

Consistent Tenses

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

Verb tenses help readers understand when different events in a story happen. To clearly show when events take place, choose the best tense for the situation. Change the tense only when you want to show a change in time.

Thinking Questions

Does the paragraph make sense? Is the order of events clear?

Yesterday, we **started** to research our history project. Today, we **make** a poster for the presentations. We **will complete** the project next week.

Activity Read the sentences and think about the relationship between events. Underline the verb that is in the wrong tense. Then write the correct verb.

1. Last weekend, Max finds an old diary in the attic and showed it to his mother.
2. The diary was dusty and they will wonder how old it was.
3. Max's mother reads the date on the first entry. She was so surprised, she almost dropped the diary on the floor.
4. Max couldn't believe that the diary will belong to someone who lived in 1774.
5. "This diary was older than the U.S.!" he says, and his mother laughs.