

PRESENT TENSE

Mini Lesson: Simple Present

Simple Present is used to indicate actions occurring now (at this moment) and those occurring habitually (every so often or constant).

Example:

Michelle sits at the doctor's office at 7:00 am.

Greed deceives the general public.

Use simple present when writing about actions in literary works.

Example:

Winnie-the-Pooh carefully places his head between his paws and began to think.

General truths or scientific facts should be in the simple present, even when the predicate of the sentence is in the past tense.

Example:

Dr. Seuss invented the word "Nerd" in his book "If I Ran the Zoo" in 1950.

When you are quoting, summarizing, or paraphrasing a work, in general use the present tense.

Example:

Jack Zipes writes that "at their best, the storytelling of fairy tales constitute the most profound articulation of the human struggle to form and maintain a civilizing process."

*APA generally calls for using the past tense or present perfect tense for signal verbs: Baker (2003) showed or Baker (2003) has shown.

- Use present tense only to discuss results (the experiment demonstrates) or widely accepted information (researchers agree).