

**Learning Objective**

We are learning how to write sentences about meerkats, being consistent in our use of tense.

**Challenge 1**

**Read each sentence below and note the tense (indicated at the end). Complete each sentence by writing a suitable verb in the space provided.**

1. The meerkats \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ themselves in the early morning sun. **(past)**
2. The meerkat \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ its head in the sand. **(present)**
3. As the jackal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , the meerkats \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ together. **(past)**
4. Meerkats are so fearful of predatory birds that even an aeroplane \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ send them \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for cover. **(future)**
5. The meerkats \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their food as the eagles \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ overhead. **(present)**

**Challenge 2**

**Copy and complete each of the following sentences, making sure that there is good tense consistency.**

1. To escape the harsh African heat, …
2. The meerkat is using its excellent sense of smell to locate a scorpion, but …
3. The brave meerkats hissed and arched their backs at the jackal, as …
4. Because the drongo stole repeatedly from the mob of meerkats, …
5. At the top of the termite mound, …

**Challenge 3**

**In the passage below, there are a number of tense inconsistencies. Rewrite the passage so that there is good tense consistency.**

I could hear faint squeaks coming from the sandy burrow, and as I am peering into the dark hole, I could just about make out a couple of tiny faces. My heart beat a little faster as I am realising that these are the new pups that have been underground since their birth two weeks ago. Most of the group is up already but there are a couple of late risers.

I keep still and I will watch them slowly emerge. One, two, three and finally a fourth, still unstable on their feet. Their eyes are barely open as they pawed the sand around the burrow mouth. The last couple of adults will leave the burrow and although they are staying close, they don’t seem too worried as I am slowly extending my hand towards them, letting them get used to my scent.