

Past and Present Tense

Tick the boxes to show whether these sentences use the past or the present tense.

	Past	Present
My name is Ash, I'm twelve years old and I love to sing.		
This made it very hard to put my costume on.		
"You're doing it up all wonky."		
"Come on, Ash, we're all waiting."		
The music galloped along and my heart galloped with it.		

Can you turn these verbs from the present into the past tense? The first one has been done for you.

Present	Past
it belongs	it belonged
he stands	
she laughs	
we wonder	
I breathe	



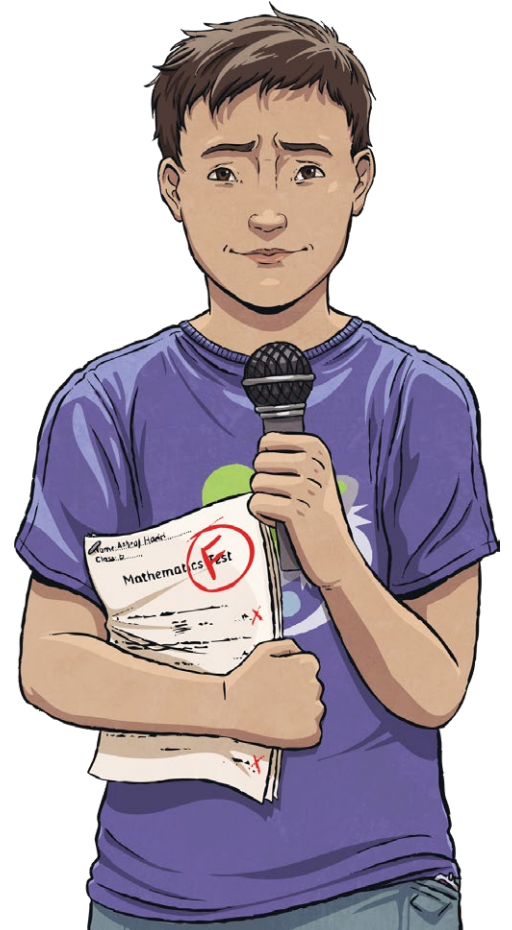
Now see if you can turn these whole sentences from the past tense into the present tense.

1. I stuck my arm out and felt a paperclip ping off the back of my costume.

2. I looked into my Dad's calm, brown eyes and my chin went wobbly.

3. My lines were clear, like printed words in my head.

4. I blinked until my eyes stopped stinging.



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Now see if you can write this whole paragraph in the past tense.

My fingers are so sweaty that I think that the mic is going to slip from my hand. As I shuffle in front of the Merry Men, my knees jiggle and my teeth chatter. The music gallops along and my heart gallops with it. Any second, I will have to start singing. But the lights are too bright and the crowd is too big. Too late, I remember that I'm supposed to strike a dashing pose. I stick my arm out and feel a paperclip ping off the back of my costume.

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Can you turn these sentences from the past tense into the present tense?

1. I stuck my arm out and felt a paperclip ping off the back of my costume.

2. Janelle flicked her braids over her shoulder and put her hand on her hip.

3. I tried to squash all my shivery thoughts and shaky worries into a very small ball at the back of my head.

4. The funny thing was, I wasn't nervous anymore.

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Now see if you can write this whole paragraph in the past tense.

I try to keep sucking in air as Janelle rubs glue onto my costume. I put my hands over my face to stop it twitching, while Janelle gets out some paperclips and clips them down my back.
"You're not nervous, are you, Ash?" she asks.

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