**Class 3:** Simple present and final “S” pronunciation

* **Importance of Simple Present**

*English language has 12 tenses in total. In academic writing, only three (3) tenses (present simple, followed by past simple and present perfect) are the most commonly used1. For the purpose of manuscript writing, we will also cover simple future.*

* **Facilitator**

***Instructions:*** *first ask the learners about what they remember or know on the rule of simple present.*

1. **Rule of Simple Present**

Subject + base form of the verb + “s” (only if the subject is in the third person of singular.

Example 1: He works at the hospital every day. (A regular verb)

Example 2: He teaches English every week. (An irregular verb)

Example 3: We has our books in the classroom. (Auxiliary verb to have)

Example 4: He is my student. (Auxiliary verb to be)

Example 5: He can play soccer. (A modal verb)

From the examples, we can notice that modal verbs remain unchanged, the auxiliary verb to be changed completely and the auxiliary verb to have does follow the rule at some extent. The rule is for regular and irregular verbs, but there are exceptions based on the ending of the verb.

Exception 1: Modal verbs remain the same in all forms. Please, don't add “s” in simple present.

Exception 2: When a verb end in “o” or a sibilant (ch, sh, s, x), add “es” instead of “s” as in teaches in example 2.

Exception 3: When a verb ends in a final “y” after a consonant, the “y” becomes “ie” before you add “s”. Example: carry - he carries his bag.

* **Facilitator**

***Instructions:*** *first ask the learners about what they remember or know on general uses of simple present.*

1. **Uses of Simple Present**
* **General Uses**

Simple present has many uses. We will focus on just three (3) uses:

1. Simple present is used to express actions in present.

Example 6: He teaches English.

1. Simple present is used to express a habitual and repetitive action.

Example 7: He plays soccer on weekends.

1. Simple present is used to express general truths and accepted facts.

Example 8.1: Water boils at 100°C and freezes at 0°C.

Examples 8.2. Nothing good is easy to get.

Note: In addition to the above mentioned three (3) uses, simple present can be used either to express future time, after these conjunctions (after, when, before, as soon as, until) or to give directions and instructions.

***Instructions:*** *first ask the learners if they have published as the first author or co-author a manuscript in English. If not, ask if they know about the IMRaD structure of an original research article. Then, ask them about what they remember or know or guess on uses of simple present in manuscript writing.*

* **Uses in Manuscript Writing**

Simple present is used in the introduction, discussion and conclusion in a manuscript2-5. Simple present is also used in daily English speaking and during oral presentations (lab meeting, journal clubs, international meetings and conferences). While the rule of conjugation is simple in simple present, the pronunciation is a bit challenging because the final “s” is pronounced in different ways.

***Instructions:*** *Have the**learners in small groups write down on a sheet of paper 20 regular and irregular verbs (see Table 1). Exchange the lists of verbs between the small groups. Each group should conjugate in the third person of singular in simple present the 20 verbs and specify between parentheses whether the verb is regular (R) or Irregular (I). Direct learners to go online to find the rules of final “s” pronunciation and specify in parentheses**how the final “s” should be pronounced “s” or “z” or “iz”. Then, return each assignment to the small group who initially produced the list of the verbs for grading.*

*Make it fun. Have each group score out of 20. Each verb is graded 1 point out of 20 (half point for the correct answer (regular or irregular verbs) and another half point for the correct pronunciation). Each group will get its own grade out of 20 in addition to the total points out of 20 the other group (the one whose assignment they graded) has missed for incorrect answers. Sum up on the board the two sub-scores and have the class applaud the small group with the highest total score and encourage positively the others. Remind them that it was just for funny learning in a relaxed environment.*

*Note: Be mindful when the learners are young adults. Sometime, they take the exercise too seriously due to their high competitiveness and residual immaturity for adolescence. A very severe grading can undermine the safety and trust in your classroom.*

*Table 1: Template to be used for the final “S” pronunciation in simple present in small groups.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***N°*** | ***Verbs*** | ***R=Regular I=Irregular*** | ***Third person of singular in simple present*** | ***Final “s” pronunciation /s/ or /z/ or /iz/*** |
| ***1*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***2*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***3*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***4*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***5*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***6*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***7*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***8*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***9*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***10*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***11*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***12*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***13*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***14*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***15*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***16*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***17*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***18*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***19*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***20*** |  |  |  |  |

1. **Final “s” Pronunciation6,7**

The final “s” is pronounced in three (3) different ways depending on the last consonant or its sound.

1. The final “s” is pronounced as /iz/ when the final consonant or sound is C, S, X, Z, SS, CH, SH or GE.

Example 9:

C

: He races.

S: He pauses. She rises.

X: He fixes

Z: It freezes. She quizzes.

SS: She kisses. He misses. He passes.

CH: He watches. She witches. He teaches.

SH: She dishes. She wishes. She pushes. It crashes.

GE: She arranges. He changes. He ages. She judges.

1. The final “s” is pronounced as /s/ when the final consonant or sound is P, T, K, F, or TH.

Example 10:

P: He stops. He sleeps.

T: She hates. She hits. She writes.

K: He cooks. He drinks. He walks.

F: She sniffs. He laughs. She graphs.

TH: She paths.

Note: The -gh and –ph also are pronounced like a F.

1. The final “s” is pronounced as /z/ when the final consonant or sound is B, D, G, L, M, N, NG, R, V, Y, or THE.

Example 11:

B: He rubs.

D: He rides. It ends.

G: He begs.

L: She calls. He falls.

M: He dreams.

N: It drains. He runs.

NG: He belongs.

R: She wears. It cures.

V: He drives.

Y: She plays. She says.

THE: He bathes. She breathes.

Remind that nouns in plural may take a final “s”, too. The same rules for the final “s” pronunciation do apply.

Example 12: Tables, pens, pointers, labs, technicians, gloves, lab coats, or glasses.

* **Facilitator**

***Instructions:*** *To practice final “s” pronunciation and root words plus affixes, ask each learner to complete the table 2. To practice root words and affixes, ask learners to write 1-3 verbs in their English vocabulary notebook. Check their notebooks time to time during the course either physically or by just recording the number of words after every two classes.*

1. **Evaluation**
2. What is the rule of simple present?
3. What are three main uses of simple present?
4. In which sections of a manuscript, simple present is used?
5. How is the final “s” pronounced?
6. **References**
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