

# Securing Sentence Composition

## Oral composition

### 2c. Choose and sustain the appropriate tense.

Commissioned by The PiXL Club Ltd.  
October 2018

This resource is strictly for the use of member schools for as long as they remain members of The PiXL Club. It may not be copied, sold nor transferred to a third party or used by the school after membership ceases. Until such time it may be freely used within the member school.

All opinions and contributions are those of the authors. The contents of this resource are not connected with nor endorsed by any other company, organisation or institution.

PiXL Club Ltd endeavour to trace and contact copyright owners. If there are any inadvertent omissions or errors in the acknowledgements or usage, this is unintended and PiXL will remedy these on written notification

# What is tense?

Tense tells us when something happens. If it has already happened, we call it past tense. If it is happening now, we call it present tense. If it is going to happen, we call it future tense.

Quick-fire GPS recall

## Tenses

**Past:** for actions that **were completed** in the past

Usually uses verbs with the 'ed' suffix.

**Change to past tense:**

He **walked** down the road.

Quick-fire GPS recall

## Tenses

**Present:** For something that is **happening now** or generally happens **frequently** or **regularly**. Can describe **habits** or something that is **generally true**.

**Change to present tense:**

He **walks** down the road.

Quick-fire GPS recall

## Tenses

**Future:** for actions that will **happen** in the future

Uses 'will' and the **verb**.

**Change to future tense:**

He **will walk** down the road.

# Appropriate tense

Read this sentence:

I like to sing and danced because I enjoy it.

Did you work out why it sounded funny?

The problem is I used both the past and present tense in the sentence. Let's change it so all verbs are present tense. Does it sound right now?

I like to sing and dance because I enjoy it.



When we speak, it is important to make sure we use and sustain the appropriate tense.

# Appropriate tense

Using and sustaining the appropriate tense means using the same tense for every verb in each sentence that you say related to one chunk of speech.

If you are writing something that is happening now, then all your verbs should be in the present tense.

If you are writing about something that has already happened, then all your verbs should be in the past tense.

If you are writing about something that is yet to happen, then all your verbs should be in the future tense.

# Practise

Compose a sentence and say a sentence about each one of these topics.

1. Describe your best day out.
2. Share something you will do during your next holiday.
3. Describe something that is happening in class.

Pay careful attention to the tense you use for each topic.

# Practise game

Working with a partner and using a funfair as inspiration, tell them about:

- a visit you have already done
- what you would do if you go
- describe what you are doing if you are there now



You need to make sure you use and sustain the appropriate tense. Your partner will need to work out which option you choose to talk about by recognising the tense you have used. Perhaps, they can write down the verbs as you are speaking. Then, review them together to ensure the appropriate tense has been sustained.