

Exploring Different Tenses

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Tense and Poetry

Read the haiku below. What tense are they written in? What effect does this have?

winter wonderland even the burnt out car looks beautiful	in the weeds one hundred and one striped caterpillars	sand in my slippers all these little white daisies closed-up for the night
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Editing Prose

- We might write what we did in the past tense initially and then revise it, changing it in to the present tense.
- We can strip out anything not needed and concentrate on the images.
- We can experiment with shortened syntax, maybe not completing sentences, but leaving them as fragments instead.

How could you edit the text below?

As I left my house I closed the door behind me and felt the cold metal handle on my hand. I

walked down the street, hearing the cars bump along the uneven cobbles and their engines strain

to climb the hill. The roar of traffic increased as I walked towards the main road; car engines

growled impatiently as I forced them to stop at the zebra crossing.