Present Tense

Class Objective: I will be able to learn to use present tense appropriately in Dutch.

Concept A: Introduction

In English, there are three tenses in the present form:

- Simple present tense
- Present continuous tense
- Present perfect tense

All these tenses are just one tense in Dutch. Present tense is also used to refer to future and hypothetical conditions in Dutch.

Concept B: Use of simple present tense

The simple present tense is used in four cases:

- to refer to a momentary action that coincides with the moment we are talking about it
- to refer to an ongoing, habitual, or repetitive action or state
- to refer to a future event (in combination with an adverb of time)
- to refer to a hypothetical 'if then' situation

1. Momentary action

We use the simple tense to refer to a momentary action that coincides with the moment we are talking about it.

Ik neem een hapje.	I am taking a bite.
Het regent.	It is raining.
Ze valt bijna in slaap.	She is almost falling asleep.

2. Ongoing, habitual, or repetitive action or state

The action or state is not tied to the moment we are talking about it.

Ze werkt bij de overheid.	She works for the government.
Hij studeert in Groningen.	He studies in Groningen.
Ik woon in Gent.	I live in Ghent.

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