

# USING CONSISTENT TENSE

Language Arts



# LEARNING GOALS

## You will understand:

How to apply consistent verb tenses within sentences.

## You will be able to:

Recognise and distinguish between past, present, and future verb tenses and create sentences using consistent verb tenses,





# WHAT ARE VERBS?

Verbs are action words that tell us what's happening in a sentence.

Actions can happen in different times and that's where verb tenses come in!

# UNDERSTANDING VERB TENSES

Tense refers to the form of a verb that indicates when an action or event takes place.

There are three main verb tenses:

**PAST**

**PRESENT**

**FUTURE**



# UNDERSTANDING VERB TENSES



## PAST TENSE

This is used to talk about things that happened before now.

**Example:** "She swam in the pool yesterday."



## PRESENT TENSE

This is used to talk about things happening right now or regularly.

**Example:** "She draws after school every day."



## FUTURE TENSE

This is used to talk about things that will happen in the future.

**Example:** "She will take a nap tomorrow."



**LET'S LOOK  
AT SOME  
EXAMPLES!**

# EXAMPLE OF DIFFERENT TENSES

See how tense changes the verb, "sing" based on whether the action happened in the past, is happening now in the present, or will happen in the future.

**PAST**

Sang

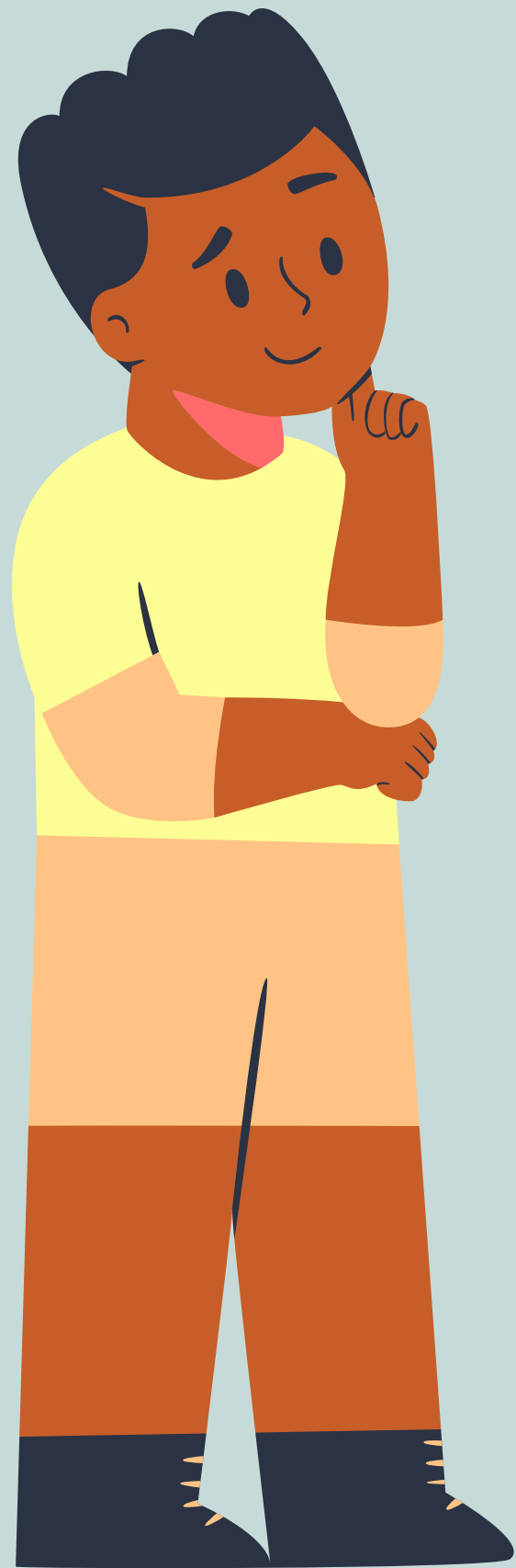
**PRESENT**

Sing

**FUTURE**

Will sing





# EXAMPLE OF DIFFERENT TENSES

See how tense changes the verb, "think" based on whether the action happened in the past, is happening now in the present, or will happen in the future.

**PAST**

Thought

**PRESENT**

Think

**FUTURE**

Will think



# EXAMPLE OF DIFFERENT TENSES

See how tense changes the verb, "kick" based on whether the action happened in the past, is happening now in the present, or will happen in the future.

**PAST**

Kicked

**PRESENT**

Kick

**FUTURE**

Will kick





**CONSISTENCY  
IS KEY!**

# CONSISTENT USE OF VERB TENSE

To make your writing clear and easy to understand, it's important to use the same verb tense throughout your work.

When you start writing, pick a tense (like past, present, or future) and stick to it for the majority of your work.

You should avoid switching back and forth between tenses as it can confuse readers and disrupt the flow of your writing.





# SHIFTING TENSES ON OCCASION

In some cases (very occasionally), it may be necessary to shift tenses to indicate a shift in time or to discuss a related event.

However, you must be careful to do this purposefully and ensure that the shift makes sense and doesn't create confusion.

# WHEN TO USE EACH OF THE VERB TENSES



## PAST TENSE

### For the past

When describing events that occurred in the past (e.g. historical events), use past tense.



## PRESENT TENSE

### For general truths

Present tense is often used to describe general truths and things that are always true.



## FUTURE TENSE

### For upcoming events

Future tense is used to talk about actions or events that will happen in the future.



**LET'S LOOK  
AT AN EXAMPLE OF  
INCONSISTENT USE  
OF TENSE!**

# EXAMPLE OF INCONSISTENT USE OF TENSE

If you mix up verb tenses, it might sound a little strange. Let's see an example:

"Yesterday, I run to the park and plays on the swings."





# EXAMPLE OF INCONSISTENT USE OF TENSE

Did you notice the mistake?

"Run" and "plays" are both in the present tense.

This can make the sentence confusing as the sentence is written about events in the past ("yesterday"), so those verbs should be in past tense!



# EXAMPLE OF INCONSISTENT USE OF TENSE

To make it clear, we need to be consistent with our tenses. Let's see the fixed example below:

"Yesterday, I walked to the park and played on the swings."

Now, both verbs are in past tense as they should be!





**WHAT ABOUT  
VERB  
GROUPS?**

# USING CONSISTENT VERB GROUPS

Sometimes, we use more than one verb in a sentence, like with helping verbs (e.g., is, am, are, was, were) or continuous verbs (e.g., is playing, was eating).

When you use these verb groups, all the verbs need to match in tense.





# USING CONSISTENT VERB GROUPS

Let's look at an example:

"She is studying for her test and cooks dinner."

Here, "is studying" is present tense, but "cooks" is present tense too. To make it clear, we should use consistent verb groups:

"She is studying for her test and cooking dinner."

# SUMMARY: USING CONSISTENT TENSE

Remember to keep your tenses consistent to make your sentences easy to understand.

The more you practice, the better you'll get at making your writing clear and enjoyable to read!





**THANK YOU  
FOR  
LISTENING!**

# RESOURCE PAGE

