

Year 2 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 fiction and stories together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child is exploring the more complex spelling rules for past, present and future tense verbs and recognises irregular versions of verbs, or they are using past and present tense accurately within writing and can identify past and present progressive tense, 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.

irregular verbs past tense



Click here



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 However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date.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.

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). Your child will start to collect together a variety of different action words that they can use. They will act out different actions (e.g. jumping, running, dancing, skipping) and explore what verbs mean.

Changing the tense of a verb often involves changing the verb itself by adding -ed, -ing or changing the verb to an irregular form. These changes mean that your child will have to learn a series of different spelling rules and patterns. For example:

hike - hiked - hiking

pat - patted - patting

copy - copied - copying

Being able to recognise and use different tenses in sentences is a key skill your child will learn. They will also begin to decide if they want a sentence they're writing to be past or present tense and use the correct verb form to match this.

They will also start to use past and present progressive tense. The past progressive tense is used to describe an on-going 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 resources in this category and the keyword searches can be used to help your child learn about mathematical symbols. A few ideas for games and activities to help your child practise and become more familiar with each sign at home are also outlined below.

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 asking 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?

Irregular Spider Tenses

Create an irregular verb spider using **this spider template**. Build the spider, including legs. When the spider is constructed, add feet to the legs using sticky notes. Your child can write a different irregular past tense verb (ran, swam, thought) on each foot.

Sorting Tenses Target Game

Use four rings (or buckets) and a number of bean bags to create a target throwing game. In this, you can attach different sentences onto bean bags using sticky notes. Challenge your child to decide if the sentence is past, present, past progressive or present progressive tense before throwing the bean bag into the corresponding ring.

Spelling Correction

On **blank flashcards** write misspelt versions of verbs in different tenses. Can your child fix the errors? Can they decide how the verb should be spelt in that form? You could laminate the cards to make them easier to reuse and your child could even use a whiteboard pen to correct the spellings.



Step 1

Adding -ed Spelling Rules

As your child's knowledge of past and present tense verbs increases, they will learn a variety of different spelling rules for changing verb forms. They will learn to add -ed and -ing to verbs that end in 'y'. In this case, the 'y' is changed to an 'i' before adding 'ed' (for example, cried, copied). This isn't the case when adding 'ing' because this would result in 'ii' (this only happens with skiing and taxiing). When adding -ing, your child will just add the suffix (for example, copying, crying). This suffix fortune teller can be a good way to explore these new spelling patterns.



Adding -ed and -ing

Being able to accurately change the verb tense forms is an important spelling skill for your child to learn. When adding -ed or -ing to a verb ending in 'e', your child needs to remove the 'e' first. For example:

hike - hiking - hiked

joke - joking - joked

tape - taping - taped

An exception to this rule is the verb 'be', which becomes 'being', not 'bing'. Spelling rule worksheets are a great way to practise these spelling patterns and rules with your child.

Step 2

Step 3

Adding -ing Spelling Rules

The tense of a verb can change the way that it is spelt. When adding -ed and -ing to verbs, there are a number of different rules that affect how the verbs are spelt in their different forms. When adding -ed or -ing to a verb that has one syllable and ends in a single consonant after a vowel, your child will need to double the consonant before adding the 'ed' or 'ing'. For example:

pat - patted - patting

drop - dropped - dropping

hum - hummed - humming

The only letter where this doesn't happen is the letter 'x' - this is never doubled. For example, mix - mixed - mixing. Playing this game together can be an interactive way for your child to practise different spelling rules at home.



Irregular Verbs Past Tense

Some verbs have irregular past tense versions (the verb changes totally, rather than just adding a suffix like -ed or -ing). Your child will learn to identify these irregular past tense verbs and identify when to use them in sentences. For example:

run - ran

swim - swam

creep - crept

You could try using these display posters as a visual reminder of these types of verbs for your child.

Step 4

Step 5

Past and Present Tense

After your child has become familiar with present and past tense verbs, including how to spell them and when to use irregular ones, they will begin using them in their own writing, becoming more and more accurate with choosing the correct tense. They will begin to plan if their sentences will be past or present tense, then make consistent choices about which types of verbs to use. Doing activities that ask your child to decide if a sentence is past, present or future tense, is a great way to practise spotting and choosing the correct verb form.

Past Progressive Tense

Progressive tense is all about spotting actions that happen over time and for a longer period of time. Past progressive is used to describe an activity that is ongoing in the past, whereas present progressive is used to describe an ongoing activity that is happening in the present. Your child will learn to identify and use these different forms of past and present tense. For example:

She is drumming. (The drumming is happening now, but is continuing to happen = present progressive tense.)

He was shouting. (The shouting happened in the past and it lasted for a length of time = past progressive tense.)

This activity booklet gives your child to opportunity to use the past and progressive tense in their own writing.

Step 6



Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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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!