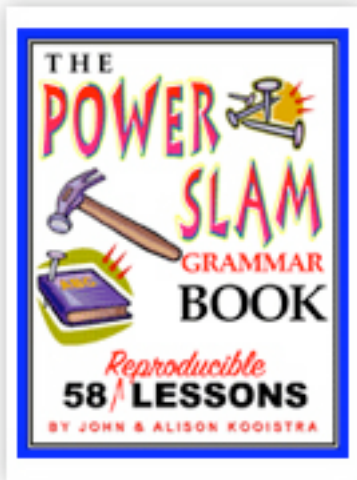


# The Power Slam Grammar Book



*The Power Slam Grammar Book* addresses the needs of senior grade school students (age 11 and higher). Every lesson in this book begins with the premise that, contrary to prevailing prejudices, grammar instruction can be the most profitable, pleasurable and exciting period in an ESL student's day.

*The Power Slam Grammar Book* is fun and many of the lessons are in the form of games, and the practice sentences reflect everybody's interest in movies, computers, video games, dating, sports, etcetera. The Power Slam Grammar Book is practical -- the exercises focus on students' primary needs: error correction of their writing and speech, and expansion of their range of expression, without requiring the memorizing of grammar terminology. Finally, it's an excellent, high-energy complement to instructional material for the analysis of literature and popular media.

- Intermediate to Advanced**
- Suitable for high school to adult levels**
- 60 pages**

For a complete list of units included in *The Power Slam Grammar Book*, view the Table of Contents on Page 3 of this document.

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# THE POWER SLAM GRAMMAR BOOK

Alison Kooistra  
&  
John Kooistra



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## UNIT FOUR – PRESENT TIME

Verbs are probably the hardest part of English grammar, because they are so important in every sentence, and because each verb can be put into many different forms. Verbs can be used to describe the past, the present time, and the future.

Last year: I *was* a football star. You *were* my agent. She *was* my coach.  
I *ran* to the endzone. You *screamed*. My coach *jumped* for joy.

This year: I *am* a football star. You *are* my agent. She *is* my coach.  
I *run* to the endzone. You *scream*. My coach *jumps* for joy.

Next year: I *will be* a football star. You *will be* my agent. She *will be* my coach.  
I *will run* to the endzone. You *will scream*. My coach *will jump* for joy.



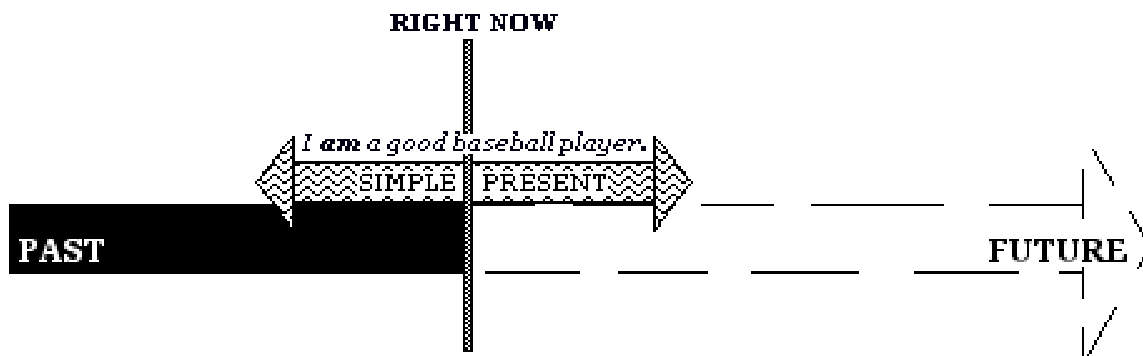
In this Unit, we are going to emphasize the different kinds of verbs that describe the **present** time.

### Three Tenses in the Present Time: Simple Present, Present Progressive, Present Perfect.

**Simple Present.** In its simplest form, a verb is known as “the simple present.” Sometimes, the simple present really is simple. We use it to describe something that is true at the present time. Example: “*I am in this classroom.*” Or, “*I see Kobe Bryant -- he is right there!*”

However, the simple present tense can be more complicated than that. It is often used to describe something that was true in the past, is still true, and will probably be true for at least part of the future. Example: “*You are a football star.*” This means that you were a star last year, probably, and maybe even for the past 5 or 10 years. It also means that you are a star at the present moment – and you will probably be a star for at least a little while into the future.

Here is another example of a simple present verb that describes past, present and future: “*Flowers are beautiful.*” This sentence actually uses the verb to mean that the statement is “timeless”, or always true – the speaker believes it is true from the beginning of time to the end of time.



**Present Progressive.** Verbs can also be part of phrases that emphasize an action that is in progress at the present moment. Something “is happening” or “is taking place” right now. Verb phrases that emphasize what is occurring right now are called “present progressive”.

They usually have two parts, a form of the verb “BE” in the first part, and the “-ING” form of the main verb. This “-ING” form of the verb is also called the “PRESENT PARTICIPLE”.

Subject/Beginning

Verb = Two Parts.

1. BE 2. Main Verb & -ing

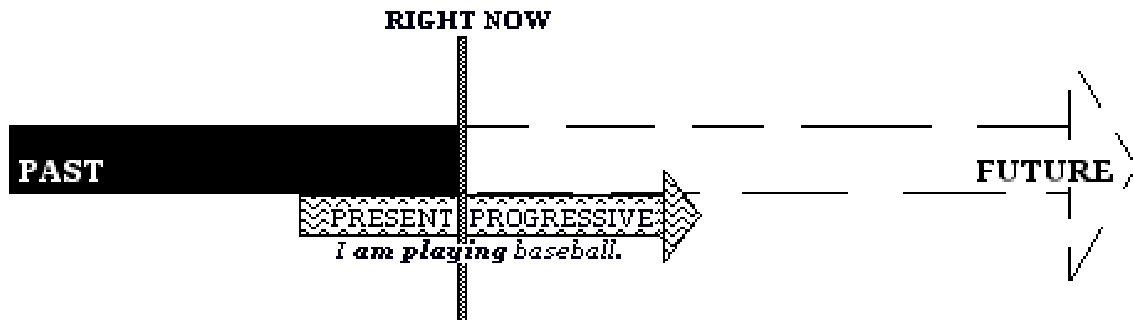
I	am	playing.	(play & -ing)
You	are	playing.	
He/She/It	is	playing.	
They	are	playing.	



More examples of the present progressive verb tense:

*“I am speaking.” “You are calling people.” “She is directing the movie.”*  
*“I am running to the endzone.” “You are screaming.” “My coach is jumping for joy.”*

Each of these verb phrases describes an event that began sometime in the past, and will probably continue for at least a short time into the future, but the main emphasis is on the action that is happening right now.



[Note: we use wavy lines in all of our graphs depicting progressive verbs. The waves are supposed to show that these verb phrases emphasize an action or situation that is in progress.]

**Present Perfect.** Verb phrases that are called “present perfect” describe a time period that begins in the past and moves right up to the present time. They often **emphasize** an action that started in the recent past and has recently been completed:

*“I **have** (just) **eaten** my lunch.”*



The word “perfect” for this tense is a bit confusing, because most of us think “perfect” means something like getting a perfect score on a test, or having “a perfect day.” There is an older meaning of “perfect,” though, and that meaning is very similar to “finished” or “completed.”

Specifically, the present perfect tense usually describes an action that began in the past, and has recently been completed, or that is still true right up until the present moment.

Example: *“I **have been** a teacher for two years.”*

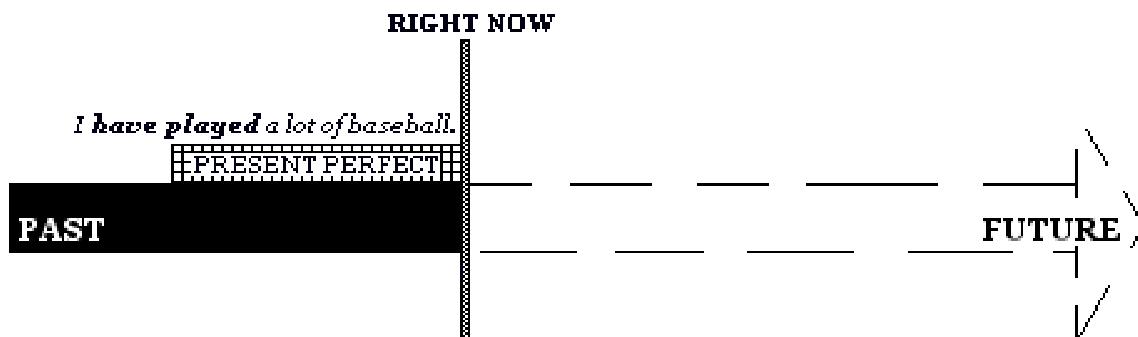
This describes a process that began two years ago, and is true right up until the present time.

The present perfect is composed of the helping verb “HAVE” and the Past Participle form of the main verb. This past participle is often in the same form as the simple past form of the verb.

*He **tried** to win the championship last year.* (simple past form; single event in the past)

*For seven years now, he **has tried** to win the championship.* (present perfect form; “HAS” plus “past participle”; seven years ago, up till present time)

*Since I was a child, I **have played** a lot of baseball.*  
(began in past; has continued until the present time)



For many verbs, however, there is a difference between the form for the **simple past** and the form for the **past participle**.

See the following chart for “Commonly Used Irregular Verbs”, and remember that the following “Past Participles” are preceded by “have” or “has” in the present perfect tense.

### CHART: COMMON IRREGULAR VERBS

<u>Base form</u>	<u>Simple Past form</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
awake	awoke	( <i>has, have</i> ) awakened
be (is, are)	was, were	been
bear [to give birth]	bore	borne, born
become	became	become
begin	began	begun
bend	bent	bent
bet	bet	bet
bite	bit	bitten
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
bring	brought	brought
build	built	built
burst	burst	burst
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
cut	cut	cut
deal	dealt	dealt
dig	dug	dug
dive	dove, dived	dived
do	did	done
drag	dragged	dragged
draw	drew	drawn
dream	dreamed, dreamt	dreamed, dreamt
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feel	felt	felt
find	found	found
fit	fit, fitted	fit, fitted
fly	flew	flown
forbid	forbad, forbade	forbidden
forget	forgot	forgotten, forgot
freeze	froze	frozen

(CHART: COMMON IRREGULAR VERBS, continued)

<u>Base form</u>	<u>Simple Past form</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
get	got	got, gotten
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grow	grew	grown
hang [to suspend]	hung	hung
hang [to execute]	hanged	hanged
hear	heard	heard
hit	hit	hit
hurt	hurt	hurt
know	knew	known
lead	led	led
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lie [to recline]	lay	lain
light	lit, lighted	lit, lighted
lose	lost	lost
pay	paid	paid
put	put	put
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
set [to place]	set	set
shake	shook	shaken
shine	shone, shined	shone, shined
shrink	shrank	shrunk
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk
sit [to sit down]	sat	sat
slay	slew	slain
speak	spoke	spoken
split	split	split
spread	spread	spread
spring	sprang	sprung
steal	stole	stolen
strike	struck	struck, stricken
swear	swore	sworn
swim	swam	swum
take	took	taken

## Lesson 31 – Simple Present; Present Progressive; Present Perfect

**Exercise A.** Underline the verb or verb phrases in the following sentences, and identify their types in the blanks on the right side of the page.

For the simple present tense, write “Simple.”

For the present progressive tense, write “Progressive.”

For the present perfect tense, write “Perfect.”

Georgia has played a lot of basketball.                      Perfect                      .  
Georgia plays basketball every day.                      Simple .  
Georgia is playing a game right now.                      Progressive .

1. Fred and Mike are playing video games.                      \_\_\_\_\_

2. Ella-Mae has played a lot of sports over the years.                      \_\_\_\_\_

3. I am hungry.                      \_\_\_\_\_

4. Sheila is shopping for shoes.                      \_\_\_\_\_

5. Yolanda has danced in professional jazz troupes.                      \_\_\_\_\_

6. Paul is reading quietly under a tree.                      \_\_\_\_\_

7. You have completed the exercise – almost!                      \_\_\_\_\_

8. Timmy goes to daycare while his mother works.  
[two separate verbs; both are the same type]                      \_\_\_\_\_

9. Most sunsets over the ocean are beautiful.                      \_\_\_\_\_



## Lesson 32 – Simple Present and Expressions of Frequency

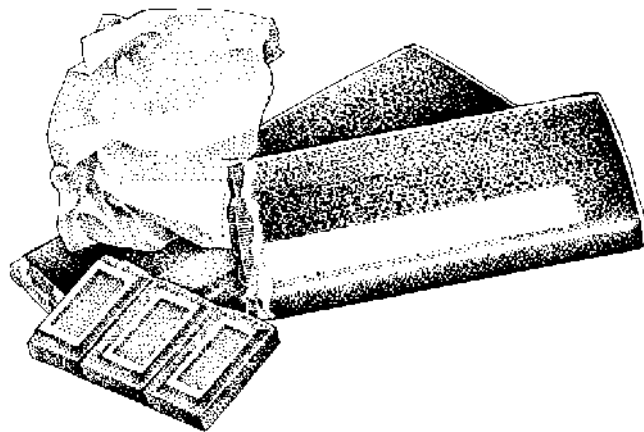
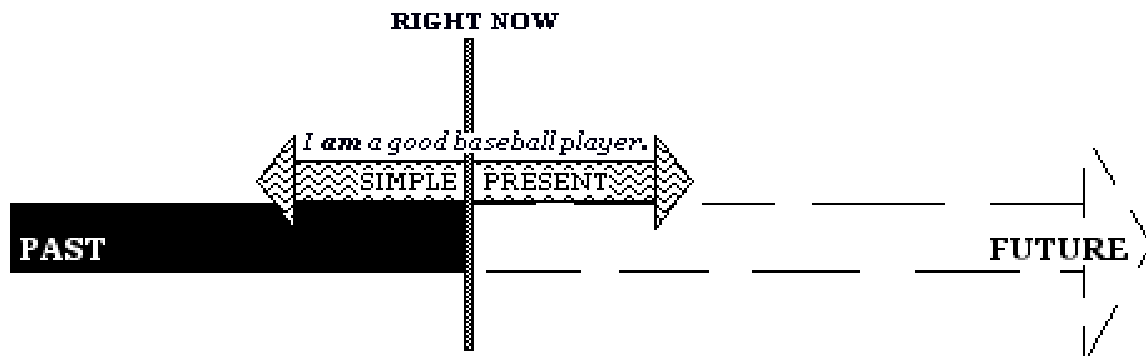
### Simple present tense.

Sometimes, the simple present really is simple. We use it to describe something that is true at the present time.

Examples: “*I am a member of N’Sync.*” Or, “*I see Jennifer Lopez – she is right there!*”

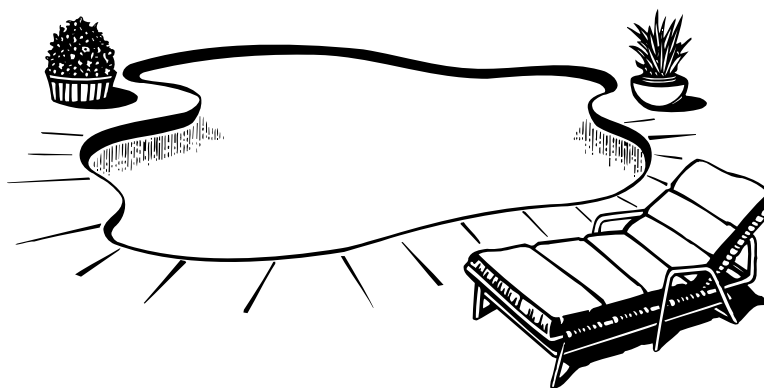
However, the simple present tense can be more complicated than that. It is often used to describe something that was true in the past, is still true, and will probably be true for at least part of the future. Example: “*You are a good singer.*” This means that you were a good singer last year, probably, and maybe even for the past 5 or 10 years. It also means that you are a good singer at the present moment – and you will probably be a good singer for at least a little while into the future.

Here is another example of a simple present verb that describes past, present and future: “*Chocolate bars are great.*” This sentence actually uses the verb to mean that the statement is “timeless”, or always true – the speaker believes it is true from the beginning of time to the end of time.



**Exercise A.** Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with a verb conjugated in the **simple present**.

1. Harvey always \_\_\_\_\_ the bus to school.
2. You never \_\_\_\_\_ to me!
3. Nestor and Maxine \_\_\_\_\_ brother and sister.
4. My parents usually \_\_\_\_\_ out of town on the weekends.
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ the color pink.
6. Treena rarely \_\_\_\_\_ in her pool.
7. Rusty \_\_\_\_\_ his dog every day.
8. A teacher \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of tests in a year.
9. We \_\_\_\_\_ chess or checkers every day.
10. I sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ a hamburger for lunch.
11. Jesse frequently \_\_\_\_\_ questions in class.
12. My pet rock \_\_\_\_\_ very cute.
13. Denis and Darla \_\_\_\_\_ how to tango.
14. This psychic \_\_\_\_\_ palms.



**Exercise B.** While completing **Exercise A**, you may have noticed that words such as “always,” “usually,” “sometimes,” “rarely,” and “never” often accompany verbs conjugated in the simple present. These adverbial expressions describe the *frequency* of the action being discussed.

In the blanks below, write in the **expression of frequency** that accurately describes *your life* or *your opinion*.

always

usually

sometimes

seldom

never

frequently

occasionally

infrequently

often

now and again

rarely

now and then

hardly ever

1. I am \_\_\_\_\_ late for class.
2. My friends and I \_\_\_\_\_ talk on the phone.
3. On the weekends, I \_\_\_\_\_ stay up past midnight.
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ wear black clothing.
5. Television is \_\_\_\_\_ entertaining.
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ wake up at six in the morning or earlier.
7. My family \_\_\_\_\_ eats supper together.
8. Astrological information is \_\_\_\_\_ accurate.
9. I use computers \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Gym class is \_\_\_\_\_ fun.



going to flirt with him. Patti wished me good luck. So, when he came out of the water, I walked up to him and told him his father was a thief. He was confused, so I explained that his father had stolen the stars from the skies and put them in his eyes. He responded that my line was staler than my breath, and recommended that I purchase some gum! I could not believe that he would be so rude to me!

#### UNIT FOUR – PRESENT TIME - **SAMPLE ANSWER KEY**

Lesson 31A. 1. progressive; 2. perfect; 3. simple; 4. progressive; 5. perfect; 6. progressive; 7. perfect; 8. simple; simple; 9. simple.

Lesson 32A. 1. takes, rides; 2. listen, talk; 3. are; 4. go, travel, drive; 5. like, love, hate, despise; 6. swims; 7. walks; 8. marks; 9. play; 10. order, eat, have; 11. asks, answers; 12. is; 13. know; 14. reads.

Lesson 33B.

1. is; is dancing. 2. loves; is sitting; is eating. 3. is; is lying; is watching; likes.  
4. gets up; goes; splashes; brushes; is watching; is walking.  
5. goes; waits/is waiting; is walking; is putting her makeup on; is getting dressed.  
6. is doing; is watching; joins; is; are planning.

Lesson 34A. ✘ = 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8. ✓ = 3, 7, 9.

Lesson 36A. 1. has thought; 2. have drunk; 3. has slain; 4. has cost; 5. you've grown;  
6. has eaten; 7. has spoken; 8. has rung; 9. have both cut.

Lesson 37A. 1. is; 2. are; 3. is; 4. are; 5. are; 6. is; 7. are; 8. is; 9. has; 10. have; 11. is; 12. are

Lesson 38. Many possible answers. 1. Anyone could have finished *the / this* homework on time. 2. Whoever stole my car must have done it *alone / by himself or herself*. 3. Your secret admirer didn't sign *a / his or her* name on the card? 4. *Artists* must dedicate *themselves* to *their* art. / An artist must be dedicated to creating art. 5. Everyone will find *a* soulmate. / Everyone *has a* soulmate. / *All people* will find *their* soulmates. 6. Only one member of this class did not pass *the* final exam. 7. When *you* lose *your* right hand, *you* must learn to write with *your* left. / If a person loses *his or her* right hand, *he or she* must learn to write with *the* left. / When *people* lose their right hands, they must learn to write with their left hands.

#### UNIT FIVE – PAST TIME

Lesson 41A. 1. past perfect, simple past; 2. past perfect, simple past; 3. past perfect, simple past, past perfect; 4. past progressive, simple past; 5. simple past; 6. past progressive, simple past; 7. past progressive, simple past; 8. past perfect, simple past, simple past.

Lesson 43A.

1. was doing; was; made / was making; was finishing; decided; needed.  
2. put on; started; was walking; ran; said.  
3. did not hear; was listening; smiled; made; began; arrived; was still chasing.  
4. was jogging; saw; laughed/was laughing; were putting.  
5. arrested; was sleeping; was dreaming.

Lesson 46B.

1. offered; had already eaten. 2. had just finished; arrived. 3. had tried.

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