

Present and past tense

Action or doing words (verbs) tell us when something is happening (in the present), or has happened (in the past). For example:

Present tense

Lerato **drinks** juice.

Lerato **is drinking** juice.

The action is happening **now**.



Past tense

Lerato **drank** juice.

Lerato **was drinking** juice.

The action has happened in the **past**.



- 1** Present tense is about what is happening now. Circle and use the correct answer from the words on the right. Example: The dog **barks**. The dog **is barking**. The dogs **bark**. The dogs **are barking**. The first one has been done for you.

Blow out the candles and make a wish.

Blow

Blew

We _____ our ice-cream and chocolate sauce.

is
eating

are
eating

The lions _____ loudly in the bush.

roars

roar

- 2** Past tense is about what has happened.

Example: The dog **barked**. The dogs **barked**.

Sipho _____ the ball into the goal.

kicked

kicks

Lerato _____ out of bed at 6.30 AM.

jumps

jumped

The balloons _____ when they touched the grass.

pops

popped

3 Circle the tense of each sentence. The first one has been done for you.

Lerato came first in the race at school.	present	past
I am sitting still and listening to my teacher speaking.	present	past
Everyone laughed loudly when they saw the clown's tricks.	present	past
Amina is making cheese and tomato sandwiches for lunch.	present	past

4 Read the sentences and then write down whether they are past or present tense.

Mr. James drives the truck.	present	
The truck had a flat tyre.		
I bit the big red apple.		
The apple is so juicy.		
Kit watches television.		
He loves cartoons.		



Before starting any lesson on tenses, remind learners what action words (verbs) are.

Explain that it is the verb (action) words that are affected when changing tenses.

CAPS
Grade 2 Term 2

Reading and Phonics

Uses present and past tenses correctly.