

Verbs (past and present tenses)

Verbs written in the **present tense** tell us what is happening **now**.

Verbs written in the **past tense** tell us what happened in the **past**.

Today Tom rows his boat.

This **verb** is in the **present tense**.
It tells us what is happening **now**.

Last week Tom rowed his boat.

This **verb** is in the **past tense**.
It tells us what happened **in the past**.

Verbs in the **past tense** often have **ed** at the end.



Getting started

Copy these sentences.

Underline the verb in each one.

Write whether it is in the present tense or the past tense.

The first one has been done to help you.

1. Ben finishes his homework. present tense
2. Rosie helps her mum.
3. Joe looked at a good book yesterday.
4. The mouse squeaked loudly.
5. On Saturday we walked to the shops.
6. The boy smiles at his friend.
7. On holiday I visited France.
8. The log floated down the river.
9. Emma sits in the sun.
10. The frog jumped on to the rock.



Now try these

1. Write a pair of sentences using each verb from the box.
In the first sentence, the verb should be in the present tense.
In the second sentence, the verb should be in the past tense.
The first one has been done to help you.

jump	shout	talk	help	float
play	listen	watch	laugh	act

Today Sam jumps. → Yesterday Sam jumped.

2. Copy and complete this table.

Take care. Some of the verbs in the past tense do not follow the rules!

Verb	Present tense	Past tense
wait	Tom waits	
skip		Tom skipped
cook	Tom cooks	
hop	Tom hops	
eat		Tom ate



Practise your punctuation

1. Punctuate these sentences correctly.

- a) the children climb a tree
- b) beth sucks her thumb
- c) andy and dan play in the park
- d) the dog chases the postman
- e) i eat an apple

2. Underline the verb in each sentence.

3. Write each sentence again, changing the verb into the past tense.

