

Integrating Tense Buster into your curriculum

Tense Buster is designed as a supplementary resource to be integrated into a teacher-led course. The individual units can be assigned for homework or can be tackled in the classroom. Tense Buster can, additionally, be used as a stand-alone self access program or for remedial or extension work.

In order to integrate the program into your own curriculum, start by looking at the Tense Buster syllabus, which can be found on the Clarity Support site. This gives details of the language areas and skills covered in the units. For example, these are some (abbreviated) details from one of the units:

Countable?

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Do you understand?
- ▶ The rule
- ▶ Practice: 'much' or 'many'?
- ▶ Speaking: correct the sentences
- ▶ Practice: 'there is' or 'there are'?
- ▶ Practice: questions
- ▶ Vocab: counting...
- ▶ And now? (look, cover, write, check)
- ▶ Test

Look at your own syllabus or the contents of your course book. From there, you can cross-reference the two resources. For example, if Unit 4 of your course book includes exercises on There is / are , you may wish to use the relevant parts of the unit above in a homework activity.

Note that there are also downloadable, paper-based worksheets available on the Clarity Support website.

Editing your copy of Tense Buster

Most institutions use the standard version of Tense Buster. However, it is possible to rearrange the units and exercises in Tense Buster and to edit the content of the activities, creating your own customised version of the program. You may wish to do this because you want to introduce materials that your learners have been working on in class, or to edit the texts to be more appropriate to the exact language level or to the cultural expectations of your learners. In order to edit Tense Buster, you need a copy of Clarity's Author Plus and Results Manager. For more details, see www.ClarityEnglish.com/AuthorPlus



Clarity Support

Clarity provides extensive support for teachers, technicians and administrators. To explore this, go to www.ClaritySupport.com.

Teacher Support

Click into the Tense Buster section for the syllabus, a worksheet to help teachers get to know the program, PDF worksheets and more.

Technical Support

This offers guidance on installation, and answers common technical questions.

If you have queries that are not answered on the site, please email support@clarity.com.hk or phone Clarity.



Clarity Language Consultants Ltd

UK office: PO Box 625, Godalming, GU7 1ZR, UK
Tel: 0845 130 5627 Fax: 0845 130 5647
Email: Melissa.Pink@clarity.com.hk

HK office: PO Box 163, Sai Kung, Hong Kong
Tel: (+852) 2791 1787 Fax: (+852) 2791 6484
Email: info@clarity.com.hk



TENSE BUSTER V9

*Break through
the grammar barrier!*

Installation instructions

For installation instructions, please see the installation guide in the box (network version), or your welcome email (online version). There is a PDF of the installation instructions on the Clarity Support site.

www.ClaritySupport.com.

www.clarity.com.hk





TENSE BUSTER v9

Break through the grammar barrier!

What is Tense Buster?

Tense Buster is a grammar program at five levels from Elementary through to Advanced. Each level includes a number of key grammar areas which are tackled in a systematic manner from presentation to practice to test. While the focus of Tense Buster is grammar, the program also includes work on pronunciation and vocabulary, and each unit includes a learner development element. Tense Buster can be used as a classroom resource in the computer lab or for self access. There is an online version which can be used for homework.

How to start?

To start Tense Buster, double click on the icon on the Desktop (or choose Tense Buster from the Start menu). The first screen shows the levels available to you (Elementary, Lower Intermediate...). Choose the appropriate level by clicking on it. This will bring you to the menu of units. The units are free standing and do not have to be tackled in sequence.

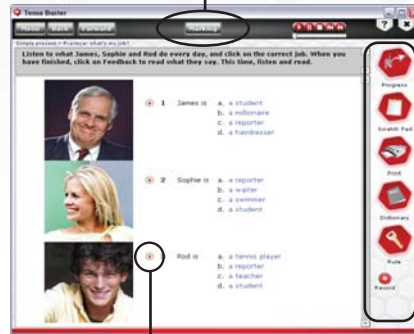
Navigation

Navigation is very straightforward. To move to the next or previous exercise, click on the Back, Forward and Menu buttons at the top of the screen.



Marking / Scoring

When you have finished an exercise, click on the Marking / Scoring button at the top of the screen. In some exercises, next to this button there is a choice between As I work (choose this for questions to be marked as you do them) and At the end (choose this for marking when you have completed all the questions).



Listening button

Some exercises have an audio component. Click the play button to listen. Sometimes it is only available after marking / scoring.

Dictionary

Tense Buster has a link to the Cambridge Dictionaries Online. You can look up a word by holding down the Ctrl key and clicking on it. Provided your system does not block pop-ups, this will open a browser and take you to the correct entry in the dictionary. Note that it will not work on words which form part of a question (e.g. gaps, drags or multiple choice items).

Exercise gauge

Next to each of the units and exercises on the unit screen is a small lozenge. This is a gauge of how much of Tense Buster you have completed.

Downloads

Some of the exercises include links to other websites and downloads. Downloads are in PDF format, so to access them you need to ensure that you have Adobe's Acrobat Reader installed on your computer.

Progress

Each time an exercise is marked / scored, progress details are saved. These include the time the activity was started, how long the learner spent on it, the score achieved and the name of the exercise. Learners can view this information, which is saved across sessions, by clicking on the Progress button. Teachers can generate reports using Results Manager (see below).

Scratch Pad

The Scratch Pad is an electronic notepad learners can use to make notes, jot down questions they want to ask the teacher or do extended writing activities. The contents of the Scratch Pad are automatically saved for each learner under their login name.

Printing

You can print out any of the texts and exercises by clicking on the Print button on the right-hand side of the screen.

Audio Recording

The first time Tense Buster is opened, the program will display a button on the right-hand side labelled Recorder. To set up the recording software - called the Clarity Recorder - click on this and follow the instructions. Thereafter, provided the Clarity Recorder is running on the computer, a red recording button will be displayed. If this red button is absent, simply go to the Start menu and start up the Clarity Recorder. The network version will do this for you automatically.

Integration with Results Manager

Tense Buster works with Results Manager which enables teachers to input learner details, assign learners to groups and generate reports. For more details on Results Manager, please visit the Clarity website.



www.ClarityEnglish.com/ResultsManager