

Past and present
tense

What do we mean by the past and present tense?

- We have already learnt that a verb is a doing word.
- All sentences have a verb.
- The tense of the verb in a sentence tells you when something happens.

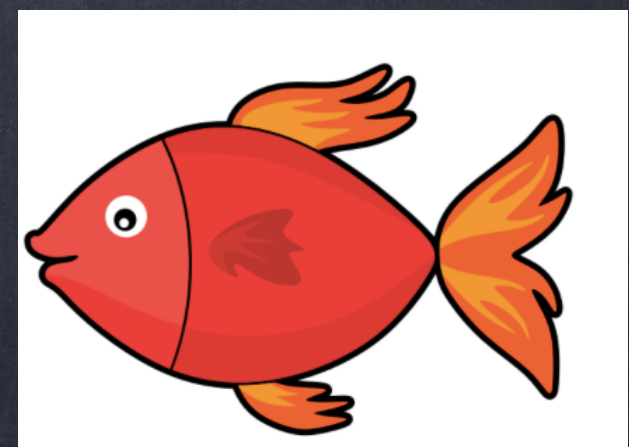
Present tense: something that is happening now.

Past tense: something that has happened.

The present tense

The present tense is about something that is happening now.

- The fish **swims** quickly
- The seaweed **moves** gently with the waves.



The present tense

Sometimes you use the present tense
like this:

- The shark is **swimming**.
- The fish are **feeding** around the coral reef.



The past tense

The past tense is about something that has already happened.

To change most verbs to the past tense, add 'ed' (but not always).

- Olivia **called** for you earlier but you weren't at home.
- It **rained** yesterday.
- Last night I **played** my guitar loudly and my mum complained.



The past tense

You sometimes also use the past tense

like this:

- The ray **was moving** quickly through the water. The sea lions **were playing** around the rocks.



You will use the verb 'to be' a lot. This is how it changes in the present tense and the past tense:

Present	I am	He is	She is	We are	You are	They are
Past	I was	He was	She was	We were	You were	They were

You will also use the verb 'to go' a lot. This is how it changes:

Present	I go	He goes	She goes	We go	You go	They go
Past	I went	He went	She went	We went	You went	They went

Questions

1. Which tense are these verbs?

swims, floats, paddles

2. Which tense are these verbs?

Floated and paddled

3. Change these to the past tense

- I am
- They are going
- May is watching

4. Finish this sentence.

Yesterday they _____ sailing.