

## Introduction to the elite English skills target series

These exercises are designed to allow students to practice **mixed tenses** in a natural way, just as we do in English. The tenses for each level match what is learned in Hong Kong's elite schools.

Worksheets that practice individual tenses are not useful for improving children's skills. Passages that relate to children's daily life are interesting and show how English is used in normal life. The answers are in passage form so you may use them as reading exercises also. A handy hints tense guide is provided.

Completing these exercises on a regular basis will improve:

- ★ Tense skills
- ★ Writing skills
- ★ Reading skills
- ★ Speaking skills
- ★ Thinking skills



### Instructions for parents:

1. Print off the tense guide sheets (You may laminate it for your child to keep and look at).
2. Print off the blank exercises and ask your child to attempt them.
3. For very young children, the passages can be attempted together (parent and child).
4. Invite your child to answer the writing question (optional). Older children can write the answer.
5. Mark the book against the answers. You may print off the answer pages and read through them as a passage so it makes sense (or save paper by referring to your computer).
6. Give lots of encouragement and praise.
7. Provide guidance. Notice if your child is having problems with particular tenses.
8. Reprint the worksheet for another attempt if necessary.

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## Handy Hints - Tense Guide

<b>Subject Verb Agreement</b>				
Make sure your subject agrees with your verb				
Tom	is	my friend.	Mary <b>have</b> a dog. <b>X</b>	Mary <b>has</b> a dog. <b>✓</b>
Subject	Verb		We <b>is</b> Chinese. <b>X</b>	We <b>are</b> Chinese. <b>✓</b>

  

<b>Present Continuous Tense</b>		
How to form this tense		
I	He/She/It	We/They/You
am + -ing	is + -ing	are + -ing
Spelling rules		
Double the consonant for CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant words: get → tt → getting)		Remove the e for verbs ending in 'e' (hope → have → hoping)
Use	Example	
Talk about things we are doing now.	Peter is watching TV at the moment. The teachers are having a meeting.	
Negative	Question	
Peter isn't watching TV at the moment. The teachers aren't having a meeting.	Is Peter watching TV at the moment? Are the teachers having a meeting?	

  

<b>Present Simple - be + have</b>		
How to form this tense		
I	He/She/It	We/They/You
am/has	is/has	are/have
Use	Example	
Talk about facts.	Jason is my friend.	
Talk about things we have/own. Talk about what people/animals look like.	David has a baby brother. Birds have wings.	
Negative form	Question form	
Jason isn't my friend. David doesn't have a baby brother. Birds don't have wings. (true for penguins)	Is Jason my friend? Does David have a baby brother? Do birds have wings?	

## Present Simple - regular verbs

### How to form this tense

I	He/She/It - ADD 's' or 'es'	We/They/You
go/eat/wash	goes/eats/washes	go/eat/wa

### Spelling rules for He/She/It forms

add 's' eat → eats	add 'es' to words ending with sh: wash → washes	add 'es' to words ending in o: do → does
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### Use

Talk about habits.

### Example

David goes to school by car.

Negative form - add *don't/doesn't* (no 's') on the main verb

David doesn't go to school by car.

Question form - add *do/does* (no 's') on the main verb

Does David go to school by car?

## Commands

### How to form this tense

Basic form of the verb (no endings)

### Use

Ask/tell people to do something.

Negative form - add *don't*

Don't run on the grass.

### Example

Listen, please.

Question form

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## -ing forms

### How to form this tense

I	He/She/It	We/They/You
love/like/hate/enjoy + -ing	loves/likes/hates/enjoys + -ing	love/like/hate/enjoy + -ing

### Use

Talk about things you like/dislike

### Example

Mary likes swimming.  
John and Peter enjoy playing football.

Negative form - add *don't/doesn't* (no 's' on main verb)

Mary doesn't like swimming.  
John and Peter don't enjoy playing football.

Question form - add *do/does* (no 's' on main verb)

Does Mary like swimming?  
Do John and Peter enjoy playing football?

## Exercise 7

Fill in the blanks in the following passage using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

### The Forgotten Present

In two hours I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Tommy's birthday party. Earlier, Mum \_\_\_\_\_ (take) me to the IFC shopping mall \_\_\_\_\_ (pick) out a present for him. I chose a red train that \_\_\_\_\_ (come) with train tracks.



The cashier asked me if I would like the present to be wrapped. "Yes please \_\_\_\_\_ (wrap) it for me," I said to him. He had different coloured wrapping paper, and invited me to pick a colour. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/be) \_\_\_\_\_ (decide), but in the end I \_\_\_\_\_ (choose) the green paper. The man \_\_\_\_\_ (tie) a ribbon around the present.

"I \_\_\_\_\_ (like) his new train," Mum said, as we drove off. At that moment I \_\_\_\_\_ (discover) that I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/have) the present. "Mum, \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) the car! I've forgotten \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) the present," I said.

Mum \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) back to the shopping mall and I \_\_\_\_\_ (run) inside. The man in the store \_\_\_\_\_ (stand) near the entrance. "\_\_\_\_\_ (you/come) back for this?" he asked, holding up the present. I said 'Thank you' and then I went back to the car where mum \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for me.

#### Thinking Skills

Have you ever bought something and then forgotten it. Describe your experience.

## Exercise 17

Fill in the blanks in the following passage using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Talent Show

Every year our school \_\_\_\_\_ (hold) a talent show. A talent is something you \_\_\_\_\_ (be) good at. Every person has a talent, so anyone can \_\_\_\_\_ (join) the competition. Each person has to stand on the stage to show off their talent. It was held last week.

Fang-hua \_\_\_\_\_ (like) to dance. She has been dancing ever since she \_\_\_\_\_ (be) 5 years old. She \_\_\_\_\_ (do) a ballet dance in the talent show. Fei Yu is the best piano player in our class. She played a song in front of the school in the talent show. Huang Fu is good at \_\_\_\_\_ (do) magic tricks, so he showed off his tricks. I thought to myself, "How \_\_\_\_\_ (he/do) that?" He is clever.

I love to sing, so I decided to show off my singing. I practiced at home for months to make sure that I \_\_\_\_\_ (know) all of the words. I \_\_\_\_\_ (sing) the song 'Wa Wa' on the day of the show. It was scary because there were so many people \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) me. But after I finished singing, everyone \_\_\_\_\_ (clap) loudly. Then I gave everyone a big wave, said "Thank you!" and \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a bow.

**Thinking Skills**

What is your talent?  
Have you ever been in a talent show?

