

KS3, KS4

Mastering grammar: verbs and tenses

TEACHING
PACK

- Resources for years 9–11, suitable for a wide range of abilities
- Grammar games, PowerPoints and assessment tasks
- Can be used with any topic for any exam board



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Introduction

This pack is designed to teach and review the key verb forms and tenses required by the GCSE curriculum at both Foundation tier and Higher tier. It is suitable for use with key stage 3 and key stage 4 students and is not specific to a particular exam board.

The examples used for each tense cover a variety of topics so that they can be integrated into your teaching at any point in the course. The vocabulary has deliberately been kept very simple so that students can focus on understanding and practising the grammar.

There is particular focus on negatives and questions as examiners' reports indicate that candidates often struggle with these.

The units are not intended as schemes of work but rather as a bank of ideas from which you can pick one activity or a series of activities at a level appropriate for your class.

Differentiation

There is a range of learning activities for each tense / verb form, progressing from receptive to productive tasks and from lower to higher cognitive load. This progression also serves as differentiation, with the closely scaffolded activities being suitable for Foundation students and the freer speaking activities being more appropriate for Higher tier learners.

In each unit, there are activities for each of the following:

- recognising the tense (receptive knowledge and raising awareness of forms)
- practising the tense (ranging from receptive knowledge through structured production to freer practice)
- assessing students' receptive and productive knowledge.

Approach

The aim of this pack is to make the grammar appear logical and accessible by drawing students' attention to patterns through activities that are communicative and fun. It is informed by aspects of Gianfranco Conti's EPI approach. The activities correspond mainly to the modelling, awareness raising, structured production and expansion phases of his MARS EARS sequence, with some autonomous recall and some more spontaneous production.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks go to our contributing writers, Vicki Brownlee and Claire Wilson.

Vicki has been teaching languages for over 20 years and in the past few years has moved to an EPI approach, which has been very successful. She is Head of Department and teaches French, German and Spanish at a rural secondary school. She is particularly interested in SEN teaching.



1. Habits and routines: present tense

For work on negatives and questions in the present tense, please see the 'Word order' unit and PowerPoints.

Teaching notes and answers

Recognising the tense

Memory game / dominoes: irregular verbs

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity is in the separate 'Cut-out activities' document.

Tarsia: irregular verbs

The activity is in the separate 'Cut-out activities' document.

► Answers:



Identify the tense: first-person singular verbs

The activity and student instructions are in the 'Student activities' section below.

► Answers:

1. Ich bin intelligent. **I am intelligent.**
2. Ich gehe ins Kino. **I go / am going to the cinema.**
3. Ich esse Pizza. **I eat / am eating pizza.**
4. Ich spiele normalerweise mit meinem Bruder Tennis. **Normally, I play tennis with my brother.**
5. Montags treffe ich mich mit Freunden und gehe ins Theater. **On Mondays, I meet with friends and go to the theatre.**
6. Ich surfe oft das Internet. **I often surf the internet.**
7. Ich mache immer meine Hausaufgaben. **I always do my homework**
8. Jedes Wochenende spiele ich Schach. **Every weekend I play chess.**
9. Ich bin ziemlich klein und schlank. **I am quite small and slim**
10. Ich mag die Schule und ich trage eine Schuluniform. **I like school and I wear a school uniform.**

Spiral text: all present tense verbs

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity and student instructions are in the 'Student activities' section below.

► Answers:

Ich bin ziemlich sportlich und ich spiele gern Tennis – es ist toll. Ich spiele gern Tennis mit Freunden und wir spielen auch ab und zu Handball. In der Schule spiele ich am liebsten Rugby aber mein bester Freund spielt lieber Fußball. Abends sehe ich manchmal Filme – Komödien. Sie sind sehr lustig! Ich höre auch Musik auf meinem Handy – ich finde das sehr entspannend. Ich fahre nicht gern Rad, denn es ist sehr langweilig. Ich fahre lieber Skateboard, denn ich finde es schneller aber meine Schwester fährt gern Rollschuh.

Practising the tense

Dice game: regular verbs

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity and student instructions are in the 'Student activities' section below.

Tic-tac-toe: regular verbs

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity is on slides 1–6 of the activities PowerPoint. Students make the present tense forms (singular and plural) from the infinitives.

Mind reader: speaking – regular verbs

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity and student instructions are on slide 7 of the activities PowerPoint. The answers to the translation task are on slide 8.

Mind reader: writing – irregular verbs

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity and student instructions are on slide 9 of the activities PowerPoint. The answers to the translation task are on slide 10.

Write your own sentences: regular and irregular verbs

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity and student instructions are in the 'Student activities' section below.

Assessment tasks

Gap fill: regular verbs

The activity and student instructions are in the 'Assessment tasks' section below.

► Answers:

1. ich spiele Tennis **I play / am playing tennis**
2. sie macht Hausaufgaben **she does / is doing homework**
3. du hörst Musik **you listen / are listening to music**
4. wir hören Hörbücher **we listen / are listening to audio books**
5. du spielst Handball **you play / are playing handball**
6. Paul hört Jazzmusik **Paul listens / is listening to jazz music**
7. wir spielen Klavier **we play / are playing the piano**
8. Sie trinken Kaffee **you drink / are drinking coffee**
9. ich höre Popmusik **I listen / am listening to pop music**
10. man spielt Schach **one plays / is playing chess**

Fill in the grid: irregular verbs

The activity and student instructions are in the 'Assessment tasks' section below.

Crossword: regular and irregular verbs

The activity and student instructions are in the 'Assessment tasks' section below.

► Answers:

Across

1. one becomes = man wird
2. I know = ich weiß
3. there is/are (lit. 'it gives') = es gibt
4. you (formal) know = Sie wissen
5. you (plural) see = ihr seht
6. I give = ich gebe
7. I become = ich werde
8. we see = wir sehen
9. she has = sie hat
10. we are = wir sind
11. one travels = man fährt
12. I am = ich bin

Down

1. he is = er ist
2. we know = wir wissen
3. you (singular) give = du gibst
4. they become = sie werden
5. I travel = ich fahre
6. she sees = sie sieht
7. you (singular) become = du wirst
8. you travel = du fährst
9. you (singular) have = du hast
10. I have = ich habe

Describe the photo: first person / third person

Teaching notes are in the introduction to the pack. The activity and student instructions are in the 'Assessment tasks' section below.

For a more open writing activity, you could ask students to write about their friends and/or family.

Teachit sample

Habits and routines: present tense

Mastering verbs
and tenses

When do you use the present tense in German?

To say what is happening **now**

- I **am playing** football.

For habitual (**repeated**) actions

- I often **play** football.
- I **like** to play football.

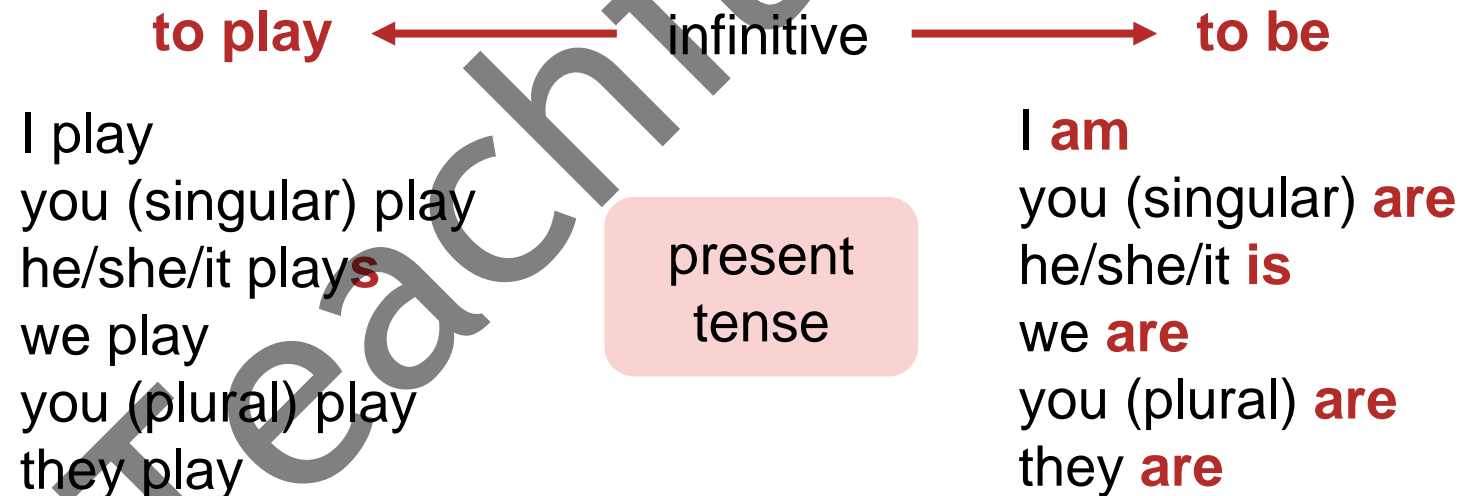
Which are the present tense verbs in the English sentences?

Habits and routines: present tense

Mastering verbs
and tenses

How do you use the present tense in German?

Verbs change from their infinitive (the full form that you find in the dictionary) according to their pronoun (the subject/person doing the action).



Habits and routines: present tense

Mastering verbs
and tenses

How do you conjugate a verb in German?

Most German infinitive verbs
end in 'en'.
(Some end in just 'n'.)

Like in English, German has
both 'regular' and 'irregular'
verbs.

ich	I
du	you (singular)
er/sie/es/man	he/she/it/one
wir	we
ihr	you (plural)
sie	they
Sie	you (singular/plural formal)

Habits and routines: present tense

Mastering verbs
and tenses

Regular
verbs

Verbs such as **spielen** – to play, **hören** – to listen,
machen – to do/make

To conjugate a regular verb, take off the 'en' (or just 'n' for some verbs) and add the following endings:

spielen – to play

ich spiele

I play

du spielst

you (singular) play

er/sie/es/man spielt

he/she/it/one plays

wir spielen

we play

ihr spielt

you (plural) play

sie spielen

they play

Sie spielen

you (formal) play

Habits and routines: present tense

Mastering verbs
and tenses

Irregular verbs

Some verbs
break all of
these rules
and just have
to be learnt.

haben – to have

ich **habe**

du **hast**

er/sie/es/man **hat**

wir **haben**

ihr **habt**

sie **haben**

Sie **haben**

I have

you (singular) have

he/she/it/one has

we have

you (plural) have

they have

you (formal) have

sein – to be

ich **bin**

du **bist**

er/sie/es/man **ist**

wir **sind**

ihr **seid**

sie **sind**

Sie **sind**

I am

you (singular) are

he/she/it/one is

we are

you (plural) are

they are

you (formal) are