

What is Tense Buster?

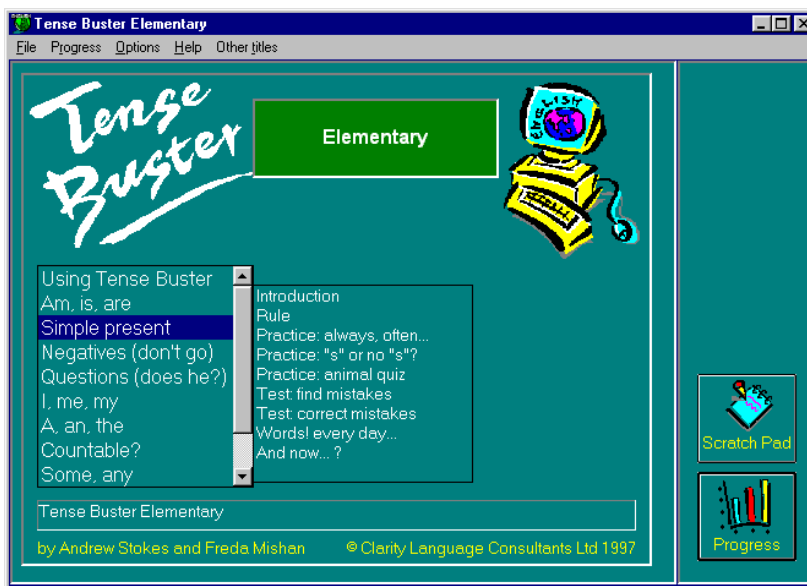
Tense Buster is a multimedia program that helps learners improve their grammar skills. The program is available at five levels of difficulty: **Elementary**, **Lower Intermediate**, **Intermediate**, **Upper Intermediate**, and **Advanced**. We recommend that Tense Buster Elementary be used with LINC One learners.

The five Tense Buster programs share the same features. In each LINC level, we discuss the features that we think are most relevant to that level. However, the features discussed in one level are not limited to that level only. They build on those discussed in the previous levels. If you are new to Tense Buster, we recommend that you start with this section.

Features

TENSE BUSTER ELEMENTARY

- Tense Buster Elementary consists of the following nine grammar units:
 - Am, is, are
 - Simple Present
 - Negatives
 - Questions
 - I, me, my
 - A, an, the
 - Countable
 - Some, any
 - Have got



Tense Buster Elementary Main Menu

Each unit is made up of several exercises. Highlighting a unit title in the main menu (e.g. Simple Present-see picture) opens a cascading menu of the exercises available in that unit.

■ Unit Structure

Each unit may include some or all of the following:

- **Introduction**--Introduces the language area that learners will be working on.
- **Rule**--Explanation of the grammar rules in appropriate language for the level. Learners can print the rules.
- **Practice**--One or more exercises to allow learners to practise the grammar lesson in the unit. Practice exercises often include hints and feedback. A hint is a clue to direct the learner to type or select the right answer. A feedback is a detailed explanation about the correct answer. Usually, the learners have access to the rule in practice exercises. The Marking button shows the correct and wrong answers in the exercise.

- **Test**--One or more exercises to allow learners to further practise the grammar focus in the unit. Like Practice, Test also has marking buttons to mark the exercise. Some tests include hints. The feedback provides explanation of the correct answer.

How to use Tense Buster with LINC One learners

At this level, learners need to learn to open the program, select exercise(s) suggested by the instructor, complete exercise(s), and close the program. In addition, they need to become familiar with the names of the parts of the screen and simple navigation techniques such as moving back and forth between the exercises. The Skills Checklist at the end of this section provides step-by-step instructions on how to access the above functions in the program.

We recommend that you skip the log-in procedure as it may overwhelm novice learners. Instruct your learners to simply click **OK** when the log-in menu appears on the screen.

Since Tense Buster is not theme based, it is not always possible to integrate its contents into your ESL unit. However, the Authoring Kit, which is available in five levels, allows you to develop activities that are relevant to your unit. Each level in this guide contains an example of an exercise created for that level using the Authoring Kit.

Curriculum-unit-related activities

The following Tense Buster Elementary exercises tie in with the specified units in the LINC One Curriculum Guidelines.

Tense Buster Elementary			
Unit	Topic	Tense Buster Unit Exercise	
Commercial Services	Supermarket Shopping	Countable	Introduction
		Countable	Words! Counting
		Some, any	Words! Food
Employment	Working in Canada	I, me, my	Test!
Family Life	Family Structures and Relationships	I, me, my	Practice: my, his, their...
		I, me, my	Words! Families
Health and Safety	Nutrition and Food Preparation	Some, any	Practice: “a” or “some”?
Housing	Neighbours & Neighbourhoods	Am, is, are	Introduction
		Am, is, are	Rule
		Am, is, are	Practice: I’m-I am
Leisure	Leisure Activities	Negatives	Introduction
Media	Broadcast media	Am, is, are	Test: am, is, are
	Any	Questions	Words! radio and tv
Transportation	Getting Around by Public Transportation	Negatives	Words! Train, car, bus

• TENSE BUSTER ELEMENTARY

Skills Checklist for Learners


Function

Open Tense Buster program

How to...

Click **Start** | **Programs** | **Clarity** | Tense Buster program.

Exit Tense Buster

- Click **Exit** on the main menu or
- Click  on the top right corner of the Tense Buster window.

Bypass log-in procedure


In the Tense Buster log-in menu, click **OK**.

Open a Unit


Click on the unit. Select an exercise in the cascading menu and click it.

Navigation


Move to next exercise

Click  in any exercise. Click **OK**.

Move to previous exercise

Click  in any exercise. Click **OK**.

Go back to Main Menu

Click  in any exercise. Click **OK**.

Text Manipulation

Insert text

Click on the blank line where you want to enter text. A text box opens with a blinking cursor. Key in text.

Edit text

Click anywhere on the text you want to edit. A text box appears with a blinking cursor. Delete or backspace existing text and key in new text.

Mouse Skills

Point

Move mouse on screen until the tip of the mouse pointer is on the desired text or image.

Click

Press and release the left mouse button once.

Drag

Press and hold the left mouse button while moving the mouse; release the left mouse button when in desired place.