Name _____ Date _____

Yesterday or today?

A verb's tense tells you when something happens.

1 Learn



A **verb** is a doing word, like **jump** or **play**. Its **tense** tells us **when**: is it happening now, or did it happen before now?

PAST
it already happened



Yesterday, Mia **jumped** in puddles.

PRESENT
it happens now, or often



Every day, Mia **jumps** in puddles.

Is it past or present? Leo kicked the ball.

1. **Find the verb.** What did Leo do? He **kicked**.
2. **Look for clues.** Kicked ends in **-ed**, a past tense ending.
3. **Decide.** The kick has already happened, so it is the **past tense**.

Flip's tip: time words are clues. **Yesterday**, **last night** and **long ago** point to the **past**. **Now**, **today** and **every day** point to the **present**.

Warm up: draw a ring round the time words that tell you it is the **past**.

yesterday | now | last week | every day | long ago | today

Grown-ups: read Flip's words and both Mia sentences aloud. Ask "Which word changed?" (jumped, jumps). At this age, children only need to hear and spot the difference: "it already happened" or "it happens now".

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes

Step into time

You need: two cushions or tea towels, two scraps of paper and a pencil.

1. Write **PAST** on one paper and **NOW** on the other. Put one on each cushion, a big step apart.
2. The grown-up says a sentence, like **"I brushed my teeth."** The child steps onto **PAST** or **NOW**.
3. Ask: "Which word told you?" Then say it the other way: **"I brush my teeth."**
4. Swap! The child makes up sentences and the grown-up steps. Write some verbs below.

NOW (present)	PAST
brush	brushed

Grown-ups: use verbs from your day: wash, cook, play, help, walk. If your child steps the wrong way, say the sentence again with "yesterday" or "every day" at the front, and let them step again.

3 Practise

A. Did it already happen? Draw a ring round **past** or **present**.

The dog barks at the door.
past / present

Ava painted a red boat.
past / present

We walk to school.
past / present

The baby smiled at me.
past / present

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B. Draw a line from each **present** verb to its **past** verb.

help ●	● **jumped**
look ●	● **helped**
play ●	● **kicked**
jump ●	● **played**
kick ●	● **looked**

C. Look at the time word. Draw a ring round the verb that fits.

Yesterday, Sam **walks** / **walked** the dog.

Every day, Leo **brushes** / **brushed** his teeth.

Last night, we **watch** / **watched** the stars.

Now, Mia **opens** / **opened** her lunchbox.

D. Write a sentence about something you did yesterday.

Yesterday, I _____

Challenge

Leo wrote: **"Yesterday I walk to the park."** Is that right? What would you change?

_____

_____

_____

I can…

Tick when you can.

- ☐ find the verb in a sentence
- ☐ say if it already happened (past) or happens now (present)
- ☐ use time words like yesterday and every day as clues