

7.1.1 Simple present

Simple present tense should be used in the following scenarios:

1. **Scenario 1: An event/condition that is generally true (a timeless general principle) or to represent a current fact about a person/thing** - This represents the most common scenario of *simple present* tense. This is used to express the situation that is *generally* true or represents a *current fact*. For example:

The sun rises every day.
Linda works at a bank.
People need food to survive.
Peter is divorced.
Jack's work involves a lot of travel.

2. **Scenario 2: In instances where a timetable or a fixed plan is being stated, simple present tense can be used to talk about future** – However, it should be noted that this scenario is not very likely to be tested on GMAT. For example:

James will not relent, until he succeeds.
The movie show starts at noon tomorrow.

3. **Scenario 3: Some special verbs are not used in continuous tenses, and hence, are used as simple present.** For example, verbs such as *tastes* and *looks*, as depicted in the following examples, are in *simple present*:

This food tastes great.
The new car looks great.

Let's look at examples based on official sources.

A sentence based on official question (#12, OG-13: *Carnivorous mammals can endure...*):

Cheetahs have slender bodies and non-retracting claws that enabled them to reach speeds of up to 70 miles an hour.

Analysis: The sentence talks about a *timeliness general principle*, a fact about cheetahs. Hence, the sentence should be in *simple present*:

Cheetahs have slender bodies and non-retracting claws that enable them to reach speeds of up to 70 miles an hour.

Another sentence based on official question (#38, Verbal Supplement: *A study commissioned by the...*):

Research has proved that if high-yield agricultural methods are practiced, they prevented massive amounts of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere and will reduce the need to convert forests into farmland.

Analysis: The sentence expresses a situation that has been found to be *generally* true. Hence, *both* aspects of the finding: (a) High-yield agricultural methods prevent massive amounts of greenhouse gases from entering

the atmosphere and (b) High-yield agricultural methods reduce the need to convert forests to farmland, should be expressed as *simple present*. Hence, the correct sentence is:

Research has proved that if high-yield agricultural methods are practiced, they prevent massive amounts of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere and reduce the need to convert forests into farmland.