

# The Busy Student's

# 'Which Tense Should I Use?' Cheatsheet

## Tense

## Use

### Present Simple

Students **know** that practice is important.

- Actions that reoccur.
- Current **truths & beliefs**.
- General statements.
- Giving current evidence from research.

### Present Cont.

The number of international students in the UK **is rising**.

- Trends (things that are **currently** popular).
- Events or actions happening at the time of writing/speaking.

### Present Perf.

Previous research **has investigated** the effect of social media on productivity.

- Referring to **events or research** from the **past** which are **still** relevant **today**.

### Past Simple

- Questionnaires **were used** to collect the data. (*passive voice*)
- People believed the earth was flat.

- Describing your research methods.
- Showing past actions.
- Past beliefs that have changed.

### Will

Economists predict that these numbers **will rise** over the next few years.

- Making **predictions** for the future.
- Describing your future plans.

### Could/Should

Language death **could/should** be prevented.

**Could** = shows a possibility.  
**Should** = suggestion



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