Yesterday or today? Answers and notes

What your child practised: finding the verb, telling the past tense from the present tense, and using time words as clues (Year 2 grammar).

Page 1 · Warm up

Ring **yesterday**, **last week**, **long ago**.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary: play / played, wash / washed…

Page 2 · A. Past or present?

barks: **present** · painted: **past**
walk: **present** · smiled: **past**

Page 3 · B. Match

help → **helped** · look → **looked** · play → **played** · jump → **jumped** · kick → **kicked**

Page 3 · C. Ring the verb

walked · **brushes** · **watched** · **opens**

Page 3 · D. Yesterday, I…

Answers will vary. Check the verb is past tense: "Yesterday, I **played** outside."

Challenge: No. "Yesterday" tells us it already happened, so the verb must be in the past tense: **"Yesterday I walked to the park."** Praise your child for spotting the clue word.

Watch out for

- **Mixing up the clue and the verb.** "Yesterday" is a clue, but the tense is in the **verb**: walk or walked. Ask "Which is the doing word?"
- **Not hearing the -ed.** "Walked" can sound like "walkt", so children may write "walk". Say it slowly and stretch the end.
- **"Present" only meaning right now.** It also covers things that happen often: "Every day, Leo brushes his teeth."

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Bedtime chat:** ask "What did you do today?" and listen for past tense verbs. Repeat any slips the right way.
- **Now and then:** on a walk, say what you can see now ("A bird sings"), then on the way home say it again in the past ("A bird sang").
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, The -ed Machine, teaches the four ways to spell verbs with -ed.