

The tense of a sentence is shown by its verb. For example: Past tense → He coughed.

Present tense → He is coughing.

Future tense → He will cough.

- Present tense has three forms:
- Timeless actions → Dogs make great pets.
 - Occurring now → Cooper is reading.
 - Occur regularly in the present → He trains for tennis every day.

Past tense refers to something that has already happened. e.g. We cooked dinner last night.



1 Decide whether these sentences are written in present or past tense. Write 'present' or 'past' next to each sentence.

- a Grizzly bears eat lots of fish. _____
- b We beat the Eagles yesterday. _____
- c My sister takes the bus to school. _____
- d My sister took the bus to school. _____
- e I went to the zoo with my mum. _____
- f You can keep a turtle as a pet. _____
- g The team is playing soccer. _____



2 Change the following sentences to past tense.

e.g. Chelsea is cooking lasagne for dinner. → Chelsea cooked lasagne for dinner.

- a I am running around the field. _____
- b Tim writes a comic strip. _____
- c The dog is barking loudly. _____
- d Jack is completing his homework. _____

3 Change the following sentences to present tense.

e.g. I wrote a letter to my friend Steven. → I am writing a letter to my friend Steven.

- a Corrine wore glittery shoes. _____
- b The horse galloped around the paddock. _____
- c The floor was incredibly slippery. _____

Future tense refers to something that has not happened yet.

There are several ways we can refer to something that will happen in the future.

e.g. I will visit Nonna tomorrow. OR I will be visiting Nonna tomorrow.

4 Complete the table.

	Past	Present	Future
a	called	is calling	will call
b		is borrowing	
c	watched		
d		is running	
e	built		

Type of Text: Report

Television report

A tsunami will form off the coast of Hawaii in the next few days. Scientists will conduct tests and issue warnings to those living on the island. Residents will be evacuated to higher ground if necessary.

Radio report

We are currently receiving warnings that we are under threat of a tsunami. If you live near the coast, pack your belongings and make your way to the highest peak of your town.

Newspaper report

Yesterday a mini tsunami occurred off the coast of Hawaii. Luckily no residents were hurt and little damage was caused by the wave. A warning was issued to residents early yesterday afternoon, which gave them enough time to be evacuated.



5 Shade the correct answer.

- a The television report used

past tense	present tense	future tense
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- b The radio report used

past tense	present tense	future tense
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- c The newspaper report used

past tense	present tense	future tense
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6 Change the following sentences to present tense.

e.g. Angus conducted a science experiment. → Angus is conducting a science experiment.

- a Tracey spoke to the class. _____
- b Angela Honey sang at assembly. _____
- c We watched a movie in class. _____
- d Tiffany cooked a delicious meal. _____
- e Fiona mailed a special parcel. _____

7 Write a sentence of your own in past, present and future tense.

- a Past: _____
- b Present: _____
- c Future: _____

8 Rewrite this paragraph in past tense.

Brett Thompson will play his 300th game of football against the Eagles next Saturday. His wife and children will attend the match. He will be signing autographs after the game.



Challenge Option

Create a series of reports similar to the Tsunami one at the top of the page. Use past, present and future tense.