

SPAG Activities – Tenses

Revision links:

Past, present and future tenses:

Perfect tenses:

Progressive tenses:

Warming up*

Copy these sentences. The verbs are all in the present tense. Underline each verb and write out the sentence again in the **past tense**. The 1st one has been done for you.

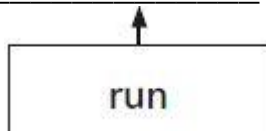
- 1) Peter is drying his face. Peter dried his face.
- 2) Sowmiya is reading a comic.
- 3) Joshua is playing a guitar.
- 4) Nurin is painting a picture.
- 5) Subinah is combing her hair.
- 6) Chad is watching television.
- 7) Shah is kicking a ball.
- 8) Kirsty is dressing her doll.
- 9) Miza is climbing a tree.
- 10) Mr. Din is having a cup of coffee.

Feeling confident**

Q1.

Rewrite the verb in the box to complete the sentence in the correct **tense**.

Emily _____ to school and met Li at the gate.



1 mark

Q2.

Write one **verb** to complete the sentence below.

Fred is _____ to the teacher.

1 mark

Q3.

Tick to show whether each sentence is in the **past tense** or the **present tense**.

Sentence	Past tense	Present tense
Samir enjoys cooking.		
Eva laughed at the joke.		
Poppy caught the ball.		

1 mark

Q4.

The sentence below should all be in the **past tense**.

Circle **one** word that needs to be changed.

The swimming pool was closed so Ted plays in the park.

1 mark

Q5.

Tick the sentence that shows what the teacher is doing now.

Tick **one**.

The teacher wrote on the board.

☐

The teacher is looking at the paintings.

☐

The teacher asked the class to tidy up.

☐

The teacher was reading a story.

☐

1 mark

Q6.

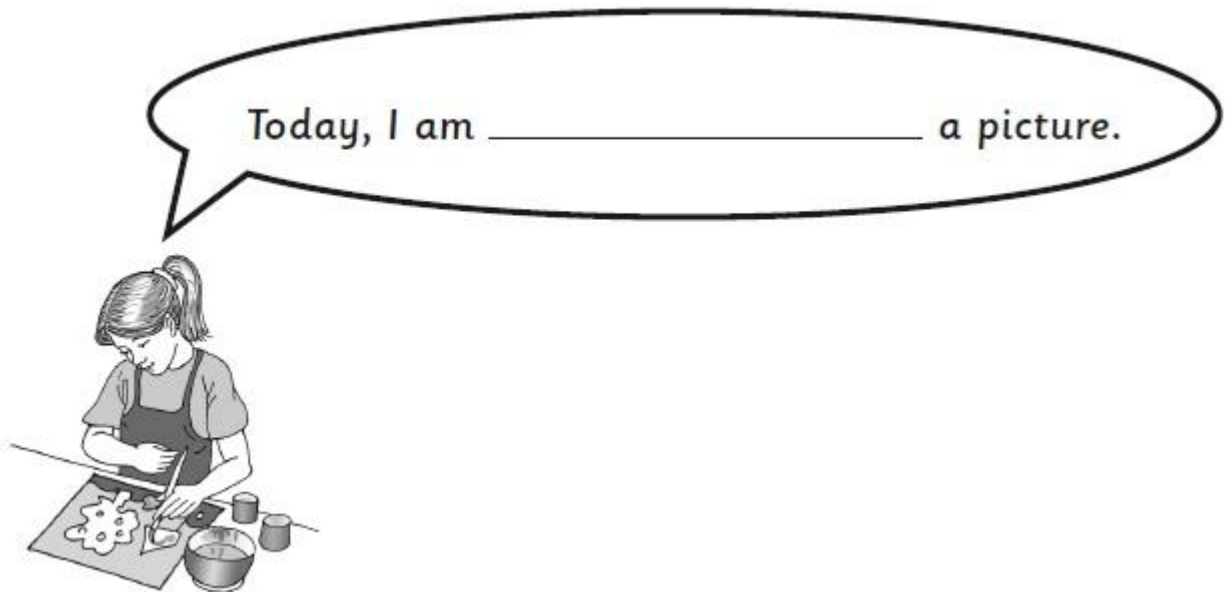
Circle the word that shows the sentence below is in the **present tense**.

The drink is very hot.

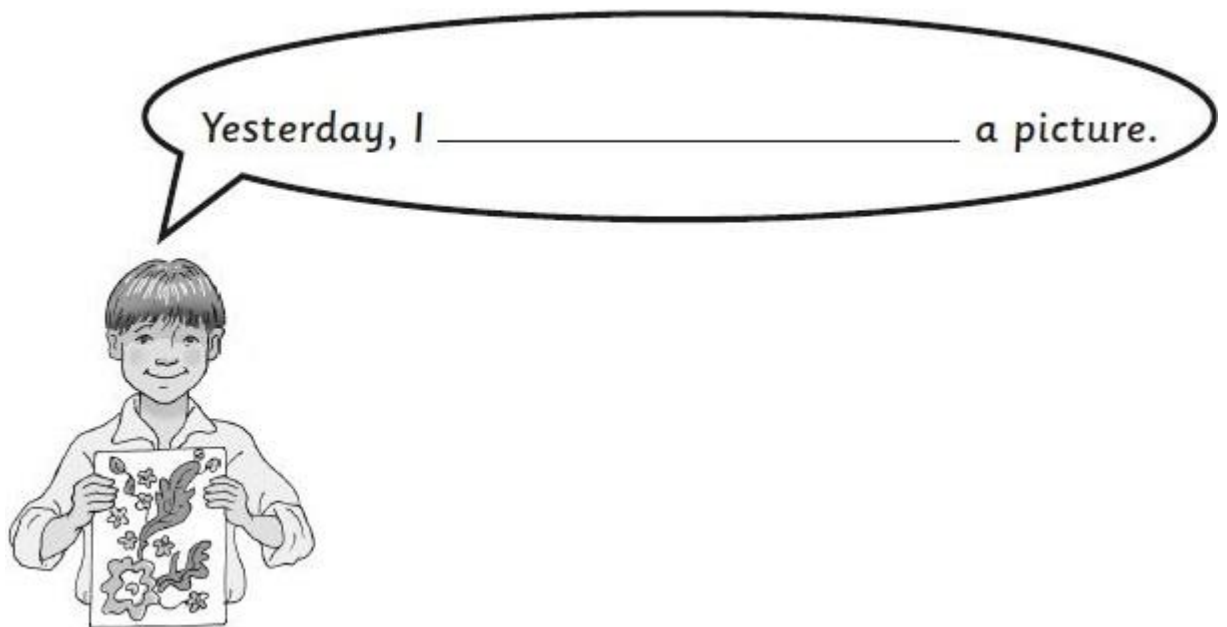
1 mark

Q7.

Write **one** verb to complete what each child is saying.



1 mark



1 mark

Q8.

Which sentence is written in the **present tense**?

Tick **one**.

Mum took Ella breakfast in bed.

☐

Mum makes Ella a hot drink.

☐

Mum gave Ella a book.

☐

Mum told Ella a story.

☐

1 mark

Q9.

Write one word on the line below to complete the sentence in the **past tense**.

I _____ to Scotland during the school holidays.

Q10.

Circle the correct verbs so that the sentence is in the **past tense**.

The sun

is	was
----	-----

 shining and Mia

played	plays
--------	-------

in the garden.

1 mark

Q11.

Tick to show whether each sentence is written in the **past tense** or the present tense.

Sentence	Past tense	Present tense
Aziz gave out the paint pots.		
Aziz spills water on the table.		
Aziz needed some glue.		

1 mark

Q12.

Which sentence uses **tense** correctly?

Tick **one**.

- We sat and ate our lunch once we had found a sunny picnic spot. ☐
- Once we find a sunny picnic spot, we sat and ate our lunch. ☐
- Once we had found a sunny picnic spot, we sit and eat our lunch. ☐
- We sat and eat our lunch once we had found a sunny picnic spot. ☐

1 mark

Q13. Which sentence is closest in meaning to the one below?

My dad has had this bike for two years.

Tick **one**.

My dad no longer has this bike.

☐

My dad is having this bike for his birthday.

☐

My dad has this bike now.

☐

My dad will have a bike in two years' time.

☐

1 mark

Q14. Rewrite the underlined verbs in the **simple past** tense.

During the winter months, the sun does not appear high in



the sky and the days are much shorter than the nights.



1 mark

Q15. Complete the sentence below with the **simple past tense** of the verbs in the boxes.

I _____ netball last weekend, but I only

↑
to play

↑
to know

where the match _____ the day before.

↑
to be

Challenge*****Q1.**

Rewrite the underlined verb in the sentence below so it is in the **present progressive**.

I taught my sister to skateboard.



1 mark

Q2.

Rewrite the underlined verbs in the sentence below so that they are in the **present progressive** form.

Jim learns French at school.



He plans to ski in the Alps in the spring.



1 mark

Q3.

Tick one box in each row to show if the sentence is in the **present progressive** or the **past progressive**.

Sentence	Present progressive	Past progressive
Joey was playing football in the park after school.		
Joey's football skills are improving all the time.		
Joey is hoping to be a professional footballer.		

1 mark

Q4.

Tick to show which sentence uses the **past progressive**.

Tick **one**.

After Ali finished his homework, he went out to play.

☐

Gemma was doing her science homework.

☐

Jamie learnt his spellings every night.

☐

Anna found her history homework difficult.

☐

1 mark

Q5.

Which sentence uses the **present perfect form**?

Tick **one**.

Jo went shopping on Saturday and she bought a whole new outfit.

☐

The girl entered at the last minute and won the race!

☐

My sister was a reserve, but she scored the winning goal.

☐

My dog was very naughty, but since the classes he has been much better.

☐

1 mark

Q6.

Underline the **verb form** that is in the **present perfect** in the passage below.

Rachel loves music and has wanted to learn how to play the piano for years. She was hoping for piano lessons, and was delighted when her parents gave her a keyboard for her birthday.

mark

Answers

Warming up*

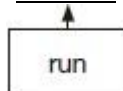
- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
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| 3) Joshua is playing a guitar. | Joshua played a guitar. |
| 4) Nurin is painting a picture. | Nurin painted a picture. |
| 5) Subinah is combing her hair. | Subinah combed her hair. |
| 6) Chad is watching television. | Chad watched television. |
| 7) Shah is kicking a ball. | Shah kicked a ball. |
| 8) Kirsty is dressing her doll. | Kirsty dressed her doll. |
| 9) Miza is climbing a tree. | Miza climbed a tree. |
| 10) Mr. Din is having a cup of coffee. | Mr. Din had a cup of coffee. |

Feeling confident **

Q1.

Award 1 mark for the correct verb inserted.

Emily ran to school and met Li at the gate.



Do not accept misspellings of the verb.

1 mark

Q2.

Award 1 mark for a plausible present participle written in lower case, e.g.

- Fred is talking to the teacher.
- Fred is listening to the teacher.
- Fred is running to the teacher.

Also award 1 mark for a plausible past participle written in lower case, e.g.

- Fred is taken to the teacher.
- Fred is sent to the teacher.

Also award 1 mark for a plausible phrasal verb written in lower case, e.g.

- Fred is showing off to the teacher.

Do not accept misspellings of the verb.

Do not accept another word class written, e.g.

- Fred is next to the teacher.
- Fred is polite to the teacher.

Additional guidance:

- Markers are encouraged to credit imaginative interpretations of the prompt, e.g.
Fred is flying to the teacher.

1 mark

Q3.

Award 1 mark for all **three** correct.

Sentence	Past tense	Present tense
Samir enjoys cooking.		✓
Eva laughed at the joke.	✓	
Poppy caught the ball.	✓	

1 mark

Q4.

Award 1 mark for the correct word identified.

The swimming pool was closed so Ted plays in the park.

1 mark

Q5.

Award 1 mark for the correct box ticked.

The teacher is looking at the paintings. ☒

1 mark

Q6.

Award 1 mark for the correct word identified.

The drink is very hot.

1 mark

Q7.

Award 1 mark for one plausible verb that forms the present progressive, e.g.

- drawing
- *painting*
- *making*
- *doing*

1 mark

Award 1 mark for one plausible simple past tense verb, e.g.

- *drew*
- *made*
- *painted*
- *held*
- *took*
- *did*

Do not accept:

- *done*

Additional guidance:

- Responses must be spelt correctly.

1 mark

Q8.

Award 1 mark for the correct box ticked.

Mum makes Ella a hot drink. ☒

1 mark

Q9.

Award 1 mark for:

- went

Q10.

Award 1 mark for both verbs identified.

The sun is was shining and Mia played plays in the garden.

1 mark

Q11.

Award 1 mark for all **three** correct.

Sentence	Past tense	Present tense
Aziz gave out the paint pots.	✓	
Aziz spills water on the table.		✓
Aziz needed some glue.	✓	

1 mark

Q12.

Award 1 mark for the correct box ticked.

We sat and ate our lunch once we had found a sunny picnic spot. ☒

1 mark

Q13.

Award 1 mark for the correct box ticked.

My dad has this bike now. ☒

1 mark

Q14.

Award 1 mark for both correct.

During the winter months, the sun does not appear high in

↓
did

the sky and the days are much shorter than the nights.

↓
were

Do not accept misspellings of verb forms.

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Q15.

Award 1 mark for all three correct.

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to play

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to be

Do not accept misspellings of verb forms.

1 mark

Challenge ***

Q1.

Award 1 mark for

I taught my sister to skateboard.

↓
am teaching

Do not accept misspellings of verb forms.

1 mark

Q2.

Award 1 mark for both correct.

Jim learns French at school. He plans to ski in the Alps in the spring.

↓
is learning

↓
is planning

1 mark

Q3.

Award 1 mark for a correctly completed table.

Sentence	Present progressive	Past progressive
Joey was playing football in the park after school.		✓
Joey's football skills are improving all the time.	✓	
Joey is hoping to be a professional footballer.	✓	

1 mark

Q4.

Gemma was doing her science homework.

☐☒☐☐

1 mark

Q5.

My dog was very naughty, but since the classes he has been much better.

☐☐☐☒

1 mark

Q6.

Award 1 mark for the correct words underlined.

Rachel loves music... has wanted ... for her birthday.