Present Tense Verbs

1. Focus

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:

• Identify present tense verbs.
• Brainstorm present tense verbs.
• Use present tense verbs in sentences.

Preparation

Materials Needed

• Chart paper and markers
• Present Tense Verbs (BLM 3)
• Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation

If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling text and the Present Tense Verbs anchor chart onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson.

Explain Present Tense Verbs

Say: Verbs are action words. When I talk or write about actions that are happening now, I use the present tense. If I say “sit down,” that means sit down right now. Sit is a present tense verb. Today we’ll look at some other present tense verbs.

Model Using Present Tense Verbs

Say: I’m going to show you some sentences from “How to Wash a Dog” that use present tense verbs.

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources, and read it aloud to students.

Modeling Text

Say: I notice that each step in these directions begins with a present tense verb. I’ll underline each verb as I find it. The first step says, “Get the water at the right temperature.” The word get is a present tense verb. It tells me what to do with the water. Because get is in the present tense, I know that I need to get the water now. The second step begins with “Brush your dog.” Brush is a present tense verb and it tells me that I need to brush my dog now. There is another present tense verb in this same sentence. The verb put tells me that now I put the dog in the tub. The third step contains two present tense verbs: put and rub. The verb put tells me to put the shampoo on the dog. The verb rub tells me that I rub the shampoo over the dog now. Procedural texts use present tense verbs to tell readers that they should do the steps now, one right after the other.

Record the present tense verbs on an anchor chart.

Sample Present Tense Verbs Anchor Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Tense Verbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>get</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>help</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Rehearse

Practice Using Present Tense Verbs

Say: Let’s think of a few more present tense verbs that we can add to the anchor chart. Then we will use some of the words in sentences.

Work with students to add other present tense verbs to the anchor chart. Then invite students to work with a partner to choose a present tense verb and use it in a sentence.

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

Share Sentences with Present Tense Verbs

Invite pairs to share their sentences with the class. Make note of student pairs who struggle with this activity. Use this information to plan further instruction.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: Present tense verbs tell us about an action that is happening now. When we write procedural texts, we usually use present tense verbs. The present tense verbs tell us what to do in each step.

If you would like to give students additional practice recognizing and using present tense verbs, have them complete BLM 3.

4. Share

Bring students together. Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 3. Ask students to share what they learned about using present tense verbs.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning
Help beginning ELs understand present tense verbs by dramatizing several actions. Point to each present tense verb in the modeling text, and then act out the corresponding sentence. Repeat the sentence and then ask students to dramatize the action with you.

Intermediate and Advanced
Pair ELs with fluent English speakers to develop sentences. Make sure students understand the meaning of each word before they begin the activity.