

PRESENT SIMPLE

I play - He plays

Do I play? - Does he play?

I don't play - He doesn't play

general truths,
laws of nature,
permanent situations

eg. The sun sets in the west.
He works in a bank.

habits, routines or
repeated actions usually
with adv. of frequency
(eg. always, often...)

eg. She always wakes up early.

reviews,
sports commentaries,
narrations, headlines,
instead of the imperative

- eg. • He plays the role of Macbeth. / The story is set in London.
• Smith passes to Jones. He shoots and scores!
• Then the prince gets on his horse and rides away. (PAST)
• Obama wins presidential election.
• You sprinkle some cheese on the pizza and then you bake it.

Future

timetables (eg. bus, train)
programmes (eg. theatre)

eg. The plane leaves at 10.
The film starts at 9.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

I am playing

Am I playing?

I am not playing

actions happening at the
moment of speaking
or
temporary situations

eg. I'm studying for a test now.
He's studying for a test these days
(although right now he's sleeping).

with always, constantly,
continually for actions
that are repeated too
often usually to express
annoyance/irritation

eg. You're always taking my
clothes!

situations which are
gradually changing or
developing

eg. More and more species are
becoming extinct.

Future

actions we have already
arranged to do
in the near future

eg. They're having a party
next Saturday.