

## 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 Lower Intermediate and Intermediate be used with LINC Three 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 LINC One.

## Features

### TENSE BUSTER LOWER INTERMEDIATE

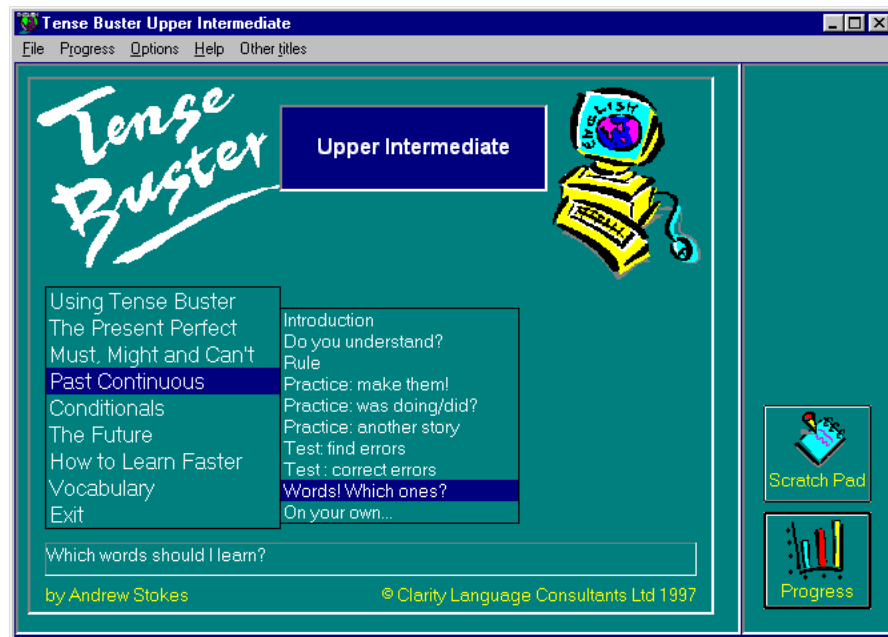
Please see the Tense Buster section in LINC Two.

### TENSE BUSTER INTERMEDIATE

Please see the Tense Buster section in LINC Three.

### TENSE BUSTER UPPER INTERMEDIATE

- Tense Buster Intermediate consists of the following seven units:
  - The Present Perfect
  - Must, Might and Can't
  - Past Continuous
  - Conditionals
  - The Future
  - How to learn faster
  - Vocabulary



*Tense Buster Upper Intermediate Main Menu*

Each unit is made up of several exercises.

Highlighting a unit title in the main menu (e.g., Past Continuous-see picture) opens a cascading menu of the exercises available in that unit.

# 4 • TENSE BUSTER UPPER INTERMEDIATE


## ■ Unit Structure

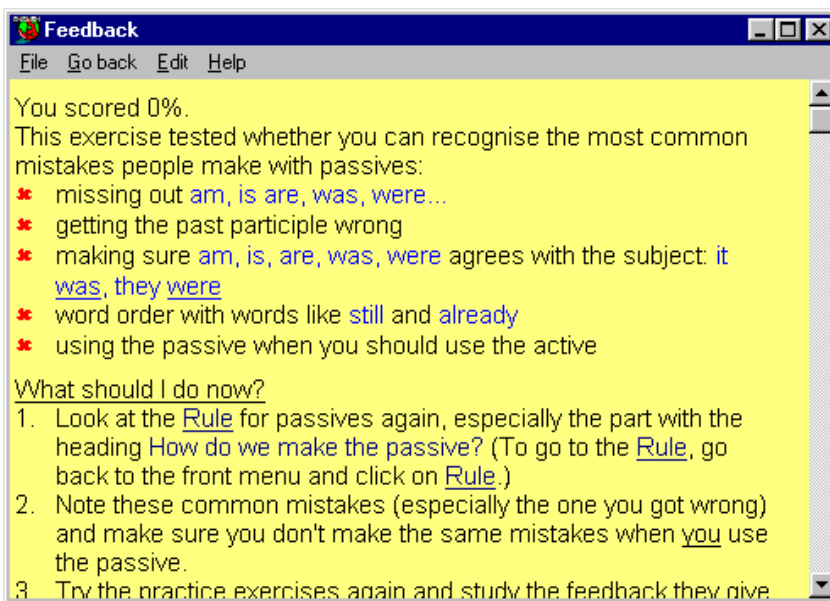
Each unit may include some or all of the following:

- **Introduction**--Introduces the language area that learners will be working on.
- **Do you understand?**--Builds on Introduction through additional exercises.
- **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.


## ■ Feedback

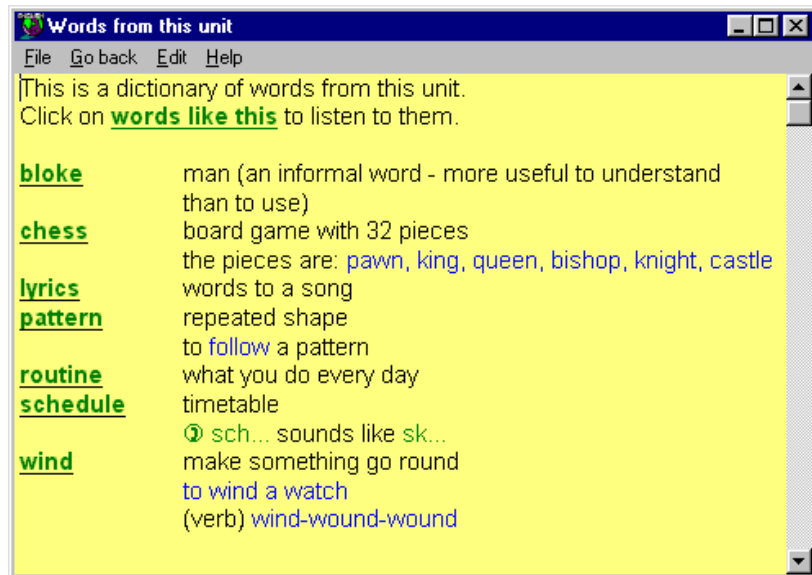
Feedback provides the correct answer together with some explanation about it. Most of the exercises in Tense Buster provide feedback. In Practice exercises, the feedback usually includes explanation of the rule. In Test exercises, the feedback describes what has been tested. Depending on the type of marking, the feedback is provided either after each answer is selected (instant) or at the end of the exercise (delayed). Feedback is available only after an exercise is marked. To see

the feedback to an exercise, click **Marking** button | **No**. Click **See the answers**. Click the **Feedback** button. To exit from feedback, click  on the top right corner of the feedback window.



## ■ Vocabulary

This function contains the difficult vocabulary in that unit. It provides meaning and some grammar information for each entry. To see a list of vocabulary from a unit, click on the **Vocabulary** button on the right side of the Tense Buster main menu. To hear the pronunciation of the word, click on the underlined word. To exit vocabulary, click  on the top right corner of the Vocabulary window.




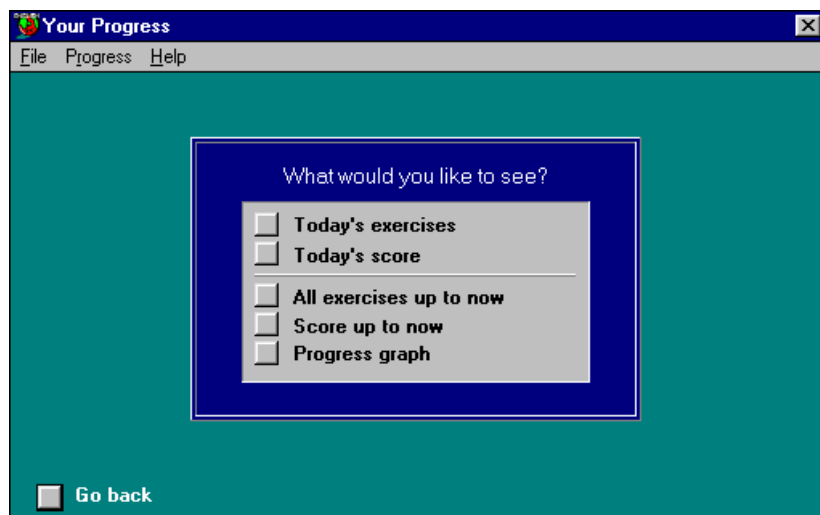
## ■ Check your progress

Once you log-in, you can check your progress when you click the **Progress** button on the lower right corner of the Tense Buster main menu. The following options are available:

- Today's exercises
- Today's score
- All exercises up to now
- Score up to now
- Progress graph

To exit Progress, click the **Go back** button in the bottom left

corner or click  on the top right corner of Your Progress window.



# 4 • TENSE BUSTER UPPER INTERMEDIATE

## LINC FOUR

### How to use Tense Buster with LINC Four learners

At this level, learners need to have mastered the skills described in previous LINC levels. It is therefore a good idea to check the learners' skills before teaching new ones. If your LINC Four learners are not familiar with Tense Buster, we recommend starting them at LINC One skill level.

- Here is a list of recommended skills for LINC Four:
  - Explain the feedback and its benefits. Explain the different feedback formats in practice and test exercises. Have learners regularly check the feedback and print them.
  - Explain the progress button and options. Have learners regularly check their progress after completing exercises for the day.
  - Explain the vocabulary button and have learners look up the meanings and listen to the pronunciation of the entries.

To see a list of the skills recommended for LINC Four, refer to the Skills Checklist at the end of this section. 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.



Explain to your learners that the vocabulary is pronounced with an English accent. Repeat the word yourself so that learners become familiar with the Canadian pronunciation as well as the English.

Create wall charts of Tense Buster unit structure to display in the class. Create tracking sheets to monitor learners' progress.

## Curriculum-unit-related-activities

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


<b>Tense Buster Intermediate</b>			
<b>Unit</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Tense Buster Unit</b>	<b>Exercise</b>
Health and Safety	Healthy Lifestyle	Equality	All
<b>Tense Buster Upper Intermediate</b>			
Relationships	Friendship	Past Continuous	Rule, Practice: was doing/did
<b>Tense Buster Advanced</b>			
Business	Telephone	Phrasal Verbs	Rule, Test: Telephone verbs
Relationships	Friendship	Phrasal Verbs	Phrasal verb quiz

# 4 • TENSE BUSTER UPPER INTERMEDIATE

## Skills Checklist for Learners

Skills Level	Function	How to...
<b>1</b>	Open Tense Buster	Click <b>Start</b>   <b>Programs</b>   <b>Clarity</b>   Tense Buster program.
<b>2</b>	Log-in	In the box, type in your name. Click <b>OK</b> .
<b>1</b>	Open exercise	Click on the unit. Select an exercise in the cascading menu and click it.
<b>3</b>	Open Tutorial	Click on <b>Using Tense Buster</b> in Tense Buster main menu.
<b>1</b>	Exit Tense Buster	Click <b>Exit</b> on the main menu or Click <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> on the top right corner of the Tense Buster window.

### Marking, Options, and Hint

<b>2</b>	Mark exercise	Click on <b>Marking</b> button in the exercise. Click <b>No</b> if you want to see the marking.
<b>3</b>	See answers to an exercise	Click on <b>Marking</b> button in the exercise. Click <b>No</b> . Click <b>See the answers</b> .
<b>3</b>	Return to exercise and try again	Click on <b>Marking</b> button in the exercise. Click <b>Yes</b> . Click on <b>Marking</b> button in the exercise. Click <b>No</b> . Click <b>Try again</b> .
<b>3</b>	Skip exercise	Click on <b>Marking</b> button in the exercise. Click <b>No</b> . Click <b>Finish</b> . Click  . Click <b>OK</b> .
<b>3</b>	Change type of marking	If an exercise allows options (you will see the word <b>Options</b> in the yellow area), click <b>Options</b> on the menu bar and click on <b>Use Instant marking</b> or <b>Use Delayed marking</b> .
<b>3</b>	See hints	If hint is available, hold <b>Ctrl</b> key down and click on a <b>blank</b> or a <b>mistake</b> .


### Feedback

<b>4</b>	Close feedback window	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Click <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> on the top right corner of feedback window.</li> <li>■ Click <b>File</b>   <b>Go back</b> on the menu bar.</li> <li>■ Click <b>Go back</b> on the menu bar.</li> </ul>
----------	-----------------------	---


## Skills

Level	Function	How to...
4	See feedback for exercise	Click on <b>Marking</b> button in the exercise. Click <b>No</b> . Click <b>See Answers</b> . Click <b>Feedback</b> .


## Vocabulary

4	Look up a word in a unit	Click <b>Vocabulary</b>  on the right side of the unit.
4	Listen to the pronunciation of a word	Click on any underlined word in the vocabulary window.
4	Exit Vocabulary window	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Click <input type="checkbox"/> on the top right corner of feedback window.</li> <li>■ Click <b>File   Go back</b> on the menu bar.</li> <li>■ Click <b>Go back</b> on the menu bar.</li> </ul>




## Scratch Pad

3	Open Scratch Pad	Click <b>Scratch Pad</b> 
3	Close Scratch Pad	Click <input type="checkbox"/> on the top right corner of the Scratch Pad window.

## Progress

4	Check Progress	Click <b>Progress</b>  on the bottom right corner of the exercise. Select an option.
4	Exit Progress menu	Click <b>Go back</b> on the bottom left corner of Progress menu. Click <b>File   Go back</b> on the menu bar.

## Print Options



2	Print exercise	Click on <b>Printing</b> button  . Select <b>The exercise</b> . Select an option. Click <b>OK</b> .
3	Print rule	Click on <b>Printing</b> button  . Select <b>The Rule</b> . Click <b>OK</b> .
		Click on <b>Rule</b> button  . Click <b>File   Print</b> on the menu bar.

## Navigation Tools

1	Move to next exercise	Click  in any exercise. Click <b>OK</b> .
---	-----------------------	---

# 4 • TENSE BUSTER UPPER INTERMEDIATE

## Skills

Level	Function	How to...
1	Move to previous exercise	Click  in any exercise. Click <b>OK</b> .
1	Go back to Main Menu	Click  in any exercise. Click <b>OK</b> .

## Text Manipulation

1	Insert text	Click on the blank line where you want to enter text. A text box opens with a blinking cursor. Key in text.
1	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

1	Point	Move mouse on screen until the tip of the mouse pointer is on the desired text or image.
1	Click	Press and release the left mouse button once.
1	Drag	Press and hold the left mouse button while moving the mouse; release the left mouse button when in desired place.