Reflect:

1. Think about how you learnt English or another language. How did you learn about tense and aspect?

2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of learning about remote and close forms as outlined in the blogpost:
   i. for teachers?
   ii. for learners?

3. At what level would you introduce these ideas to your students? Why?

4. Do you think it’s best to learn grammar in small, perhaps artificial, stages (‘McNuggets’), or to study the whole picture?

5. Can you think of any examples which break the rules outlined in the blogpost?

Discuss:

If you have someone to discuss with, compare your answers. If any are different, think about why.

Explore:

1. Look at the eight underlined verb forms in the conversation below. Is each one close or remote? Does it refer to time, reality, or register, or a combination? Record your answers in the table on the next page.

Jenna: Hey Liam, how was the meeting this morning? Sorry I couldn’t come. Ben works early now so I have to watch the kids.

Liam: Ugh, it went on for ages. I wish we didn’t have these progress meetings. I sometimes think we’d make more progress without them!

Jenna: I know what you mean. Hey, pass me my keys will you?
Liam: Here you go. Actually Jenna, I was wondering if I could ask you some advice? I've done something bad – I accidentally deleted all of last month's sales records! It was my own fault. If I'd learned how to use the new company software properly, I wouldn't have done it. What do you think I should do?

Jenna: Oh Liam! You have to own up. Go and speak to the boss asap.

Liam: Yeah, you're right ...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>close or remote</th>
<th>time, reality, or register</th>
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2 Look through a coursebook you’re using now, or one you’ve used recently. Identify at what points you could:

i. introduce the idea of remote and close tenses.

ii. use the examples to illustrate wider uses of the aspect, across different tenses.

3 Think of an example sentence to illustrate each of the following uses of aspect.

i. something in progress at a particular point in the future

ii. a repeated action that started in the past and continues up to now

iii. an event which will happen in the future, but we do not know exactly when

iv. a past action with a present result

v. a repeated action which continued up to a point in the past

Answers: ‘Explore’, Ex 1:
1 remote, time; 2 close, time; 3 remote, time; 4 remote, reality; 5 close, register; 6 remote, register; 7 remote, register; 8 remote, time and remote, register

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