

Exploring Different Tenses: Teacher notes

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Discuss some of the benefits of writing in the present tense and model the editing process to students, using the text below or an alternative. As you demonstrate, emphasise that there are many possible options and no right or wrong answers.

Original Text in the Past Tense

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.

Example Edit

Leaving ~~As I left~~ my house I ~~closed the door behind me and felt~~ feel the cold metal handle on my hand as I close the door behind me. I walked down the street, ~~, hearing the cars~~ are bumping along the uneven cobbles ~~as and~~ their engines strain to climb the hill. Nearing the main road, ~~The roar of~~ traffic roars increased as I walked towards the main road; car engines growled impatiently, ~~as I~~ forced ~~them~~ to stop at the zebra crossing.

Revised Text

Leaving my house, I feel the cold metal handle as I close the door behind me. I walk down the street, cars are bumping over the uneven cobbles as their engines strain to climb the hill. Nearing the main road, traffic roars; car engines growl impatiently, forced to stop at the zebra crossing.