**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.*

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.

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.

* **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.

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.

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?

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