

GRAMMAR REVIEW

SIMPLE PAST TENSE

One of the tenses used to indicate past time is the Simple Past Tense.

Form: Regular verbs add *-ed* to the infinitive (without *to*) for all persons. Regular verbs ending in *-y* preceded by a consonant change the *-y* to *-ied*:
try → *tried* *carry* → *carried*.

Monosyllabic verbs and bisyllabic verbs ending in a consonant preceded by a vowel with the accent on the second syllable double the final consonant :
wrap → *wrapped* *stop* → *stopped* *prefer* → *pre-ferred*

Irregular verbs change their form but again are the same for all persons (see Appendix 1 for a list of irregular verbs). Some example in the passage are:
find → *found* *become* → *became* *bring* → *brought*

Some verbs can be regular or irregular:

dream → *dreamed* or *dreamt*

learn → *learned* or *learnt*

spell → *spelled* or *spelt*.

The irregular form is more usual in British English.

The interrogative form uses the auxiliary *did* + subject + infinitive verb (without *to*).

The negative form uses *did* + *not* before the infinitive (without *to*).

Remember that the verb *to be* does not require the auxiliary *did*.

Function: The Simple Past tense is used:

- a) to indicate past events which took place in a finished period of time often accompanied by adverbs or expressions of definite time: *In the mid-sixteenth century he published his findings.*
- b) to express habit: *He always felt insecure.*

Exercise 3

Write the following sentences in the interrogative and the negative.

- 1) In the sixteenth century the camera obscura began to be recommended specifically as an aid to representation.
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2) In the seventeenth century the Jesuits took up this idea.

3) The camera obscura also attracted the attention of important scientists.

4) This continued in the eighteenth century.

5) Brander developed camera obscuras in combination with microscopes and telescopes.

6) Haseler devised a version after the theories of Euler.

7) Gravesande described a portable version in his treatise on perspective.

8) In the nineteenth century the camera obscura continued to be used.

PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

Form: The Past Continuous Tense is formed in the same way as the Present Continuous Tense (See Unit 1), but the verb *to be* is in the past tense.

Function: The Continuous form is only used with dynamic verbs and:
a) emphasises duration, especially simultaneous actions: *While they were using the camera obscura they were developing the lens.*

b) describes actions in progress in the past: *the birds were flying and the water was twinkling.*

c) describes the occurrence of a brief event while a longer action was in progress: *I was studying in the library when the lights went out.*

The Past continuous is used with the conjunctions *while, when, as*.

Exercise 4

Choose the correct form of the verb, Past Continuous or Simple Past.

- 1) He *was living / lived* in Italy when he was a child.
- 2) He *was living / lived* in Italy when the volcano *was erupting / erupted*.
- 3) When they *were finishing / finished* their drawings they *were giving / gave* them to the teacher.
- 4) I *was knowing / knew* who he was and where he *was coming / came* from.
- 5) They *were having / had* breakfast when the roof *was falling / fell* in.

THE PASSIVE VOICE

In this passage there are some examples of the passive form: *Battista was brought to court. The account is wrapped up in a study of the occult.*

Form: The appropriate tense of the verb *to be* + Past Participle of the verb:
Active: *They were developing the lens.* Passive: *The lens was being developed.*

Modal auxiliary verbs are used in the same way. (For modal auxiliary verbs in the passive form see Unit 14).

Active: *We can find a record of the camera obscura in the writings of Da Vinci.*

Passive: *A record of the camera obscura can be found in the writings of Da Vinci.*

Function: It is generally used to express impersonal concepts especially in formal and scientific English. It is used when *what* happens is more important than *who* the agent is. If the agent is necessary, then *by* is put at the end of the sentence before the agent: *The principle was known by thinkers.* If an instrument is indicated, then *with* is used: *The perspective was traced with a pen.*

Remember that intransitive verbs cannot go into the passive.

Exercise 5

Choose the active or the passive of the verb in brackets, using the Simple Past or the Past Continuous.

During the Middle Ages, the camera obscura _____ (use) to demonstrate optical principles by Alkindi and Alhazen. In 1285 Guillaume de Saint Cloud _____ (employ) it when he _____ (observe) a solar eclipse. By the end of the fifteenth century, the camera obscura _____ (use) for a variety of optical demonstrations. Leonardo _____ (devote) over 270 diagrams to it. Cesariano, in his edition of Vitruvius, _____ (report) a device which _____ (verify) by Don Papnutio. Artistic and scientific applications _____ (become) widespread.

PAST TIME EXPRESSIONS

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| In the early/mid/late | <i>In the late 1600s</i> |
| Last century | <i>Great progress was made last century</i> |
| A long/short time ago | <i>It was invented a long time ago</i> |
| By the time | <i>By the time he arrived the man had gone</i> |
| Three years earlier | <i>They met him three years earlier</i> |
| In the distant past | <i>It was discovered in the distant past</i> |
| For a decade | <i>They stayed together for a decade</i> |
| Prior to | <i>Prior to the First World War</i> |
| Between | <i>Between 1622 and 1654</i> |
| It goes back to | <i>The customs go back to ancient times</i> |
| It dates from | <i>The artefact dates from the Bronze Age</i> |
| In former days | <i>No one had a camera in former days</i> |

FURTHER READING

THE BEGINNINGS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

First, the name. We owe the name "Photography" to Sir John Herschel, who first used the term in 1839, the year the photographic process became public. Before mentioning the stages that led to the development of photography, there is one amazing, quite uncanny prediction made by a man called de la Roche (1729-1774) in a work called *Giphantie*. In this imaginary tale, it was possible to capture images from nature, on a canvas which had been coated with a sticky substance. This surface, so the tale goes, would not only provide a mirror image on the sticky canvas, but would remain on it.

- 4) She was employed _____ a guide.
 5) _____ you can see, the picture has been restored.

WORD STUDY

The suffix *-ist* is added to form a noun. It can refer to people engaged in a profession:

pianist → a professional piano player

or it can refer to something related to particular movements or beliefs:

socialist → a supporter of Socialism

Exercise 2

Add the suffix *-ist* to form a noun.

- 1) He doesn't believe in war - he's a (PEACE).
- 2) Pushkin was a (REAL).
- 3) The (TOUR) were treated very badly on the trip.
- 4) Gustave Moreau was a French (SYMBOL).
- 5) (PALEOPATHOLOGY) study human remains for diseases.
- 6) Monet was an (IMPRESSION).
- 7) The German (EXPRESSION) communicated distortion, fragmentation and violent emotions.
- 8) (ENVIRONMENT) are trying to save the planet from destruction.

GRAMMAR REVIEW

PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

Form : *have* + past participle of the verb for all persons except third persons, which is *has* + past participle:

They have translated his books into over twenty languages.

He has called Stanislavski the father of method acting.

The interrogative form uses the auxiliary *have/has* + subject + past participle: *Have they translated the books?*

The negative form uses *not* after the auxiliary *have/has* + past participle:
They haven't translated the books.

The past participles of the most common irregular verbs are found in Appendix 1.

Function: The Present Perfect tense can be used to indicate an action:

- a) that happens between some indefinite time in the past and the present:
People have written much about "the Method".
- b) that began in the past and continues (or its effects continue) into the present:
She has lived here for two years.
- c) that happened only a short time ago and no definite time is given:
The actor has just come on stage.
- d) that is expected:
They haven't finished the performance yet.
- e) that happened in the past, but its effect is clear in the present:
They have closed down the theatre.

The past participle of *be* (*been*) is sometimes used instead of the past participle of *go* (*gone*): *He has been to Moscow* = he went to Moscow but he has returned now.

He has gone to Moscow = he went to Moscow and is still there.

Exercise 3

Find the past participles for the following verbs and write a sentence for each using the Present Perfect tense.

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| <i>begin</i> | <i>bring</i> |
| <i>draw</i> | <i>dig</i> |
| <i>freeze</i> | <i>hold</i> |
| <i>know</i> | <i>keep</i> |
| <i>make</i> | <i>do</i> |
| <i>take</i> | <i>see</i> |
| <i>understand</i> | <i>wear</i> |

PRESENT PERFECT TIME EXPRESSIONS

There are a number of time expressions that determine if the tense is present perfect:

- a) adverbs such as *just, since, already, ever, never, often, rarely, yet.*
- b) The preposition *for* followed by a phrase of time measurement: *for two years.*
- c) Expressions like *several times, before, lately, recently.*

d) With phrases like *this morning*, *this week*, *this year*, either the Present Perfect or the Simple Past may be used:

I haven't seen him this morning. (= said in the morning).

I didn't see him this morning. (= said in the afternoon, when the morning is over).

Remember that the preposition *for* and *since* are used differently with state verbs:

For + period of time → *He has been here for three days.*

Since + a stationary point in the past up to the present → *He has been here since Tuesday.*

For and *since* are also used with dynamic verbs:

I have been working for two days.

I have been working since last week.

Unlike other European languages the Present Perfect cannot be used for actions that are defined by a specific time in the past or referring to people who are dead. In this case the Simple Past is used: *Stanislavski systemised the acting process.*

Exercise 4

Change the verbs in brackets into the Simple Past or Present Perfect.

- 1) Stanislavski _____ (write) a number of books on acting.
- 2) Up to now, the subject of performance _____ (be) one of the least analysed aspects of film aesthetics.
- 3) Lee Strasberg _____ (be) a leader of the Actor's studio in the 1940s.
- 4) Famous actors that _____ (come) out of the Actors Studio are Marlon Brando, Rod Steiger and Robert de Niro.
- 5) Stanislavski _____ (develop) exercises to re-experience emotions, called "affective memory".
- 6) There _____ (be) many examples in theatre history of performers making unconscious use of affective memory.
- 7) Edmund Kean, when playing *Hamlet*, _____ (remember) a favourite uncle in the scene with Yorick's skull.

- 8) Affective memory _____ (become) an extremely controversial device that has divided the community of Method teachers.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

The Present Perfect Continuous refers to:

- a) an action that lasts up to the present: *They have been rehearsing for ages.*
- b) an incomplete activity: *They have been planning the programme of plays for the coming year.*
- c) to stress continuation of an activity: *He has been acting for years.*

It is generally used to emphasise the duration of the action, and so is often used with time expressions that also reflect length: *all day, for ages, for years.*

Note that when referring to the number of actions that have been performed - how many, how often - the Simple Present Perfect is used:

I have been writing all week.

I have written two chapters.

As with other continuous tenses, the Present Perfect Continuous is not used with state verbs except in special cases (see Unit 1).

Exercise 5

Choose the most suitable tense.

- 1) What have you *eaten / been eating* ? Your tongue is red!
- 2) Have you *been finishing / finished* reading the newspaper?
- 3) My back has *hurt / been hurting* ever since I fell off the bicycle.
- 4) I have *waited / been waiting* for you for ages. It's very late!
- 5) He has *been going / gone* to see his psychiatrist a lot lately.
- 6) I have *been cutting / cut* my finger. Can I have a plaster please?
- 7) She has *been cutting / cut* a lot of onions, which is why she is crying.
- 8) They have *been having / had* a car crash. I can hear the ambulance.