

Reflect:

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

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- 2 What are the advantages and disadvantages of learning about remote and close forms as outlined in the blogpost:

i. for teachers?

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ii. for learners?

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

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

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

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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 ¹was the meeting this morning? Sorry I couldn't come. Ben ²works early now so I have to watch the kids.

Liam: Ugh, it ³went on for ages. I wish we ⁴didn't have these progress meetings. I sometimes think we'd make more progress without them!

Jenna: I know what you mean. Hey, ⁵pass me my keys will you?

Liam: Here you go. Actually Jenna, I ⁶was wondering if I ⁷could 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 ⁸I'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 ...

	<i>close or remote</i>	<i>time, reality, or register</i>
1		
2		
3		
4		

	<i>close or remote</i>	<i>time, reality, or register</i>
5		
6		
7		
8		

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.

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

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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

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

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

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iv. a past action with a present result

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

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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