

Tuesday 23rd January

Writing in the Past Tense

This lesson is about **verbs**, so let's start by making sure we know what a verb is! This page on the BBC website has a short video and an activity you can do to remind yourself:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zrqqtftr/articles/zpxhdxs>

Verbs are interesting words, because they change slightly depending on how they are used in the sentence. Look at this example with the verb 'fly'.

Today we are going to focus on using the **past tense**. We might use the past tense if we are writing a diary or a historical recount. Lots of stories are written in the past tense too.

Often when verbs are put into the past tense, we add -ed to the word like this:

jump + ed = jumped

Not all verbs work like this though - the past tense of 'fly' is 'flew' for example.



Task 1: Here are some sentences saying what I did this morning. Two are true and one is a lie (maybe you can guess which one!) Can you find the **five past tense verbs** in these sentences? Highlight or underline them.

I climbed out of bed and brushed my teeth.

I fed my pet dragon.

Then I poured a cup of tea and ate my breakfast.

Task 2: Now write your own three sentences (two truths, one lie) about what you have done today. Remember to highlight or underline the past tense verbs.

There is another way to make past tense verbs, and that is by using 'was' or 'were' with the '-ing' form of the verb, like this:

The books **were flying** around the room.

We might use this to show that something happened at a particular time in the past - often at the same time as something else. We call this the 'past progressive tense' because it shows that something was 'in progress'. Can you spot where I have used the past progressive tense below?

While I was drinking my tea, my pet dragon flew out of the window.

Optional challenge task: Write down two things you did at the same time this morning (they can be true or a lie!) Use the past progressive tense ('I was ---ing') like my example above.

