

# Verbs – variety and tense

## Objective

Expand vocabulary of verbs.

## Background knowledge

It is necessary to make explicit the knowledge children already have of things happening in the past, present and future. Ask children what they are doing now, encouraging them to answer in sentences (for example: *I am looking at the book.*) Explain that these things are happening in the present. Ask them to tell you what they did yesterday ('I looked') and what they will do tomorrow ('I will look').

## Activities

- **Photocopiable page 75 'Little Red Riding Hood'**  
Read out the story of Little Red Riding Hood from the sheet, inserting the word 'said' in each of the gaps. Help the children to appreciate that the story could be much more interesting if the author had sometimes used words other than 'said'. Tell the children to rewrite the story, filling all the gaps with interesting verbs. There is a selection given at the bottom of the page, but the children may be able to think of their own. Afterwards, compare different versions and talk about the effects.
- **Photocopiable page 76 'Yesterday'**  
Write a few sentences in the present tense, such as: *I am listening to music. My brother watches television.* Tell the children that you did the same thing yesterday and ask them to help you change the sentences into the past tense. Draw attention to the 'ed' endings. Ask the children to change the sentences on the sheet from the present to the past tense, imagining that everything happened yesterday. Encourage the children to re-read their writing. In shared writing, demonstrate how to edit or make corrections.

## ● Photocopiable page 77 'In the past'

Ask the children to change the sentences on the sheet from the present to the past tense, imagining that everything happened yesterday. Encourage the children to re-read their writing, checking for consistent use of tenses. Draw attention to the 'ed' endings.

## Further ideas

- **Shared reading:** During shared reading of a story, point out to the children that the story is told as if the events have already happened. Read a section of your chosen text, changing the verbs into the present tense, and ask children to tell you how this changes the story.
- **Charades:** Play a game of charades, asking a child to mime a verb while the other children try to guess what it is.
- **Sentence starter:** Give the children a sentence starter, for example: *I went out with my friend and we...* Then go around the class, asking each child to say the phrase and a verb in the past tense that begins with the next letter of the alphabet. Explain that they may need to add a noun as well for the sentence to make sense: *I went out with my friend and we acted; I went out with my friend and we bought boats* and so on.



## What's on the CD-ROM

On the CD-ROM you will find:

- Printable versions of all three photocopiable pages.
- Answers to 'Yesterday' and 'In the past'.
- Interactive version of 'Little Red Riding Hood'.