

4.39 Present and past tense

Topic: Measurement

Subtopic: Time

Activity type/skill: Verb forms

Literacy focus: Listening

Genre: Expressions of time

Objective

- Raise awareness of the sound and meaning of past tense verb forms.
- Identify verb forms as another way of expressing time.

What you need

- Student worksheet (see next page)
- [Audio track 4.39](#)

What to do

1. Ask students to tell you how they know a sentence is about the past. (This activity focuses the learners' attention on the -ed ending, which indicates the past tense. While students may know the rules for forming the past tense, it can be difficult for them to recognise it in spoken form and to get meaning from it.)
2. Look at the top of the student worksheet. Explain that they will hear one form of a verb they know and they are to tick the form they hear.
3. Play track 4.39 (Track 13 for this topic) and have students listen and write the answers to Part A. Pause the track.
4. Mark the work as you listen again together.
5. Explain that they will hear 10 sentences. They must decide which sentences are about the past and which are not and tick the correct answer. They must use the verb endings to work this out. Play Part B and then check answers.

Answers:

A1. divided	B1. now
A2. base	B2. now
A3. estimated	B3. past
A4. turned	B4. past
A5. worked out	B5. past
A6. notice	B6. now
A7. counted	B7. past
A8. compare	B8. now
A9. multiply	B9. now
A10. decided	B10. past

Extending the activity

- Make up a series of sentences about a subject you are studying, some about the past, some not. Ask them to tell you if they are about something that happened in the past or not. Try not to include time phrases (like 'yesterday' or 'in 1944') so that they must rely on the sound of the verb ending.

Activity thirty-nine



Track 13

A

1	divide	divided
2	base	based
3	estimate	estimated
4	turn	turned
5	work out	worked out
6	notice	noticed
7	count	counted
8	compare	compared
9	multiply	multiplied
10	decide	decided

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B

1	happened in the past	happening now
2	happened in the past	happening now
3	happened in the past	happening now
4	happened in the past	happening now
5	happened in the past	happening now
6	happened in the past	happening now
7	happened in the past	happening now
8	happened in the past	happening now
9	happened in the past	happening now
10	happened in the past	happening now

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