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## Grammar Rainbow – Explaining ‘Past and Present Tense’

The fourth ‘P’ is all about past and present tense.

Children get really excited and start with a character and sometimes start their writing in the past: ‘Charlie went to the shop’. And sometimes, children get so excited that Charlie is at the shop, Charlie becomes them. And then suddenly they are in the moment: ‘I took some sweets’, and they have not only shifted their subject, they’ve also shifted tense.

Children need so much support with tense. They often start in the past and move to the present and they need their writing hand held all the time to keep tense consistent.

And of course we know, because we’ve looked closely at verbs, verbs are the power parts of tense, and it’s not just the action parts. ‘We were going to the shop’, we were going, all functioning in the past. And children need lots of help with this to be consistent.