



Rewarding Learning

# IRISH STUDENT STUDY CARD #21

## USING TENSES

### Introduction

You are required to be familiar with a range of tenses. This is an integral part of language learning. Verbs are the key to any good structured sentences and an understanding and knowledge of how to apply them accurately will allow you to access the higher mark bands. Students at AS and A2 often don't properly use the verbs and can get the basic rules mixed up. Spend time learning the rules and endings connected to each tense and practice applying them accurately in your work.

### Assessment

Your ability to use language [verbs and tenses] is assessed throughout the AS and A2 examinations.

### Assessment Objective/s

You will be assessed according to the following criterion:

- A03: manipulate the language accurately and appropriately using a range of lexis and structure.

You should be able to:

- manipulate the language accurately and appropriately using a range of lexis;
- transfer meaning; and
- understand and accurately apply the grammatical system and a range of structures.

These are considered as core skills. The key to success is final proof-reading.





## Skills

You are required to be familiar with a range of tenses. These are listed in Appendix 5 of the Specification.

Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for this skills area. There are 11 irregular verbs and you have to learn them. Here are some hints and tips to help you with the regular verbs.

The 4 most common forms of the Verbs you will need for the exam are the past, present, future and the conditional. Ask your teacher to teach the conditional tense to you. The autonomous form commonly appears on the exam too.

You need to know the following terms before starting to work with Verbs:

- Broad Vowels = A,O,U;
- Slender Vowels = I,E;
- 1st Conjugation Verbs = Verbs with one syllable;
- 2nd Conjugation Verbs = Verbs with more than one syllable.

### Past Tense - Key Info

To put a verb into the Past Tense there are Four Main Rules:

1. Put D' before a verb starting with a vowel;
2. Aspirate a verb starting with a consonant;
3. Put d' before a verb starting with an 'F' and Aspirate;
4. Don't aspirate verbs beginning with **H, L, N, R, Sc, Sm, Sp, St.**

A good way to remember this is: He Likes Noodles and Rice. Scallions Smell Spicy in Stew

?	Ar	Aspirate	Ar cheannaigh tú?
x	Níor	Aspirate	Níor chuir mé?

**Present Tense - Key Info**

There is no **Mé** in the present tense

Remember to remove the aigh/igh before adding 2nd conjugation endings

? An eclipse An gceannaíonn tú?

x Ní Aspirate Ní chuirim

	<b>1st Conjugation</b>	<b>2nd Conjugation</b>
Slender	im eann tú eann sé/sí eann muid/sibh/siad	ím íonn tú íonn sé/sí íonn muid/sibh/siad
Broad	aim ann tú ann sé/sí ann muid/sibh/said	aím aíonn tú aíonn sé/sí aíonn muid/sibh/siad

Ask your teacher to explain syncopated verbs

**Future Tense - Key Info**

Remember to remove the aigh/igh before adding 2nd conjugation endings

? An eclipse An gceannóidh tú?

x Ní Aspirate Ní chuirfidh mé

	<b>1st Conjugation</b>	<b>2nd Conjugation</b>
Slender	fidh	eoidh
Broad	faidh	óidh

**Autonomous Endings - Key info**

	<b>1st Conjugation</b>	<b>2nd Conjugation</b>
Past	eadh adh	íodh aíodh
Present	tear tar	ítear aítear
Future	fear far	eofar ófar

**Spend time practicing the use of the indirect verb**

e.g Tá mé tinn – sílim go bhfuil mé tinn.

Ceannaíonn sé arán gach lá – síleann sé go gceannaíonn sé arán gach lá.