

Timely Tales 2 [present and future]: Review of verb tenses through student-generated stories

[For high intermediate to advanced students]

Directions for the teacher:

Step 1 – Choose the tale that targets the set of verb tenses you wish to practice, present or future. Have students work in pairs to complete the tale. Note the prompts under each blank.

Step 2 – When the tales have been written, have two or three pairs form small groups of four or six. Each pair should take a turn reading their story aloud.

Step 3 – In those same groups, have students recognize the tenses used and their meanings. You may use the following set of questions to guide them. After each question is answered on paper, have students share their answers with the group for confirmation.

For “Something Strange in the Air” [present]

1. Underline verbs that describe a present state or situation. (simple present)
2. Underline verbs that describe an action that happens regularly (simple present)
3. Circle verbs that describe an action in progress at the moment of speaking. (present progressive)
4. Put a check next to verbs that show either an action or state that began in the past and continues into the present. (present perfect, present perfect progressive)

For “A Far-fetched Future” [future]

1. Circle verbs that describe a future action in progress. (future progressive)
2. Put a check next to verbs that show an action or event that will take place before a specific time in the future. (future perfect)
3. Put a star ★ next to an example of a verb that states a plan for the future or an intention. (*be going to*)
4. Underline verbs once if they describe future states or events.
5. Underline verbs twice if they describe actions that will occur regularly in the future.
6. Find one example of the modal verb *may* to express probability. How strong is the prediction? (Certain or only possible?)

Timely Tales 2 [present and future]: Review of verb tenses through student-generated stories

[Present]

Something Strange in the Air

At this time of the year it's usually _____, but the past few days have
adjective to describe the weather
been different. Right now, it's _____. In fact, it's been _____
different adjective to describe the weather verb in -ing form to describe weather
for several hours already. Isn't that strange?

Because of the weather, I feel _____. My friend feels just the
adjective for emotion
opposite and tells me, "_____." I don't agree. Well, at least
some animals seem to feel as I do. Take my pet _____. Its behavior changes
animal
with the weather, and for the past few days my pet has been _____ and
action verb in -ing form
_____. I'm sure the weather explains this behavior.
action verb in -ing form

I'm waiting for the weather to be more normal for this time of year. That's because I
want _____, and I can only do this in _____ weather.
action verb in infinitive form adjective

I have (a) new _____ that I bought just for this occasion, and I can't wait!
noun (singular or plural)

Oh look! I see a(n) _____ outside my window, and it's
wild animal
_____. Maybe that's a sign of better weather to come.
action verb in -ing form

Timely Tales 2 [present and future]: Review of verb tenses through student-generated stories

[Future]

A Far-Fetched Future?

Think about all that has happened in the past 100 years. Now think about what may happen in the next 100 years. Of course, we all know that the future will bring both good and bad changes. Right now, I'm going to focus on the positive things.

Within the next 100 years humans will invent new forms of transportation. It's possible that we'll see _____, for example. Wouldn't that be amazing? If we have
kind of vehicle
such forms of transportation, we'll also find something to replace oil for fuel – perhaps
_____.
kind of energy

Entertainment is also going to evolve. I predict there will be _____
new form of entertainment
so that people can _____. I think by the next century children will be playing
action verb in base form
with toys that _____ and maybe even _____. Of course, some forms
action verb action verb
of entertainment will have disappeared completely by then. My guess is that games like
_____ will no longer be played.
kind of game or sport

I also predict significant changes in the workplace. In the future, people won't be
_____ every day. Instead, they'll be _____. Even within the
action verb in -ing form action verb in -ing form
next 50 years we'll see changes in how people _____. I think by the middle of this
action verb
century every office around the world will have decided _____.
action verb in infinitive form

In what other areas of our lives will we see change? Nobody knows for certain what is going to happen tomorrow let alone 100 years from now, but we can always use our imagination and make a prediction.