

Introduction

There are lots of people in this world who can speak English and write it but are they able to speak it correctly? Could they take an exam in English so that they prove their level is what they want it to be or the one required for them to be offered a good job or, if they are younger, to be accepted to study at the desired university or even to be able to sit for an MA?

These are the questions that usually come to linguists mind when they are writing a grammar book. It is important that they should be sure to whom the grammar book is addressed and for what it can be used.

In this course the students can find as many examples as they need to understand fast and easily a lot of things related to the English tenses. There are enough for them to be able to write English accurately and to speak it correctly.

Are there any teachers of English who have not noticed that it is prity difficult for the Romanian students to learn the English tenses? It is because there are huge differences between the two language especially when we speak about tenses. One of them and the most important is the fact that in English there are tenses, the simple and the countinuous aspects, which we cannot find in the Romanian language. Another difference would be the one that in English the verb gets an –s or –es at the end of the verbs in the third person singular, in the present and all the other persons have an identical form while in Romanian every person gets a different ending of the verb. In the past tense, in English, there are regular and irregular verbs while in Romanian there are four different types of conjugation. And these are not all the differences. We are going to analyse them when we get to them.

We hope that the big number of examples we decided to use in this course will help the students a lot with writing and speaking English as it is required in case they want to do it without any mistakes.

We will start with the present tenses, in both simple and continuous aspects, and continue with two other English tenses giving examples in Romanian and translating them into English so that the students can visualise the difference between the two languages immediately and grasp the meaning and the correct way of saying certain things in English appropriately.

Tenses are not to be presented exhaustively, but in short and very clearly with a lot of examples.

There is also the Practice part which asks the students to translate into English Romanian sentences containing the above mentioned tenses.

From place to place both the examples and the practice sentences are repeated so that the students may see whether or not they have paid attention to what they have been reading.

We will approach some other English grammar topics, which cause the Romanian students difficulties, such as the sequence of tenses, in another course book as they are more complex and can help those who want to speak English correctly.

PRESENT TENSE SIMPLE

Form

Aff.: S + V/V-(es)

Neg.: S+ don't/doesn't +V

Int.: Do/Does+ S + V?

Use

Present Tense Simple expresses actions that occur repeatedly in the present, general truths, permanent actions, future actions that are officially scheduled, future actions in *time* and *if* clauses, which happen after present times in the main clause.

It is used with adverbs such as: usually, generally, every day/week/month/year/summer/holiday/etc., once a day/week/month/etc., twice/ three times/ four times/ a day/ month/year/etc., ever, never, often, always, rarely, seldom, sometimes, etc.

- They read a book every month because they do not have enough time to read more.
- A good cook bakes good food.
- School taught them that Romanian is not an analytical language as English is.
- The tram to the North part of the city leaves at 9.00 and 12.00.
- They will visit Constanta if they are free in summer.
- We will go to Sirnea when we have enough money.

More Examples:

1. Merg la școală cu autobuzul în fiecare dimineață.
I go to school by bus every morning.
2. De obicei își termină temele chiar înainte de termen.
They usually finish their assignment right before the due date.
3. Ana are o idee nouă pentru proiectul ei de fiecare dată când încearcă să îl termine.
Ana has a new idea to add to her project whenever she tries to finish it.
4. Rar uităm să specificăm sursele, dar profesorul tot ne ține o prelegere de fiecare dată.
We rarely forget to specify the source materials, but the teacher still gives us a lecture on it every time.

5. Eseul are o structură bună dar scrisul este aproape ilizibil.
The essay has a good structure but the handwriting is nearly illegible.
6. Cred că mereu ar trebui sa ne străduim să fim mai buni decât suntem.
I believe we should always strive to be kinder than we are.
7. Ar trebui să ne acordăm niște timp în care să tragem aer în piept și să simțim lumina soarelui prin păr.
We should take some time to breathe in the air and feel the sunlight through our hair once in a while.
8. Chiar și la bătrânețe, el își amintește chipul primei iubiri.
Even in his old age, he still remembers the face of his first love.
9. Viața ei este făcută din amintiri, vise pierdute și speranță.
Her life is made of memories, broken dreams and hope.
10. Rareori începe ziua fără un zâmbet pe față.
He seldom starts a day without a smile on his face.
11. Noi, ca oameni, nu suntem statici și neclintiți, ci capabili de schimbare.
We, as human beings, are not static and still, but capable of change.
12. Nimeni nu este la fel cum era cu o secundă în urmă.
Nobody is the same as they were a second before.
13. Nu cred că vor ajunge la aeroport la timp.
They do not believe that they can make it to the airport in time.
14. Te rog nu o lăsa să plece fără a-și lua la revedere.
Please don't let her leave without saying goodbye.
15. Locul pe care îl numești acasă nu rămâne niciodată la fel după ce îl părăsești.
The place you call home is never the same once you leave it.
16. Nu cred în magie, dar ceva despre acest sentiment este aproape eteric.
I don't believe in magic but something about this feeling almost feels ethereal.
17. Eu, de obicei, nu acord oamenilor, în special prietenilor, o a doua șansă.
I usually do not give people, especially my friends, a second chance.
18. John nu poate dormi fără muzică ambientală.
John can't sleep without ambient music.
19. Ea nu își mai vizitează mama în fiecare săptămână.
She doesn't visit her mother every week anymore.
20. Nu crezi că are dreptate?
Don't you think she's right?
21. De ce nu poți accepta faptul că faci o greșală de fiecare dată când vorbești cu ea. Îți dă sfaturi rele.
Why can't you accept that you make a mistake whenever you speak to her? She gives you bad advice.
22. Când trebuie să decidă tematica petrecerii?
When does she have to decide the theme of the party?
23. Îți vizitezi de obicei bunicii la sfârșitul săptămânii?
Do you usually visit your grandparents at the weekends?

24. Se gândesc că au mereu răspunsul corect?
Do they think they always have the right answer?
25. De ce nu pot să ne lase în pace?
Why can't they just leave us alone?
26. Mereu pleci la școală cu o oră mai devreme?
Do you always leave for school an hour earlier?
27. Poți crede că în mod constant ne mint?
Can you believe that they constantly lie to us?
28. Înțelegi mereu instrucțiunile scrise pe tablă?
Do you always understand the instructions written on the board?
29. În fiecare an merg la munte pentru o săptămână.
Every year I go to the mountains for a week.
30. El nu se trezește niciodată devreme.
He never gets up early.
31. Ei rar ascultă muzică rock.
They rarely listen to rock music.
32. El uneori face flotări la sală.
He sometimes does push-ups at the gym.
33. Ei adesea se uită la televizor după amiază.
They often watch TV in the afternoons.
34. Bunicii lui sună frecvent sâmbăta.
His grandparents frequently call on Saturdays.
35. De obicei el este foarte calm și tăcut.
He is usually very calm and quiet.
36. Acolo este adesea cald în timpul iernii.
It is often warm there in winter.
37. Șeful, în mod normal, vine la muncă înaintea angajaților.
A boss normally comes to work before his employees.
38. În fiecare an ne facem analizele de sânge.
Every year we do our blood tests.
39. Eu nu mă trezesc la 8 în fiecare zi.
I don't wake up at 8 every day.
40. Ei rareori ascultă muzică rock.
They rarely listen to rock music.
41. El nu se culcă niciodată târziu.
He never goes to bed late.
42. El adesea face abdomene la sală.
He often does sit-ups at the gym.
43. El adesea se uită la știri după amiaza.
He often watches the afternoon news.
44. Ei nu sună frecvent când el are treabă.
They don't call frequently when he has work to do.
45. Sunt fericit! El întotdeauna știe ce are de făcut!
I'm happy! He always knows what he has to do!