macmillan education

Simple Tenses
Past and Present and Future



Talking about the Past



Wilma: Do you remember how we played on the school field last year?

Kavita: Yes, we had great fun. We ran and skipped and hopped.

Faizal: Last year all of us even flew kites on the school grounds.

Wilma: Hide and seek was my favourite game!

Ali: And I liked to watch the others as they played football.

Simple Past Tense

- Wilma, Faizal, Kavita and Ali were all talking about the time before the present.
- They were talking about the past.
- All the verbs in their sentences are in the simple past tense.
- The verbs in the simple past tense are: played, had, ran, skipped, hopped, flew, was, liked



Talking about the Present

Ali: Now that we **are** in Class 3, we get to **play** football with everyone!

Wilma: Yes, I **know**. Some groups **walk** around the field and **talk** about things during the break.

Faizal: I still **like** to fly kites once every year in school.

Kavita: We **have** so many new games to play in school now. Ali **plays** cricket matches after school.



Simple Present Tense

Wilma, Faizal, Kavita and Ali are all talking about the present when they are in class 3.

All the verbs in their sentences are in the simple **present** tense.

The verbs in the simple **present** tense are:

are, play, watch, know, walk, talk, like, have, plays

I, you, we, they	play , watch, know, walk, talk, like
he, she, it	plays , watches, knows, walks, talks, likes

Talking about the Future



Faizal: Next year, we **will be** in Class 4.

Wilma: Hopefully, I **shall be** in the school basketball team!

Kavita: **Will** you **stay** for practice every day after school next term?

Faizal: Yes, I **will**.

Ali: All of us **will** also **dance** at the annual function.

All: Yes! We **will join** in sports too.

Simple Future Tense

- Wilma, Faizal, Kavita and Ali are all talking about the **future** when they will be in Class 4.
- All the verbs in their sentences are in the simple **future** tense.
- The verbs in the simple **future** tense are:

  will be*, *shall be*, *shall stay*, *will participate*, *will join

- These are words that give an idea of the future.
- They express a promise or a plan.
- They are usually used with the verb ‘be’.



It’s Your Turn To Try!

Fill in the blanks with the present, past or future tense of the verbs in brackets.

1. My friends _____ (have) a party last Sunday.
2. The farmers _____ (plough) their fields.
3. You _____ (get) good results soon.
4. The sun _____ (rise) tomorrow morning.
5. _____ (be) you coming to the market now?
6. They _____ (swim) in the sea all day.
7. He _____ (go) to sleep by 9 pm every night.
8. It _____ (have) not rained for a week.

