

HISTORICAL PRESENT



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Level: advanced - We can use present forms to talk about the past:

when we are telling a story

Well, it's a lovely day and **I'm just walking** down the street when **I see** this funny guy walking towards me. Obviously **he's been drinking**, because **he's moving** from side to side ...

when we are summarising something we have read, heard or seen

I love Ian Rankin's novels. He writes about this detective called Rebus. Rebus **lives** in Edinburgh and **he's** a brilliant detective, but **he's always getting** into trouble. In one book, **he gets suspended** and **they tell him** to stop working on this case. But **he takes no notice ...**

in news headlines

War criminal escapes from courtroom.

(= a war criminal has escaped from a courtroom.)

Real Madrid wins against Manchester United.

(= Real Madrid won against Manchester United yesterday.)

in summaries of historical events

1945: the war in Europe **comes to an end.**

in jokes

"This man **goes** to his psychiatrist and says, "Nobody **listens** to me!" The doctor **says**, "Next!"