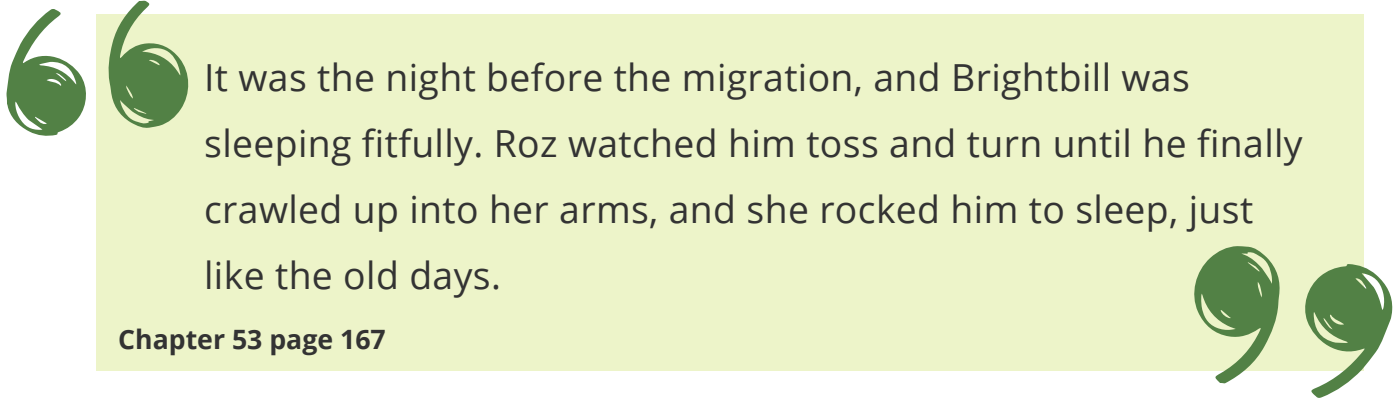


## Grammar Focus: Past and Present Tense

**Learning Objective:** To distinguish between, and use present and past tense verbs.

Read Chapters 53-55 of The Wild Robot.



Verbs (action words) can tell us **when** something happens. **Present tense** is right now! When you say, 'I play with my toys,' you're using the present tense because you're doing it right now, not yesterday or tomorrow. The verb 'play' is happening in the present. But sometimes we talk about things that already happened, like when you tell a story about yesterday's adventure. That's when we use past tense. For example, 'I played with my toys yesterday.' Here, 'played' shows that the action happened before, in the past.

In *The Wild Robot*, Brown uses the past tense to narrate the events that have already occurred. This choice of tense, the past tense, gives us a feeling that we are being told a story that has happened in the past.

**Ex. 1** Have a go at re-writing this extract in the **present** tense.

How does it feel to read this in the present tense? By switching to the present tense, the events feel as if they are happening in the moment. It makes us feel readers feel as if they we are experiencing the events alongside the characters.

Whichever tense you use to write your stories, it is important to use the same tense all the way through or it will get confusing.

## Spelling: Past Tense Verbs

**Learning Objective:** To correctly spell regular and irregular past tense verbs.

**When changing a verb from the present tense to the past tense we usually add -ed to the present tense verb:**

I watch (present tense) - I watched (past tense).

I want (present tense) - I wanted (past tense).

**However, some verbs have an irregular past tense verb form:**

I swim (present tense) - I swam (past tense)

I eat (present tense) - I ate (past tense)

**Ex. 2** Re-write each of these sentences in the **past tense**.

1) The children wish they can go out.

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2) The ice-cream melts in her hand.

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3) She sings loudly in the street.

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4) I write to my pen-pal.

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5) I eat fish and chips.

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6) He drives a black car.

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7) They find some treasure.

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## Writer's Craft: Painting Pictures with Words

**Learning Objective:** Use winter-related vocabulary to vividly describe a winter scene.

Read these descriptions of winter from *The Wild Robot* (Chapter 54):

- *The island was quiet.*
- *She stood in her grey garden and watched a sheet of ice slowly form on the pond.*
- *Roz stood there until snowflakes swirled in the breeze and slowly piled up on the ground.*
- *The dark pond was now pure white.*
- *A devastating cold front had swept down from the north.*

In this chapter, Brown uses winter-specific terms like "snowflakes," "ice," and referencing the cold weather sweeping down from the north firmly establishes the season. The use of words like "quiet," "grey," "sheet of ice," "pure white," and "devastating cold front" set a tone of stillness, coldness, and the transformative nature of winter, enhancing the mood of the scene.

## Writer's Craft: Painting Pictures with Words

**Ex. 3** Find a picture of a winter scene and write a paragraph describing it. Describe what you can see, but also include what you might feel, and hear if you were in this scene.

Remember to include lots of adjective, powerful verbs, and adverbs to really paint a picture with your words.

Use some of the winter word bank words if you want to:

Blanketing	Frozen	Crisp	Frost-covered branches
Whirling	Dazzling	Pristine	Glittering icicles
Icy	Chilly	Glistening	Snow-capped mountains
Glittering	Howling	Sparkling	Blanket of snow
Drifting	Blustery	Frosty	Winter wonderland
	Billowy		Icy pathways

## Writing Activity: Newspaper Report!

**Learning Objective:** Create a newspaper report using a journalistic style of writing.

In chapter 57 in "The Wild Robot" the lodgers face a perilous situation as fire engulfs one of the lodges.

**Ex. 1** You are going to be a journalist, and delve into this dramatic scene and write a newspaper report about the fire which happened.

- Use the Newspaper Report Planning Prompts first to help you plan your report.
- Then you can use the Newspaper Report Template to write your final report.

Remember, a good newspaper article doesn't just tell the information, it has to interest the readers.

### **Tips For Writing A great Newspaper Report:**

#### **Headlines:**

- Sum up the story in a few words
- Use powerful and interesting language
- Write in the present tense – even if the event has already happened

#### **For a good first paragraph, you need to;**

- Make sure the first paragraph answers as many of these six questions as you can – Who? What? Where? Why? When? How?
- Use past tense in most cases
- Keep it short

#### **The rest of the report:**

- Add more information and detail to your first paragraph
- Include background information, evidence, facts and quotes from people involved in or connected to the event/story

## Planning a Newspaper Report

### Introduction:

Who was involved?
What happened? First:
Next:
Then:
Where did it take place?
When did it take place?

### Interview:

Who will you interview? How are they involved with the event?
What did they say?

### Final Paragraph:

What are the characters doing now? What might happen in the future?

Newspaper Name:

Headline:

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## Our Changing Planet: Exploring Climate Change

**Learning Objective:** Identify some effects of climate change on natural environments

In Chapter 58, Crag the turtle describes changes that have happened to weather and the environment: winters are getting colder; summers are getting hotter; storms have gotten fiercer; oceans are getting higher.

All of these changes are happening because of climate change. This is happening right now, in real life. But how does climate change happen?

Our planet has a special blanket called the "atmosphere" that wraps around it. This blanket lets sunlight in, and some of it reflects back into space. Normally, this blanket keeps the planet at the perfect temperature for us to live comfortably.

However, when people use a lot of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas for things like driving cars, making electricity, or heating homes, it releases something called "greenhouse gases" into the air. These gases, like carbon dioxide, act like an extra thick blanket around our Earth. This extra thickness makes our planet warmer than it should be. This is what we call the "greenhouse effect" which is causing climate change.

As the Earth gets warmer, it starts changing the weather and sea levels. For example:

1. **Extreme Weather:** There are stronger storms, hotter heatwaves, and heavier rainfall in some places. This can be dangerous and affect the places where people live.
2. **Melting Ice and Rising Seas:** As the planet warms up, ice in places like the Arctic and Antarctica starts melting. This causes sea levels to rise, which can flood coastal areas.
3. **Harm to Plants and Animals:** Some animals and plants might not survive because their homes get too hot or dry.

**Ex. 1** Create a poster on climate change. Include information about what causes it, what its effects are, and what we can do to help the environment.