

Lesson Plan:

Verb tense consistency

LEVEL Intermediate (B1/B2)	TIME 60 minutes
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Objective:

Students will be able to recognize and correct inconsistent verb tenses in sentences and short texts, and maintain consistent verb tense in their own writing.

Materials Needed

- Whiteboard and markers
- Printed worksheets with practice exercises
- A short reading passage with tense inconsistencies
- Lined paper or student notebooks

Lesson Outline

1. Warm-Up (10 minutes)

Activity: Quick review of past, present, and future tenses.

- Prompt: Ask students to give examples of verbs in each tense. Write on the board:
- I eat / I ate / I will eat
- Goal: Ensure students recall basic forms.

2. Presentation (15 minutes)

Explain:

Define verb tense consistency — keeping the same tense when describing events happening at the same time.

Example:

- She **walked** into the room and **sits** down.
- She **walked** into the room and **sat** down.

Show: Use timeline diagrams to clarify when mixed tenses *are* acceptable (e.g., when there's a change in time frame).

3. Guided Practice (15 minutes)

Activity: Correct the sentences. Hand out a worksheet with 6–8 sentences that mix tenses improperly.

Example:

- *He was watching TV when his brother **comes** home.*
- *He was watching TV when his brother **came** home.*

Check Answers as a Class.

4. Reading Practice (10 minutes)

- Activity: Read a short paragraph (150 words) that has 6–8 tense inconsistencies.
- Task: Students work in pairs to identify and correct the inconsistencies.

5. Production (Writing Practice) (10 minutes)

- Prompt: Write 5–7 sentences describing a personal experience, keeping verb tenses consistent.
- Example: Last weekend, I went to the beach. I swam in the ocean and relaxed on the sand.
- Peer Review: Swap with a partner and check for tense consistency.

6. Wrap-Up and Homework (5 minutes)

- Review Key Points: Why tense consistency is important.
- Homework: Write a short paragraph (5–7 sentences) about a memorable event using consistent past tense.