

Present tense SIMPLE

WEAK AND STRONG VERBS

In German the present tense is used to describe something that is happening right now or something that normally happens.

The present tense of both weak and strong verbs is formed by adding the personal endings for the present tense to the infinitive stem.

In German the infinitive is the dictionary form of the verb. Most verbs end in -en but a few verbs end with -eln, -ern or -n.

To get the infinitive stem you drop the -en or -n from the infinitive.

Infinitive	Infinitive stem
denken	denk -
singen	sing -
spielen	spiel -
tun	tu -
wandern	wand -
machen	mach -

endings

Ich	-e	wir	-en
du	-st	ihr	-t
er/sie/es	-t	Sie/sie	-en

SPIELEN EXAMPLE

Ich spiele	wir spielen
du spielst	ihr spielt
er/sie/es spielt	Sie/sie spielen

* fully conjugated

conversational

In conversational German, the Ich|-e ending of the first person is commonly dropped.

Ich geh' ins Kino. ~~I never do that.~~ I'm going to the cinema.

Ich spiel' Tennis. ~~I don't think so.~~ I play tennis.

Ich tu' das nie. ~~that~~ I never do that.

note

In German (unlike English) there are only 1 type of present tense. * so I play / I do play / I am playing. (all of these come under Ich spiele)

wir singen zu laut.
suchen Sie den Hund?
Ich studiere Deutsch.
Ihr kauft einen Wagen.

We are singing too loud.
Are you looking for the dog?
I study German.
You are buying a car.