

Past Tense ESOL resources for Entry 2

Author's notes

Here is a selection of speaking, listening, reading and writing resources that I use with Entry 1-2 students.

I use the pairs / pelmanism game (pages 6-7) with lower level ESOL learners after teaching the past simple tense of regular verbs and selected common irregular ones. They play it in twos rather than as a whole class.

The text about Sarah (page 8) can be used as a general comprehension exercise and to check understanding of the past tense. It can also be used as a model text for class discussion before students write their own short recounts.

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Main ESOL Curriculum References

The simple past tense is referred to in many aspects of E1 and E2 speaking and listening. For reading and writing, the curriculum (pages 30-31) lists the following details under E2 Key Grammatical Structures.

E2 Simple and compound sentences

Verb forms and time markers in statements, interrogatives, negatives and short forms

Simple past tense of regular and common irregular verbs with time markers such as *ago*. E.g. We went to the cinema yesterday. I saw her two weeks ago.

To obtain an editable Word version of this document please send teaching ideas or any adult basic skills resource that you would like to share to

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THANK YOU

Regular Verbs

Past Simple Tense

Regular Verbs

The Past simple tense is used to talk about things that happened in the past.

With regular verbs, it is formed by adding –ed to the infinitive of the verb.

walk ⇒ walked

look ⇒ looked

help ⇒ helped

The past tense is the same for all persons.

I walked to the shop

She walked to the shop

They walked to the shop

However, there are some irregular verbs which are not formed by adding –ed.

You need to remember them.

Regular Verbs Past Simple Tense

Regular Verb Exercise

Change these sentences into the past tense.

E.g. The students walk to their lesson

The students walked to their lesson

1. The children play in the park
2. They laugh at the joke
3. The good students help their teacher with the books
4. She asks him a question about the homework
5. Sarah talks to her friend on the phone
6. The family watch TV after dinner.

Irregular Verbs Past Simple Tense

Irregular Verbs

There are many verbs which are irregular in the past tense. You need to remember them. The verb *to be* is the most irregular verb in the past tense. It is the only past tense verb that changes according to person.

| <i>to be</i> | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Present Tense | Past Tense |
| I | am | <i>was</i> |
| You | are | <i>were</i> |
| He / She / It | is | <i>was</i> |
| We | are | <i>were</i> |
| They | are | <i>were</i> |

Some other verbs which are irregular in the past tense are:

| | | |
|------|---|------|
| have | ⇒ | had |
| do | ⇒ | did |
| go | ⇒ | went |
| see | ⇒ | saw |

These verbs are the same in all persons.

I went to the shop

She went to the shop

We went to the shop

There are many more irregular verbs in the past tense, but we will study them later.

Irregular Verbs Past Simple Tense

Irregular Verb Exercise

Change these sentences into the past tense.

E.g. John is in the football team

John was in the football team

1. We go to the cinema on Friday

2. I have a red car

3. I am very tired.

4. Lisa takes the bus to work

5. Luke is a teacher

6. They are on holiday

7. I see a bird in the sky

Pelmanism game – page 1

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| be | was | be |
| were | have | had |
| do | did | go |
| went | walk | walked |

Pelmanism game – page 2

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| look | looked | talk |
| talked | work | worked |
| play | played | listen |
| watch | watched | listened |

Sarah's Weekend

Last weekend, Sarah went to London for two days. Sarah lives in Edinburgh, so the journey was very long. She went by train.



She arrived in London at 10 am on Saturday morning and walked to her hotel. She had a shower and then decided to go for a walk around the city. First she visited the Tower of London and the Houses of Parliament. After that, she went to an Italian restaurant to have lunch. Her meal was lovely! After lunch, Sarah visited the British Museum and looked at all the exhibits. She enjoyed it very much. Sarah was tired after this, so she went back to her hotel and had dinner there.

On Sunday morning, Sarah went to the theatre to see Oliver. She liked it very much. She had lunch at a Chinese restaurant, but it wasn't very nice. After that, she went to the train station to start her journey home. She really enjoyed her weekend but did not want to go back to work on Monday!

- 1. How long did Sarah go to London for?**
- 2. What did Sarah do first when she arrived in London?**
- 3. Which three places did Sarah visit on Saturday?**
- 4. Where did Sarah have lunch on Saturday?**
- 5. What did Sarah do on Sunday morning?**
- 6. Where did Sarah have lunch on Sunday?**
- 7. Did Sarah have a good time in London?**

Verbs

What is a verb?

1. A verb is a doing word, it shows an action.

- I walked the dog

walked is the verb

- The team played football

played is the verb

- The lion ate its dinner

ate is the verb

2. A verb is also a being or feeling word.

- I am at the football match

am is the verb

- He was late for work

was is the verb

- Jack felt ill

felt is the verb