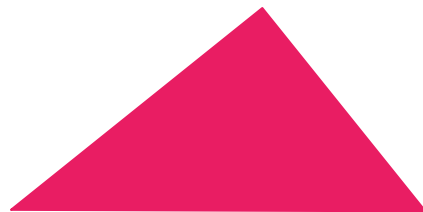
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Putting what we learnt into practice (but simple past)

She ____ (echo) his words softly.

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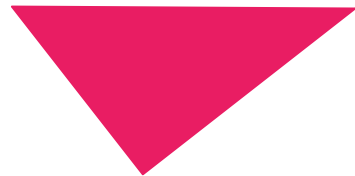
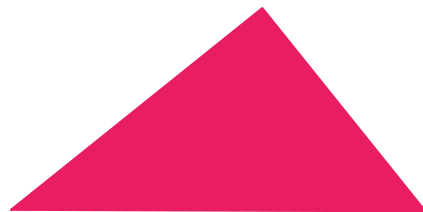
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Homophones

- Their, they're, and there.

He was there. It was their car. They're so cool

- Are and our.

There are people there. He is our dog.

- Your and you're.

Your friends. You're funny.

Homophones

- To, too, and two.

I went to the creek. I wrote a letter to my dad. There were two frogs. That's too many frogs. My sister doesn't like frogs too.

- Buy, by and bye.

I like to buy clothes. I always walk by the mall. I like this book by Shakespeare. I have to say bye to mom.

- Weather and whether.

The weather is nice outside, but I do not know whether or not I will go outside.

Idioms

— — —

1. **Break the ice** - To do or say something to relieve tension or start a conversation.
2. **Cost an arm and a leg** - To be very expensive.
3. **Hit the nail on the head** - To be exactly right about something.
4. **Let the cat out of the bag** - To reveal a secret.
5. **Bite the bullet** - To face a difficult situation with courage.
6. **Under the weather** - To feel ill or not in good health.
7. **Cutting corners** - Doing something poorly to save time or money.

Idioms



- — —
8. **Piece of cake** - Something that is very easy to do.
 9. **Barking up the wrong tree** - To pursue the wrong course of action or have mistaken beliefs.
 10. **Blood is thicker than water** - Family bonds are more important than other relationships.
 11. **Once in a blue moon** - Something that happens very rarely.
 12. **Hold your horses** - To wait or be patient.
 13. **Raining cats and dogs** - Raining heavily.
 14. **Don't cry over spilled milk** - Don't be upset about something that cannot be undone.
 15. **Actions speak louder than words** - What someone does is more important than what they say.

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct simple past tense form of the verbs in parentheses.

****Please do not translate while answering questions. I need this to gather data on what needs to be focused on in our classes****

Yesterday, my friends and I ____ (go) to the park for a picnic. As we ____ (walk) through the park, we ____ (see) a variety of animals. We ____ (take) our time to observe them and even ____ (feed) some ducks by the pond. After a while, we ____ (find) a perfect spot under a big tree and ____ (sit) down to eat our lunch.

While we ____ (enjoy) our food, a squirrel suddenly ____ (appear) and ____ (run) up to us. It ____ (steal) a piece of bread and quickly ____ (disappear) into the bushes. We ____ (laugh) at the cheeky squirrel and ____ (continue) with our meal.

Later, we ____ (decide) to play some games. We ____ (bring) a ball and ____ (start) a game of soccer. I ____ (kick) the ball too hard, and it ____ (fly) over the fence. My friend ____ (climb) over the fence to get it back, and luckily, he ____ (retrieve) it without any trouble.

As the sun ____ (begin) to set, we ____ (pack) up our things and ____ (head) home. We ____ (talk) about all the fun we ____ (have) and ____ (promise) to come back again soon. It ____ (be) a memorable day that we ____ (treasure) for a long time. We know we ____ (will) have more adventures like this in the future.

Climate Change: A Hot Topic Under the Microscope

****Please do not translate while reading the article or answering questions. I need this to gather data on what needs to be focused on in our classes****

This article does not present any actual facts.

Climate change remains a pressing issue that continues to polarize (polarise) opinions and spark heated debates worldwide. Scientists and environmentalists agree that the Earth's climate is undergoing rapid changes, with consequences that are far-reaching and, in some cases, irreversible.

The recent heatwaves and wildfires have brought the issue of climate change to the forefront once again. Experts warn that these extreme weather events are not just isolated incidents but symptomatic of larger systemic changes occurring on a global scale.

"Climate change is like a ticking time bomb," remarked Dr. Emily Rivers, a leading climatologist. "We are witnessing unprecedented shifts in weather patterns that threaten ecosystems and human livelihoods."

In coastal regions, rising sea levels are a cause for concern, posing a threat to low-lying communities. "We're seeing coastal erosion at an alarming rate," noted marine biologist Dr. Jonah Sands. "It's a wake-up call for governments to take decisive action."

Governments and policymakers face mounting pressure to implement sustainable practices and reduce carbon emissions. However, progress has been slow, with some countries dragging their feet (feat) on commitments to renewable energy and carbon neutrality. "This issue requires a paradigm shift in how we approach energy consumption," stated environmental activist Maya Green. "We can't afford to bury our heads in the sand any longer."

The effects of climate change are not just environmental but also economic and social. Agricultural productivity is being affected by changing weather patterns, leading to food shortages and price hikes. "Farmers are bearing the brunt (bunt) of these changes," observed agricultural economist Dr. Alex Fields.

Despite these challenges, there is hope on the horizon. Grassroots movements and international agreements like the Paris Agreement signal a growing awareness and commitment to tackling climate change collectively.

"We're at a crossroads," concluded Dr. Rivers. "It's time to roll up our sleeves and take concrete steps to mitigate the impacts of climate change before it's too late."

As the world grapples with the complexities of climate change, the call for action grows louder. The future of our planet hangs in the balance, and the choices we make today will shape the world for generations to come.

Questions

1. **Make a list of the idioms used in this text and explain what you think they mean.**
2. **Make a list of homophones used in this text and explain why each is used in that particular way.**
3. **Write a summary of the article.**
4. **Give your thoughts on the article, did you like it or not? Explain.**

Unlikely Friends in Brussels

****Please do not translate while reading the article or answering questions. I need this to gather data on what needs to be focused on in our classes****

In a cozy café in Brussels, three friends met for their usual Sunday chat. Amélie, a Belgian woman in her thirties who worked as a nurse, sipped her coffee and looked at her friends with a smile. Next to her sat Sophie, a young Austrian girl who had just started her first job as a teacher. Across from them was Pierre, a French man who worked as a chef in a nearby restaurant.

"How is your new job, Sophie?" Amélie asked, her eyes bright with interest.

Sophie sighed and took a sip of her tea. "It is very hard," she admitted. "I have so much to learn, and sometimes I feel lost."

Pierre nodded in understanding. "Starting a new job is always tough. When I began working as a chef, I made many mistakes. But each mistake taught me something important."

Amélie leaned in closer. "Yes, everyone makes mistakes. What matters is that you keep trying and never give up."

Sophie smiled, feeling a bit better. "Thank you. It helps to hear that. What about you, Amélie? How is your work?"

Amélie shrugged. "Work is okay. I enjoy my job, but sometimes I feel tired. There are so many things to do, and not enough time."

Pierre chuckled. "That sounds familiar. In my kitchen, we are always busy. But I love cooking, so it does not feel like work."

Sophie looked thoughtful. "Do you think it is important to love your job?"

Pierre nodded. "Yes, I do. When you love what you do, even the hard days are easier."

Amélie smiled warmly. "And if you do not love your job, find something in it that makes you happy. A small thing can make a big difference."

Sophie took another sip of her tea. "You both give good advice. I will try to remember that."

As the afternoon sun began to set, the friends continued their conversation, sharing stories and laughter. They knew that no matter how hard life and work could be, they had each other to lean on.

Comprehension Questions

1. Where do the three friends meet for their chat?
2. What is Amélie's job?
3. What is Pierre's job?
4. How does Amélie describe her feelings about her work?
5. What advice does Pierre give Sophie about starting a new job?
6. What does Pierre say makes even the hard days easier at work?
7. How does Amélie suggest finding happiness in a job one does not love?
8. What is the main message of the conversation between the friends?

UK

Slang used in the UK. Note that some things have multiple names depending on where you are in the country. Also many words can be insulting, but also used in a friendly manner.

As an additional note, some of these words can be considered Chavy or uneducated, I will mark these with a C.

Chinwag

Noun – A (usually long) chat.

Example: We had a good chinwag over a bottle of wine.

Knackered

Adjective – Broken, very tired.

Example: "My bike is knackered."
"I'm knackered, I've been awake since 6am"

Naff

Adjective – Not stylish or fashionable.

Example: "His haircut was a bit naff."

Banger

Noun – A sausage, an old car, good.

Example: "every single song on the album is a banger"
"My favourite breakfast is bangers and mash."
"He drove around in an old banger."

Chav

Noun - An anti-social lower-class person dressed in sportswear, a delinquent.

Example: "Most of the shops were derelict and there seemed to be chavs everywhere"

Dodgy

Adjective – dishonest, dangerous, of low quality, suspicious.

"a dodgy second-hand car salesman"
"activities like these could be dodgy for your heart"
"The brakes are dodgy"

Arse

Noun – A buttocks or anus, a stupid, irritating, or unsavoury person.

Example: “I fell on my arse”
“Don’t be such an arse”

Mate

Noun – A friend, a companion.

Example: “We’ve been mates since our school days.”

Quid

Noun – A pound, £.

Example: “We paid him four hundred quid”

Brolly

Noun – An umbrella.

Example: “It’s raining, and I left my brolly at home.”

Blimey

Exclamation – An expression of surprise.

Example: “Blimey, what a lot of food!”

Cuppa

Noun – A cup of tea.

Example: “Let’s have another cuppa”

Chuffed

Adjective – Very pleased, displeased.

Example: “He was chuffed with his gift.”

“She’ll be chuffed when she notices I’ve forgotten it.”

Gobsmacked

Adjective – Astonished, very surprised or shocked.

Example: “He was completely gobsmacked when he saw her in that dress.”

Bevvy

Noun – A drink (Generally alcoholic)

Example: “We popped to the pub for a few bevvy’s.”

Twollop

Noun – A stupid person.

Example: “Be careful you twollop!”

Fuming/steaming

Adjective – Very angry.

Example: “mum was fuming when she found out.”

Can't be asked/arsed

Phrase - If you say that you can't be arsed to do something, you mean that you are not going to do it because you think it is unnecessary or because you are too lazy

Bog/ loo

Noun - Toilet.

Example: "I really need to go to the loo".
"I dropped my phone in the bog"

Git

Noun – An unpleasant person.

Example: "He's a mean old git"
"You cheeky git!"

Sod

Noun – An unpleasant person, a person of a specified kind.

Example: "He's a grumpy sod." "Poor sod"

Pants

Adjective – Bad.

Example: "This music is pants."

Prat

Noun – An incompetent or stupid person.

Example: "Don't be such a prat."

Nosh

Noun / Verb – Food, To eat food.

Example: "Filling the freezer with all kinds of nosh."
"You can nosh to your heart's content."

Lush

Adjective – Pleasing to the senses.

Example: “This ice cream is lush.”

Kerfuffle

Phrase – Noise, commotion, fuss

Example: “There was a kerfuffle over the chairmanship.”

Minging

Adjective – Ugly, disgusting, smelly

Example: “You’re minging, mate! Go and take a shower.”

Bonkers

Adjective – Crazy, mad

Example: “you’re stark raving bonkers!”
“The man is completely bonkers!”

Dosh

Noun – Money

Example: “Anything is possible if you try, and have the dosh.”

Daft

Adjective – Silly, foolish, infatuated with.

Example: “Don't ask such daft questions”
“I was daft about him”

To leg it

Phrase – To run away, usually from some trouble.

Example: “I legged it from the building.”

Banter/Bants

Noun – the playful and friendly exchange of teasing remarks.

Example: “The men bantered with the waitresses”

Blud

^C
Noun – Friend, mate

Example: “What you doin’ blud?”

Bruv

^C
Noun – Friend, mate

Example: “We had a good time, didn't we bruv?”

Jammy

Adjective – Lucky.

Example: “you always were a jammy beggar when it came to women”

Proper

Adjective – Very

Example: “That's a proper good cup of tea.”

Bits'n bobs

Phrase - An odd selection of things.

Example: "I have a few bits'n bobs in the fridge. I'll see what I can make".

Donkey's years

Phrase – A long time, ages

Example: "I haven't seen you in donkey's years"

Gobby

Adjective – Talking too much or saying things that should not be said.

Example: "They didn't like him - they thought he was opinionated and gobby."

Faff around

Phrase – Doing things in a disorganized way and not achieving much, wasting time.

Example: "It was annoying to watch them faffing around when a more direct response was required."

Fit

C
Adjective – Good looking, attractive, sexy.

Example: "She was fit though."

Beggar

Adjective – A person of a specified type, especially one to be envied or pitied.

Example: "poor little beggars"

BREAD DEBATE



TEACAKE
WEST YORKSHIRE



COB
EAST MIDLANDS



BARMCAKE
NORTH WEST



BARA
WALES



BAP
ENGLAND / WALES



BREADCAKE
YORKSHIRE



SOFTIE
ABERDEEN



BARM
NORTH WEST



MUFFIN
OLDHAM



BUN
THE NORTH



MORNING ROLL
SCOTLAND



STOTTY
YORKSHIRE



BATCH
WARWICKSHIRE



OVEN BOTTOM
LANCASHIRE



ROLL
THE SOUTH



SCUFFLER
YORKSHIRE

The Bread Debate:

Depending on where you are in the UK you will hear different words to refer to a bread roll.

USA

Slang used in the USA. Note that these are worth learning even if US English isn't your target dialect, as due to TV and social media many of these are used elsewhere in the English speaking world as well as online.

Boujee

Adjective - Rich, luxurious, special, fancy.

Example: *“She’s so boujee with that Louis Vuitton bag.”*

Bussin’

Adjective - Amazing, really good.

Example: *“Those potato chips are bussin’.”*

Drip

Adjective - Stylish, sophisticated clothes or appearance.

Example: *“Li’s shoes and belt are dripping today.”*
“Look at his drip.”

Extra

Adjective - Dramatic, attention-grabbing, too much.

Example: *“You don’t have to be so extra about it!”*

Rent-free

Adverb - To become an obsession, to dominate someone’s thoughts.

Example: *“Since I saw Zootopia, Shakira is living rent-free inside my head.”*

Amped

Adjective – Very excited

Example: *“I’m so amped for tonight’s basketball game!”*

Basic

Adjective - An insult that means something or someone is boring or uncool.

Example: *"Let's get out of here. This party is basic."*

Curve ball'

Noun - Something tricky or unexpected, like trying to hit a curve ball in baseball.

Example: *"I wasn't expecting that assignment to be so hard."* *"Yeah, it was a real curve ball."*

Hit the books

Verb Phrase - To study. Can also mean to do homework (or assignments meant to be done outside of class).

Example: *"The big test is coming up. Time to hit the books."*

GOAT

Noun - An acronym indicating the Greatest Of All Time.

Example: *"In football, Pelé was the GOAT!"*

For real

Phrase - To agree with someone, emphasize a statement, or ask if someone is serious.

Example: *"This is my favorite class so far!"* *"For real?"*

Period

Phrase – Finished, all done.

Example: *"I don't want to hear another word from you, period."*