

No Tense Like the Present

An activity of "Myanmar's battle against malaria"

Read "Myanmar's battle against malaria" (page 7, *What's Up* August 2019). We use the simple present tense to talk about something that is **true now ❶**. Do you know there are other uses for it?

We can also use the simple present tense to express something that:

- **is always true ❷** e.g. The sun **rises** in the east.
- **happens regularly in the present ❸** e.g. She **sweeps** the floor every morning.
- **is fixed in the future ❹** e.g. His mother **arrives** tomorrow.

ACTIVITY A: *Identify the reason for using the present tense in the following sentences by writing its corresponding number in the table below.*

| | Sentence | Reason |
|----|---|--------|
| a. | Stagnant water is a good place for mosquitoes to breed. | |
| b. | Fumigation is done regularly to keep the population of mosquitoes in check. | |
| c. | It is more difficult to fight malaria in countries like Myanmar than in Singapore. | |
| d. | He is worried that malaria will spread to other regions. | |
| e. | You cannot get malaria by coming in contact with or sitting next to someone who has it. | |
| f. | His next treatment starts next week. | |

ACTIVITY B: *Now, compose your own sentences to illustrate each use of the present tense.*

1. Something that is true now. ➤ _____

2. Something that is always true. ➤ _____

3. Something that happens regularly in the present. ➤ _____

4. Something that is fixed in the future. ➤ _____
