

Present Tense

Present tense verbs tell us what is happening now. All children make errors using verb tenses when they are younger. Some children need extra help to get it right.

Understanding

- Your child will first need to understand how present tense endings work. Explain to your child that when something is happening now, we usually put an 'ing' on the end. e.g. 'the man is climbing the ladder'.
- Talk about what is happening around you in everyday situations. For example on the way to school: 'look the man is walking the dog.'
- Give your child lots of praise when they remember to use the present tense e.g. 'that's right the lady is talking on her phone.'

Practising present tense

- Use a picture / jigsaw / picture book to talk about what is happening. Use a few sentences first to give your child examples, e.g. 'the boy is eating an ice cream', 'the girls are walking in the park.'
- Use action pictures from magazines, newspapers or catalogues. You can use them to play pairs, snap or lotto games. Make sure you say the word every time you or your child put down or pick up a card, e.g. 'the girl is eating.'
- Skittles: Place a picture under each skittle. Take turns to roll the ball and knock the skittles down. You and your child say what is happening in the pictures under each skittle that is knocked down.
- Bean bag game: Lay the pictures face down, on the floor. Take turns to throw a beanbag onto the pictures. Talk about the picture you land on. e.g. this man is waving.
- Put the pictures in a pile and play any board game. Take turns to turn over a card and make a sentence, e.g. 'the cows are walking.' When you use the correct verb ending you roll the dice and take a turn on the board game.
- Download and play the 'grammar board game' from this website.



Self Correction

When your child becomes more familiar with using present tense verbs:

- Give your child choices 'Do you mean she is run or she is running?'
- Encourage your child to monitor and self correct 'He is jumped, does that sound right?'



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