

Present and Past Tense Verbs

James Forten
Grammar: Spiral Review

Present tense verbs tell what is happening now.

Past tense verbs tell what has already happened.

Consistent verb tense clearly shows readers the order of events.

Inconsistent

He hurried up the steps and loads the cannon.

Last week, they fought a fierce battle, and they win.

Consistent

He hurries up the steps and loads the cannon.

Last week, they fought a fierce battle, and they won.

Circle the four verbs in each paragraph that are inconsistent in their tense. Write them in the correct tense on the line following the paragraph.

1. James Forten was a hero because he carries out his responsibilities even in the heat of battle. He acted on the values that his parents instill in him. They want him to go to school and to work hard. He did. His hard work leads him to achieve success as a businessman.
2. History never went out of date. When we study history, we gained wisdom. We learned from others' mistakes. We are presented with examples of men and women who used their abilities to change the world for the better. Knowing about these historical figures helped us to be better people too.