🩹 IELTS WRITING FIRST AID KIT #3

# Verb Tenses

The right tense tells the examiner exactly when something happened. The wrong tense can change your meaning.

## 📌 Quick Rule

| | |
|---|---|
| **last year, in 2015** | Past Simple: *The number **increased**.* |
| **since, so far** | Present Perfect: *The city **has built**...* |
| **nowadays / in the future** | Present Simple / **will**: *People **use**... People **will work**...* |

## ✅ Before you finish, check:

- [ ] Have I used the correct tense for the time I am describing?
- [ ] Have I kept the same tense when the time has not changed?
- [ ] Have I checked every **irregular** past tense?
- [ ] In Task 1, does the data refer to the **past**, the **present** or the **future**?

## ⚡ Quick Practice

Find and correct the verb tense mistake in each sentence.

1. Last year, the number of visitors increases significantly.
2. Many people used smartphones every day nowadays.
3. Since 2010, the city built several new housing developments.
4. The chart shows that unemployment falls sharply between 2018 and 2020.
5. In the future, more people worked from home.

🩹 FIRST AID KIT #3 – ANSWERS

# Verb Tenses

## ✔️ Answers

1. Last year, the number of visitors **increased** significantly.
   *Last year* is finished time – Past Simple.

2. Many people **use** smartphones every day nowadays.
   *Nowadays* means now – Present Simple.

3. Since 2010, the city **has built** several new housing developments.
   *Since* connects the past to now – Present Perfect.

4. The chart shows that unemployment **fell** sharply between 2018 and 2020.
   The data is in the past. *Shows* stays in the present – the chart shows it now.

5. In the future, more people **will work** from home.
   *In the future* – use *will*.

**My score:** ____ / 5

### 🚑 Your 1-Minute Check

Look for **time markers** such as *last year, nowadays, since, between 2018 and 2020* and *in the future*.

Then check that each verb matches its time marker.

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