

Lesson Plan: Verb tense consistency

Level: Intermediate (B1/B2)

Time: 60 minutes

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.