

The communication Stop

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Learning Language

Understanding and using tenses in Sentences

(present, past, future)

Sentence Production – Tenses

Understanding present tense

I start by talking to the children about what is happening right now

e.g. you are listening to me and I am talking

you are sitting on the floor and looking at me

I then explain that sometimes we talk about the things that are happening now. Here are some sentences that talk about what is happening now. I will put 'ing' on the end of the action word to show that these things are happening now.

The girl is walking to school

The boy is reading his book

The lady is walking her dog

Dad is cooking the dinner

The children are listening to their teacher

Mum is reading a story to her children

Let's try to think of some more sentences about things that are happening now

The dog is.....

The boy is.....

The girl is...

The children are....

The teacher is....

Dad is....

Mum is....

The cat is...

The bird is...

Understanding past tense

I start by saying that sometimes we talk about things that have happened but are not happening anymore. They are finished. I then talk about the things they did that morning before they saw me.

e.g. what was the first thing you remember you did this morning.

You got out of bed, good. What else. You washed you face and got dressed

This morning you washed your face before you got dressed. You are not doing that now, you did that this morning.

What else did you do today before you came to school.

You ate your breakfast and brushed your teeth. Then you walked to school.

Lots of the words we use to show the things we do, need 'ed' put on the end to show they have happened but are not happening now. Let me show you

- e.g. The girl brushed her hair
 The boy played football with his sister
 The dog barked at the cat
 The cat meowed at the dog
 The lady walked around the park
 The man talked on the phone to his friend
 The children listened to their teacher

All these sentences show things that have happened but are not happening any more. See if you can come up with some ideas.

The girl...

The boy...

The children...

The teacher..

Mum...

Dad...

Understanding Future Tense

Sometimes we talk about the things that have not happened yet but will happen later today or tomorrow or next week. Can you think about the things you will do after school today?

You will walk home from school, you will eat your tea, you will watch tv, you will read, you will go to bed. These things have not happened yet but will happen before you go to bed.

Here are some examples to show you what I mean.

e.g. The boy will eat his lunch at 12.30

The girl will go swimming after school

Mum will pick up her children after school

Dad will finish work at 5.00pm

The children will go to the computer lab after their numeracy lesson

The PE instructor will blow the whistle when their time is up

The children will hand in their work when it is finished

We will go camping at the weekend.

Now see if you can think of any sentences about things that will happen later or tomorrow

The boy will...

The girl will...

The teacher will...

The lady will...

The man will...

The children will...

The dog will...

The cat will...

Tense Matching

Now that you know a bit more about if things are happening now, have already happened or will happen but have not happened yet, lets see if you can work out when these sentences are happening and say 'now, past or future' once you think you have worked it out.

The children are watching tv

The boy walked to the park with his mum

The girl will go to dance class after school

I listened to my favourite song this morning and danced around my room

I talked to my friend on the phone this morning and planned our day for the weekend

I am walking in the park and looking for squirrels

Mum will finish the washing up after she has read me a bedtime story

Dad finished the hoovering before he took me to the shop

Now see if you can answer these questions. Remember to think about when things are happening so you can answer correctly.

What happened when you walked to school this morning?

Where will you go after school today?

What sticker will you choose today after you have worked with Kathy

What will you have for lunch today?

What are you doing?

The girl is talking to her friend, what do you think she could be saying?

The teacher is clapping her hands, why do you think she is doing that?

The lady is smiling, why do you think she is smiling?

The man is laughing why do you think he is laughing?

What did you do after school yesterday?

What plans do you have for this weekend?