

Grammar

Booster 4: Present tense

Key learning

The tense of a verb tells you when the action happened. For example:

- Something happened in the **past**.
- Something is happening or happens in the **present**.
- Something is going to happen in the **future**.

Before you start writing, think, is the event happening now, has it already happened or will it happen in the future? The present tense is used for an event or action that is happening now or will remain the same for a long time.

Worked example:

The text below is written in the past tense. Rewrite it in the present tense.

Sohail was walking to college. He heard a lot of yelling. He looked round and saw a dog running away from its owner. A lot of people were chasing it! They could not catch it though.

Answer:

Sohail **is** walking to college. He **hears** a lot of yelling. He **looks** round and **sees** a dog **is running** away from its owner. A lot of people **are** chasing it! They **cannot** catch it though.

Seven verbs change form when the action takes place. It now takes place in the present, not the past.

Your turn:

Now write **four** to **six** sentences about your current job, a course you are taking or a hobby that you regularly undertake. You should:

- say where you work/study/do the hobby
- explain what it is you do
- say what you like or dislike about your job/course/hobby
- say what days you go to work/study/take part in your hobby
- explain what you like or dislike about the company/college/club etc.

Make sure you write in the present tense.