

The tense of a sentence is shown by its verb.

For example: He jumped. (past) He jumps. (present) He will jump. (future)

Present tense is usually used to talk about actions that:

\* occur regularly in the present. E.g. He watches TV everyday.

\* represent 'timeless' actions. E.g. Tom reads history books.

Past tense refers to something that has already happened. E.g. He watched TV yesterday.



Present tense	Past tense
Monkeys eat bananas. Amanda walks to school. Jack jumps over the hurdle.	The monkeys ate bananas. Amanda walked to school. Jack jumped over the hurdle.

**1. Write 'past' or 'present' next to each sentence.**

a Princess Diana died in 1997, aged 36. \_\_\_\_\_

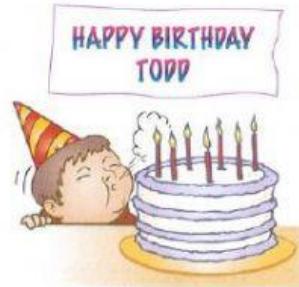
b Dogs bark at cars. \_\_\_\_\_

c Rachel washes her hair every day. \_\_\_\_\_

d It was Todd's birthday yesterday. \_\_\_\_\_

e Blue whales eat plankton. \_\_\_\_\_

f Dynamite was invented by Alfred Nobel. \_\_\_\_\_



**2. Change the following sentence to past tense.**

E.g. John drinks a milkshake. John drank a milkshake.

a I walk to the mall. \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Change the following sentences to present tense.**

E.g. The dancers danced beautifully. The dancers dance beautifully.

a The dog ate his food. \_\_\_\_\_

b The mall was full of people. \_\_\_\_\_

Future tense refers to something that has not happened yet.

E.g. She will call you. I am going to the movies tomorrow. On Monday I will leave.

**4. Shade the correct word to turn each of these sentences into future tense.**

a Tomorrow / Yesterday I am leaving for a holiday.

b Alicia will call / called me today.

c Tomorrow, I am gone / going to watch my team.

d I have / had soccer training tomorrow tonight.



## Past, Present and Future Sentences

### Text Type: Description

## Cyclones



a Past: The cyclone formed from normal storms.  
Present: Cyclones form from normal storms.  
Future: Cyclones will form from normal storms.

b Past: Hot air rose from the ocean, and this made the storms bigger.  
Present: Hot air rises from the ocean, and this makes the storms bigger.  
Future: Hot air will rise from the ocean, and this will make the storms bigger.

c Past: The cyclone's winds were at least 119km per hour.  
Present: Cyclone winds are at least 119km per hour.  
Future: The cyclone's winds will be at least 119km per hour.

d Past: The cyclone was given a person's name. This identified it.  
Present: A cyclone is given a person's name. This identifies it.  
Future: The cyclone will be given a person's name. This will identify it.

### 5. Look at the text above to help you complete the following table.

	<i>Past</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Future</i>
a	formed		will form
b	rose	rises/rise	
c		are	will be
d	was	is	

### 6. Change these sentences to the suggested tense. Use the text to help you.

a Past: Cyclones formed from normal storms.

Future: \_\_\_\_\_

b Present: Cyclone winds are at least 119km per hour.

Past : \_\_\_\_\_

c Future: The cyclone will be given a person's name.

Present: \_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Write a sentence of your own in past, present and future tense.

a <b>past</b>	
b <b>present</b>	
c <b>future</b>	