WHICH TENSES TO USE

The tenses used to write are the **present simple** and the **past simple**.

In general, use **present tense**:

+ State universal facts in present tense:

  *Water freezes at 0°Celsius*

+ Refer to graphs, figures, tables, references in present tense:

  *Table 3 shows that…*

+ Use the present tense in the final sentence to state the conclusion of the work, point out its importance or stress the take-home message.

Use **past tense**:

+ When referring to something that happened in the past:

  *Einstein showed that…*

  *Heisenberg showed in Fig.7 that…*

+ State your observations in the past tense:

  *The solution froze at -90°Celsius*

+ Use the past tense to describe *what you did* in your work and *why you did it*.

Excessive use of **present participles** leads to tense inconsistencies, try to avoid them:

*Years ago, we used pumps having a flow rate of 9 L/s*

The verb *used* is in past tense, but the participle *having* is in present tense

-> *Years ago, we used pumps that had a flow rate of 9 L/s*