1. Focus

Explain Present Tense Verbs

Say: Verbs are action words that tell what the subject in a sentence does, what it is, or what happens to it. Present tense verbs tell what is happening right now or what should be done right now. When I say, “Get your reading books out,” I want you to get your books out right now. We use present tense verbs when writing a procedural text so that the reader knows what to do step by step. For example, the steps in putting on your socks and shoes include: “Get your shoes and socks,” “Put your socks on,” “Put your shoes on.” Each of these steps starts with a present tense verb.

Model Using Present Tense Verbs

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

| Step 1: Put the dirty dishes by the sink. |
| Step 2: Plug the sink drain. |
| Step 3: Run some hot water. |
| Step 4: Add some dish soap. |

Modeling Text

Say: I’m going to share with you part of a procedure that I wrote. The title of this procedure is “How to Wash Dishes.” When I write a procedural text, I begin each step or sentence with a present tense verb. The first sentence uses the present tense verb put. The reader knows that he or she needs to put the dishes by the sink right now. The next step tells the reader to plug the sink drain. The reader is supposed to plug the drain now. The rest of the steps for washing dishes also use present tense verbs and tell the reader what to do step by step. Underline each of the present tense verbs and then write them on an anchor chart.

| Present Tense Verbs |
| put | plug | run | add | stir | mix |
| spread | cut | chop | pour | measure | heat |

Sample Present Tense Verbs Anchor Chart
2. Rehearse

**Practice Using Present Tense Verbs**

Work with students to add other present tense verbs to the anchor chart. Ask them to think of present tense verbs they might use to write a procedural text telling how to cook something. Then invite partners to choose two present tense verbs from the anchor chart and write sentences using them.

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

**Share Practice Sentences**

Invite students to share the sentences they wrote. Ask students who are listening to identify the present tense verb in each sentence.

---

**Strategies to Support ELs**

**Beginning**

Beginning ELs may need additional practice and support to understand present tense verbs. Using the modeling text, read each step, emphasizing the present tense verb in each sentence. Dramatize each step. Say the sentences again in order and invite students to dramatize how they would wash dishes.

**Intermediate and Advanced**

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

---

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

**Say:** We use present tense verbs when we are writing about things that are happening now, such as the steps in a procedural text. Remember to use present tense verbs when you write your own procedural texts.

If you would like to give students additional practice recognizing and using present tense verbs, have them complete BLM 6.

4. Share

Bring students together. Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 6.