

Present and Past Tense

Can't You Make Them Behave, King George?
Grammar: Verb Tenses

The **tense** of a verb shows the time of an action or event. Verbs in **present tense** show that an event is happening now or regularly. Verbs in **past tense** show that an event has already happened. To form the past tense of most verbs, you can add *-d* or *-ed*.

present tense

Today, most Americans live in or near cities.

past tense

Most of the American colonists lived on farms.

Thinking Questions

When is the action occurring? Is it happening now, or is it over?

Activity Write the verbs in each sentence and tell whether they are in present or past tense.

1. Pedro shared how the New England colonists lived.
2. During the summer break, he travels to Virginia and visits a living history museum.
3. He bought a bottle that a glassblower created from melted sand.
4. Pedro's little sister traveled with him, and she still remembers the trip.
5. They both decided that the furniture in the houses seemed tiny.