

## The Simple Present Tense

- “All the world knows that Lord Steyne’s town palace stands in Gaunt Square, out of which Great Gaunt Street leads, whither we first conducted Rebecca” (Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*, 2001:543)
- “Now, comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours? Let us face it: our lives are miserable, laborious, and short. No animal in England knows the meaning of happiness or leisure after he is a year old. No animal in England is free. The life of an animal is misery and slavery: that is the plain truth.” (Orwell, *Animal Farm*, 2021:7)
- “Although Marshal Bruhah is very rude and a hurtful nose-breaker, I realize this must be because he is an unhappy person and has many worries in his life, perhaps with special responsibilities, annual accounts, agendas, paperwork, troubles and difficulties, such as make Papa tetchy too.” (Wilson, *The Zoo*, 2017:66)
- “Matryona is the housekeeper, in a black sack of a dress with a white apron. She is plump and pink and smiley. She seems broader than she is tall” (Wilson, *The Zoo*, 2017:67)
- “Don’t pay attention to him, Dorian’, said the painter. ‘I understand what you mean, and I believe in this girl.” (Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, 1994:96)
- “They say that when good Americans die they go to Paris,” chuckled Sir Thomas, who had a large wardrobe of Humour’s cast-off clothes.  
Really! And where do bad Americans go to when they die? Inquired the Duchess.” (Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, 1994:48)
- “Sweetbread? That sounds better. What is sweetbread?  
Sweetbread is made from the pancreas of a calf.  
The pancreas!  
Braised and with a mushroom sauce, it’s simply delicious.” (Martel, *Life of Pi*, 2016:245)
- “Do you live by the river?  
I hope so, because people who live near running water are much nicer than people who don’t.  
Do you have a serious suitor?  
I do not.” (Shaffer & Barrows, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, 1919:103)
- “My daddy’s face is a study. Winter moves into it and presides there. His eyes become a cliff of snow threatening to avalanche; his eyebrows bend like black limbs of leafless

trees. His skin takes on the pale, cheerless yellow of winter sun; for a jaw he has the edges of a snowbound field dotted with stubble; his high forehead is the frozen sweep of the Erie, hiding currents of gelid thoughts that eddy in darkness.” (Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*, 2000:62)

- “Each pale yellow wrapper has a picture on it. A picture of little Mary Jane, for whom the candy is named. Smiling white face. Blond hair in gentle disarray, blue eyes looking at her out of a world of clean comfort. The eyes are petulant, mischievous. To Pecola they are simply pretty. She eats the candy, and its sweetness is good.” (Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*, 2000:50)