

What Is Tense?

Tense is used to indicate the time in which something happens.

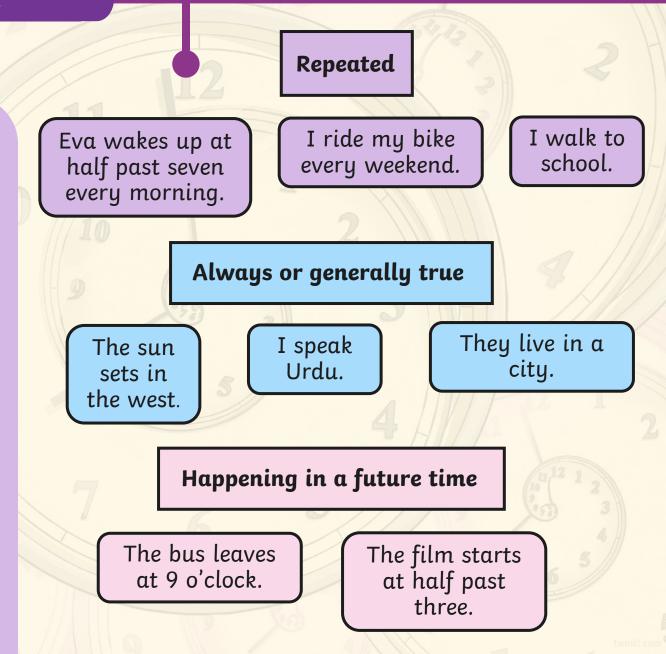


It is used to change verbs to show when the action took place – in the past, in the present or in the future.

The different tenses can be shown by changing the spelling of the verb in a sentence.

The present tense is used for things that are happening at that moment.

The simple form of the present tense is used when writing about something that is repeated, is always true or is happening in a future time.



The Rules

There are lots of little rules to remember when it comes to the verb used in present tense.

These rules help us to know what the ending of the verb should be so it makes sense.

The Rules

The spelling of the verb depends on the ending of the verb. Verbs ending in:

-o, -ch, -sh, -ss, -s, -x or -z

Add -es

Examples:

go – goes

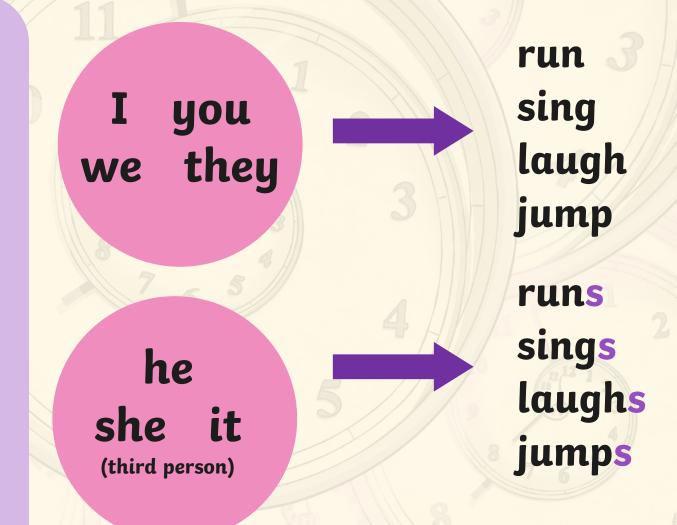
wish - wishes

fix – fixes

buzz - buzzes

The Rules

The form of the verb depends on the subject.



The Rules

The spelling of the verb depends on the ending of the verb. Verbs ending in:

Vowel and -y

Just add -s

Examples:

say – says

play – plays

buy - buys

The Rules

The spelling of the verb depends on the ending of the verb. Verbs ending in:

Consonant and -y

Remove -y and add -ies

Examples:

carry – carries cry – cries

tidy - tidies

Past tense verbs often end in the suffix –ed, although there are some other tricky words that change in other ways (known as **irregular verbs**).

Simple Past Tense

The past tense is used for things that have already happened.

'I played football yesterday.'

In this sentence, the action 'play' has already been done so it is in the past tense and has the –ed suffix.

'Sally sang her favourite song.'

In this sentence, the action of singing has already been done so it is in the past tense. 'Sing' is changed to 'sang' as it is an **irregular verb**.

Examples of Simple Past Tense Verbs

-ed Suffix	Irregular Verb
walked	saw
visited	said
hoped	became
raised	bit
watched	bought
counted	could
explained	begun

Fill the Gaps!

Identify the tense of the following sentences:

Tom walked down the street to school. He stopped to wait for a car to drive/go past before he crossed the road. He opened the school gate and hung up his coat on his peg.

Be the Teacher!

Read each sentence and decide whether you think it is correct. If it is not, what should it be?

I rides my skateboard in the park.

I **ride** my skateboard in the park.

He likes both dogs and cats.

They goes to the shops.

They **go** to the shops.

Change the Tense

What tense is this sentence in?

The cat sat on the mat.

This sentence is in simple past tense.

What would the sentence be in simple present tense?

The cat sits on the mat.

Change the Tense

What tense is this sentence in?

They play in the park.

This sentence is in simple present tense.

What would the sentence be in simple past tense?

They played in the park.

Change the Tense

What tense is this sentence in?

Frank and Tom went to the zoo.

John sang his favourite song.

He skips down the road.

The dog lapped at the water.

Simple Past Tense

Simple Past Tense

Simple Present Tense

Simple Past Tense