

# Year 5 Past and Present Tense: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to past and present tense can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring different tenses together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child is creating new verbs out of adjectives and nouns by using suffixes, reading a wide variety of different text types and recognising the tenses that are used in each, or accurately using the variety of different present, past and future tenses that exist in the English language, you will find a step that matches where your child is at as well as some ideas for where to go next.

Within this area of the website, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

# Past and Present Tense

## What Is Past and Present Tense?

Past and present tense is all about time. The tense is determined by when an action is happening. If an action has already happened it is past tense, if it is happening now it is present tense and if it is about to happen it is future tense.

Verbs are doing words. They describe an action (what is happening). During year 5, your child will begin to explore different ways to change words from one type to another. They will explore how to change a noun or adjective into a verb, by adding different suffixes (-ate, -ise, -ify, -en). For example:

tight (noun) - tighten (verb)

pure (noun) - purify (verb)

The past progressive tense is used to describe an ongoing activity in the past. Often, it is used to set the scene for another action. For example:

He was sleeping peacefully, when the bird crashed into the window.

She was painting the door, when the phone rang.

The present progressive tense is used for an on-going action in the present. For example:

They are fishing in the river.

The train is arriving in two minutes.

The present perfect tense refers to actions or states that:

- occur at an indefinite time in the past and have a consequence in the present (e.g. We have talked before. Here, it is clear the talking happened in the past but not clear when or if it happened more than once and over a longer period of time. The talking is also impacting what is happening in the present);
- began in the past but continue into the present (e.g. He has grown impatient over the last few hours. Here, the growing impatience started in the past, but the person is still feeling impatient now).

As well as using the resources found in this category and the suggested keyword searches to help your child with exploring past and present tense, a few ideas for games and activities to help your child learn how to find out about past and present tense, in their spoken language, reading and writing, are outlined below.



### Verbing - Real or Fake?

Verbing is the process of turning a noun into a verb. Sometimes these words are actual, grammatically correct verbs (e.g. booking, beautify, drinking) but some aren't (e.g. pilling, apartmentalise, herbing). For example, someone may be hospitalised when they go to hospital, but when they move into an apartment, they aren't apartmentalised. Can your child think of as many real and fake verbing words? Can they record them and sort them into real and fake categories?

### Read, Read, Read!

One of the best ways to explore past and present tense is to read as many different text types as possible with your child. Through stories, diaries, information texts, instructions and recipes, your child will explore a variety of different tenses and see how authors use them in many ways. Can your child spot sentences and phrases that are written in different tense forms? Can they identify which tense they are written in and explain their reasons?

### Explore text types.

Look at an explanation text with your child. Can they spot the features within that make the text present tense? Compare this to a story. Can they spot the difference between the two text types and recognise what makes one past and the other present tense? Split a piece of paper in half, then record the features that make it past tense on one side and the features that make it present tense on the other.

### Changing tenses.

A great way for your child to practise using the correct verb tenses is to change one tense into another. Whether you use your child's favourite story, or the reading book they have brought home from school, you could try getting them to change the tense and rewrite a part of the story in the opposite tense. For example, if the story is past tense, can they rewrite it in present tense?



## Step 1

### Suffix -ate

Verbs are doing words. They describe an action and are altered in order to change the tense of the sentence. Your child will begin to explore how to use different suffixes to change nouns or adjectives into verbs. This includes adding -ate, -ise or -ify to the end of an adjective or noun. For example:

terror (noun) - terrify (verb)

advert (noun) - advertise (verb)

germ (noun) - germinate (verb)

You could try using this PowerPoint quiz to help your child practise this skill at home. Can they identify which suffix should be used to create a real verb?

## Reading Year 5

Over the course of year 5, your child will continue to read a wide range of different text types, including stories, poetry, diaries, instructions, explanations and debates. This is a great way for your child to explore the different tenses that are used in each style of writing and identify how authors use a range of different tenses, including past progressive and present perfect tense. Your child will identify the purpose of different forms of writing and explain why a certain tense matches this purpose. Comprehension packs can be a great way for your child to explore a variety of different styles of writing at home.

## Step 2

## Step 3

### Tenses

At this stage, your child will be familiar with most tense forms. They will have learnt about the different ways in which tenses are written and used and will now begin to focus on trying to use them in their own writing consistently and accurately. A nice place to start could be playing this dice game with your child to generate sentences and apply their knowledge of tenses. Here are some further examples of tenses that your child could explore and practise in more detail.

## Simple Past Tense

Simple past and present tenses are the more straightforward tenses your child will use, but it is always good to practise and ensure this knowledge is secure. Simple past tense describes an action that has already happened whereas simple present tense describes an action that is happening now. To revisit these tense forms, your child could have a try at identifying whether a sentence is past or present tense in this PowerPoint quiz.

## Step 3a

## Step 3b

### Past Progressive Tense

The past progressive tense is used to describe an ongoing activity in the past. Often, it is used to set the scene for another action. For example:

He was sleeping peacefully, when the bird crashed into the window.

She was painting the door, when the phone rang.

Your child could use display cards, posters and timelines to remind themselves of the meaning of different tenses. Can they think of some examples that match each type of progressive tense?



## Step 3c

### Present Perfect Tense

The present perfect tense refers to actions or states that either occur at an indefinite time in the past and have a consequence in the present, or began in the past but continue into the present. Can your child spot the differences between the simple past tense and past perfect tense in the text contained within this PowerPoint? Can they then create some examples of their own, using the information they have found?

# Explore and Discover More

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Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!