

G4: Verb Forms, Tense and Consistency

Cut out each card following the thick, black line. Then, fold the card along the dotted line to create a double-sided flashcard. You may wish to glue the two halves together or laminate the cards for longevity.

G4.1a

Simple Past and Simple Present

G4.1a

The simple past tense is used to talk about a completed action that has already happened, e.g.

The dogs **barked**.

The simple present tense is used to talk about habits, unchanging situations, truths and things that will remain the same, e.g.

The dogs **bark**.

G4.1b

Verbs in the Perfect Form

Verbs in the perfect form use the verb 'to have'. G4.1b

Past Perfect	The dogs had barked .
Past Perfect Continuous	The dogs had been barking .
Present Perfect	The dogs have barked .
Present Perfect Continuous	The dogs have been barking .
Past Perfect	The dogs will have barked .
Present Perfect Continuous	The dogs will have been barking .

G4.1c

Modal Verbs

G4.1c

Modal verbs are auxiliary verbs which are used before a main verb to form a verb phrase.

They give more information about how likely the main verb is to happen. They can also express uncertainty or different degrees of likelihood in a sentence, e.g.

The dogs **might** bark.

The dogs **will** bark.

G4.1d

Present and Past Progressive

G4.1d

The present and past progressive tenses use the verb 'to be' and the present participle 'ing' to show that the action is or was ongoing.

The dogs **are** barking.

The dogs **were** barking.

G4.2

Tense Consistency

G4.2

Tense consistency means keeping the same tense through a sentence when an adverb has not been used to explain otherwise, e.g.

The dogs **barked** as I **walked** past.

The dogs **are barking** as I **am walking** past.

G4.3

Subjunctive Verb Forms

Subjunctive verb forms are **G4.3** used to express wishes, hopes, dreams, opinions or suggestions. They are used to suggest that something could or should happen. Subjunctive verb forms usually use the third-person form of the verb without the -s. However, the verb 'to be' is an exception, e.g.

It is asked that she **listen** carefully.

If I **were** a dog, I'd bark.

I suggest that my dogs **be** quiet.

G4.4

Passive and Active

G4.4

In the active voice, the subject acts upon its verb, e.g.

The dogs barked at my friend.

In the passive voice, the subject receives the verb's action. Passive sentences usually contain a preposition, e.g.

My friend was barked at by the dogs.