

English Grammar Stories and Exercises

The Simple Tenses Series Simple Past



By Really Learn English

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English Grammar Stories and Exercises
The Simple Tenses
Simple Past
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Simple Past

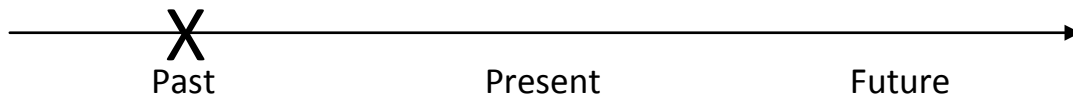
Table of Contents

Simple Past	4
Exercise 1.....	5
Regular Verbs	5
Positive Sentences	5
Negative Sentences.....	5
Question Sentences	5
Exercise 2.....	6
Special Spelling Rules for Adding “ed”	8
Verbs Ending with “e”	8
Verbs Ending with “y”	9
Verbs Ending with a “Consonant-Vowel-Consonant” Syllable	9
Exercise 3.....	13
Irregular Verbs.....	15
Positive Sentences	16
Negative Sentences.....	16
Question Sentences	16
Exercise 4.....	16
Exercise 5.....	17
Special Verbs	20
Negative Sentences.....	20
Questions.....	21
The Verb “Be”	22
The Verb “Can”	22

Exercise 6.....	23
Simple Past, Story 1	26
Before Reading	26
The Trouble with Markers.....	29
After Reading	31
Simple Past, Story 2	38
Before Reading	38
A Quiet Walk.....	41
After Reading	43
Simple Past, Story 3	50
Before Reading	50
For Love or Money.....	53
After Reading	55
Simple Past, Story 4	62
Before Reading	62
A Friend or a Mirror?	65
After Reading	66
Simple Past, Story 5	73
Before Reading	73
A Pet in the House	76
After Reading	77

Simple Past

The simple past is a form of the verb that shows the action took place in the past.



Examples of typical time expressions:

- an hour ago
- yesterday
- last week
- last month
- last Monday
- two years ago
- in 1974
- when I was young

Example sentences:

(The verbs are **bold**)

- We **moved** here in 1991.
- I **told** you about it yesterday.
- They **were** very happy.
- I **worked** for Microsoft when I was young.
- He **found** his book last week.

Exercise 1

A) Answer the following question in your native language.

1. Think about things you did in the past. What did you do yesterday? What did you do on your last birthday?

When you want to talk about these sorts of things in English, you can use the simple past form of the verb.

Regular Verbs

Positive Sentences

Who?	Form of verb	Examples
I/He/She/It You/We/They	verb + ed	I helped Bob yesterday. You worked here last year.

Negative Sentences

Who?	Form of verb		Examples
I/He/She/It You/We/They	did not	verb	I did not help Bob yesterday. You did not work here last year.

Question Sentences

	Who?	Form of verb	Examples
Did	I/he/she/it you/we/they	verb	Did I help Bob yesterday? Did you work here last year?

Exercise 2

A) Fill in the correct form of the verb in the simple past tense.

1. Jim _____ (help) me with the car yesterday.
2. We _____ (work) very hard last month.
3. I _____ (want) to come last night.
4. Your parents _____ (call) a moment ago.
5. Jennifer _____ (talk) with me this morning.

B) Turn these sentences into negative sentences and questions.

1. They looked at the house.

Negative:

Question:

2. She needed my help last Sunday.

Negative:

Question:

3. He seemed nervous.

Negative:

Question:

4. The kids started to play.

Negative:

Question:

5. We learned many things last week.

Negative:

Question:

6. Kelly watched TV this morning.

Negative:

Question:

Special Spelling Rules for Adding “ed”

In the simple past tense we add “ed” to verbs.

Examples:

- I work every day. → I **worked** yesterday.
- They play tennis every Saturday. → They **played** tennis last Saturday.

In many cases we simply add “ed.” But in many other cases, we cannot.

For example:

- I bake cakes every day. → I **bakeed** a cake an hour ago.

That is not correct!

So some verbs change their spelling when we add the letters “ed.”

Verbs Ending with “e”

When a verb ends with the letter **e**, we add the letter **d** only.

dance	=>	dance + d		=>	danced
smile	=>	smile + d		=>	smiled
love	=>	love + d		=>	loved

Your Turn

Add “ed” to the following verbs.

love _____

smile _____

dance _____

Verbs Ending with “y”

Vowel = a sound we make when the breath flows out through the mouth freely, without being blocked. The English letters **a, e, i, o, u** are called vowels, because they represent such sounds.

Consonant = a sound we make that is not a vowel. The breath is somehow blocked on its way out of the mouth. For example, the sound **b** is made when breath flow is stopped with the lips. All the other English letters that are not vowels are called consonants. These are:

b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z.

When a verb ends with **y**, and there is a **consonant** before it, the **y** changes into **i**. Then we add the letters **ed**.

try	=>	tri + ed	=>	tried
cry	=>	cri + ed	=>	cried
study	=>	studi + ed	=>	studied

When a verb ends with **y**, and there is a **vowel** before it, we simply add **ed** to the verb.

stay	=>	stay + ed	=>	stayed
play	=>	play + ed	=>	played
enjoy	=>	enjoy + ed	=>	enjoyed

Your Turn

Add “ed” to the following verbs.

study	_____	play	_____	dance	_____
cry	_____	enjoy	_____	smile	_____
try	_____	stay	_____	love	_____

Verbs Ending with a “Consonant-Vowel-Consonant” Syllable

Syllable = when we pronounce a word we naturally divide it into parts.

For example: we pronounce the word “tomato” like this: **to-ma-to**.

Meaning, it has 3 parts. Each such part is called a **syllable**.

The syllable is a unit of speech. It contains **one vowel sound**.

Some words have only **one syllable**.

Examples:

- pen
- man
- pig
- cup
- hat

Many other words have **more than one syllable**.

Examples:

- garden: **gar • den** (2 syllables)
- hotel: **ho • tel** (2 syllables)
- telephone: **te • le • phone** (3 syllables)
- hamburger: **ham • bur • ger** (3 syllables)

And so forth.

Stress = an extra force we use when pronouncing a word or part of a word.

When a word has more than one syllable, do not pronounce all syllables with the same degree of force. The syllable that we pronounce with greater force is called the **stressed syllable**.

Here are some examples of the word stress of some common words
(the stressed syllable is **bold**):

water: **wa** • ter

people: **peo** • ple

potato: po • **ta** • to

before: be • **fore**

begin: be • **gin**

Some verbs end with a **consonant-vowel-consonant** syllable.

Examples:

- open
- stop
- happen

In such cases, if there is **only one syllable**, we double the last **consonant**. Then we add **ed**.

stop	=>	stop pp + ed	=>	stopped
plan	=>	plann + ed	=>	planned

If there is **more than one syllable**, we double the last **consonant** only if the **stress** is on the last syllable. Then we add **ed**.

In the following examples the **stress** is underlined.

prefer <u>er</u>	=>	preferr + ed	=>	preferred
admit <u>t</u>	=>	admitt + ed	=>	admitted
commi <u>t</u>	=>	committ + ed	=>	committed

If the **stress** is not on the last syllable, we do not double the last consonant.
We simply add **ed**.

<u>o</u> pen	=>	open + ed	=>	opened
<u>v</u> isit	=>	visit + ed	=>	visited
<u>l</u> isten	=>	listen + ed	=>	listened
<u>h</u> appen	=>	happen + ed	=>	happened

We **do not double** the letters **x, y, w**.

For example, the past form of “fix” is “fixed,” and **not** “fixxed.”

fix	=>	fix + ed	=>	fixed
mix	=>	mix + ed	=>	mixed
follow	=>	follow + ed	=>	followed
play	=>	play + ed	=>	played

Your Turn

Add “ed” to the following verbs.

plan	_____	happen	_____	love	_____
stop	_____	open	_____	dance	_____
commit	_____	visit	_____	stay	_____
admit	_____	mix	_____	play	_____
prefer	_____	fix	_____	cry	_____
listen	_____	follow	_____	try	_____

Exercise 3

A) Add “ed” to the following verbs.

work	_____	live	_____	stay	_____
want	_____	smile	_____	play	_____
call	_____	love	_____	enjoy	_____
look	_____	like	_____	stop	_____
ask	_____	dance	_____	plan	_____
need	_____	use	_____	prefer	_____
seem	_____	provide	_____	admit	_____
help	_____	believe	_____	commit	_____
talk	_____	include	_____	open	_____
turn	_____	continue	_____	visit	_____
start	_____	die	_____	listen	_____
walk	_____	decide	_____	happen	_____
learn	_____	hope	_____	fix	_____
watch	_____	try	_____	mix	_____
push	_____	cry	_____	follow	_____
change	_____	study	_____	show	_____

B) Add “ed” to the following verbs (everything mixed).

show	_____	need	_____	call	_____
dance	_____	die	_____	love	_____
turn	_____	live	_____	start	_____
try	_____	stay	_____	study	_____
want	_____	believe	_____	work	_____
enjoy	_____	learn	_____	continue	_____
smile	_____	watch	_____	plan	_____
prefer	_____	follow	_____	talk	_____
open	_____	visit	_____	commit	_____
like	_____	use	_____	include	_____
happen	_____	play	_____	stop	_____
provide	_____	hope	_____	seem	_____
listen	_____	admit	_____	cry	_____
mix	_____	decide	_____	change	_____
walk	_____	ask	_____	look	_____
push	_____	help	_____	fix	_____

Irregular Verbs

English has regular verbs and irregular verbs.

A regular verb is a verb that follows this rule:

Past form of the verb = present form of the verb + ed / d

For example, **work** is a regular verb because:

Past form of work = work + ed = worked

Dance is a regular verb too. That is because:

Past form of dance = dance + d = danced

An **irregular verb** is a verb that does not follow this rule.

For example, **drink** is an irregular verb because the past form of drink is **drank**, and not “drinked.”

Go is an irregular verb too. That is because the past form of go is **went**, and not “goed.”

The English language has many irregular verbs. Here is a list of 20 of the most common irregular verbs in English.

be → was/were

have → had

do → did

say → said

get → got

make → made

go → went

know → knew

take → took

see → saw

come → came

think → thought

give → gave

find → found

tell → told

feel → felt

leave → left

can → could

let → let

put → put

Exercise 4

A) Change the following verbs into the simple past form (irregular verbs only).

have	_____	find	_____	do	_____
know	_____	feel	_____	go	_____
think	_____	leave	_____	can	_____
get	_____	be	_____	let	_____
put	_____	tell	_____	come	_____
make	_____	say	_____	take	_____
see	_____	give	_____		

Positive Sentences

Who?	Form of verb	Examples
I/He/She/It You/We/They	past form of the verb	I went home yesterday. You made a cake.

Negative Sentences

Who?	Form of verb		Examples
I/He/She/It You/We/They	did not	verb	I did not go home yesterday. You did not make a cake.

Question Sentences

	Who?	Form of verb	Examples
Did	I/he/she/it you/we/they	verb	Did I go home yesterday? Did you make a cake?

Exercise 5

A) Fill in the correct form of the verb in the simple past tense.

1. I _____ (be) home last night.
2. They _____ (be) happy.
3. She _____ (do) a lot of work.
4. Bob _____ (say) the truth.
5. He _____ (get) mad at Kelly.

B) Turn these sentences into negative sentences and questions.

1. We made cakes yesterday.

Negative:

Question:

2. You went to the store this morning.

Negative:

Question:

3. I knew the truth.

Negative:

Question:

4. Janet took my coat last week.

Negative:

Question:

5. They saw Bob at the mall.

Negative:

Question:

6. The teacher came at 9 o'clock.

Negative:

Question:

C) Change the following verbs into the simple past form (regular and irregular verbs mixed).

show	_____	stay	_____	call	_____
dance	_____	die	_____	love	_____
think	_____	live	_____	start	_____
try	_____	have	_____	know	_____
want	_____	believe	_____	work	_____
get	_____	learn	_____	make	_____
smile	_____	watch	_____	be	_____
prefer	_____	see	_____	talk	_____
open	_____	visit	_____	find	_____
put	_____	use	_____	include	_____
happen	_____	leave	_____	stop	_____
provide	_____	need	_____	seem	_____
feel	_____	play	_____	cry	_____
fix	_____	decide	_____	change	_____
help	_____	ask	_____	say	_____
tell	_____	do	_____	turn	_____
enjoy	_____	follow	_____	study	_____
give	_____	come	_____	let	_____
listen	_____	admit	_____	continue	_____
can	_____	take	_____	look	_____
plan	_____	commit	_____	mix	_____
like	_____	go	_____	hope	_____

Special Verbs

Negative Sentences

Most verbs have the same negative form: **did not + verb**.

For example:

came → did not come

He **came** home. → He **did not come** home.

gave → did not give

She **gave** me books. → She **did not give** me books.

saw → did not see

We **saw** Kevin yesterday. → We **did not see** Kevin yesterday.

Some verbs have a special negative form.

The special negative form is:

Past form of the verb + not

For example:

was → was not

I **was** home this morning. → I **was not** home this morning.

were → were not

They **were** happy to see us. → They **were not** happy to see us.

could → could not

She **could** come. → She **could not** come.

Questions

With most verbs we add the word **“did”** at the beginning of the sentence to turn it into a question.

For example:

Positive: He came home.

Question: Did he come home?

Positive: He gave me books.

Question: Did he give me books?

Positive: We saw Kevin yesterday.

Question: Did we see Kevin yesterday?

Some verbs have a different sentence structure.

With verbs such as **“be”** and **“can,”** we change the order of the verb and the subject of the sentence.

For example:

Positive: She was hungry.

Question: Was she hungry?

The verb **“was”** and the subject of the sentence **“she”** change places.

Positive: They were at home.

Question: Were they at home?

The verb **“were”** and the subject of the sentence **“they”** change places.

Positive: He could run fast.

Question: Could he run fast?

The verb **“could”** and the subject of the sentence **“he”** change places.

The Verb “Be”

Who?	Form of verb	Examples
I/He/She/It	was	Positive: I was tall. Negative: I was not tall. Question: Was I tall?
You/We/They	were	Positive: You were tall. Negative: You were not tall. Question: Were you tall?

The Verb “Can”

Who?	Form of verb	Examples
I/He/She/It You/We/They	could	Positive: I could sing. Negative: I could not sing. Question: Could I sing?

Exercise 6

A) Fill in the correct form of the verb in the simple past tense.

1. I _____ (be) happy.
2. The girl _____ (be) nice.
3. The floor _____ (be) colorful.
4. You _____ (be) tall.
5. We _____ (be) good.

B) Fill in the correct form of the verb in the simple past tense.

1. I _____ (can) take it home.
2. Jack _____ (can) swim very fast.
3. He _____ (can) draw very well.
4. You _____ (can) invite Janet.
5. We _____ (can) talk.

C) Turn these sentences into negative sentences and questions.

1. I was here.

Negative:

Question:

2. The stores were new.

Negative:

Question:

3. It was black.

Negative:

Question:

4. The houses were old.

Negative:

Question:

5. I could walk fast.

Negative:

Question:

6. She could ask us.

Negative:

Question:

7. They could tell the truth.

Negative:

Question:

8. Bob could leave.

Negative:

Question:

Simple Past, Story 1

Before Reading

A) Look at the title of the story and the picture. What do you think this story is about?

B) Write down the present form of every verb. Use the box below for help.

ask	come	have	like	leave	get	grab
need	draw	look	feel	happen	drive	invite
asked	_____			came	_____	
drew	_____			drove	_____	
felt	_____			got	_____	
grabbed	_____			had	_____	
happened	_____			invited	_____	
left	_____			liked	_____	
looked	_____			needed	_____	

play be	walk sell	offer say	wake up see	sleep take	stop smile	think want
sold	_____			offered	_____	
played	_____			said	_____	
saw	_____			slept	_____	
smiled	_____			stopped	_____	
thought	_____			took	_____	
walked	_____			wanted	_____	
was	_____			woke up	_____	

C) Match the words in column A to the words in column B. (There can be more than one correct answer.)

Column A

took
drew
woke
got
asked
needed
grabbed
left
look
drove

Column B

all over the floor
herself
her purse
a nap
the house
at him
to the mall
up
a break
mad

Column A	Column B
liked	her
walked into	a special cream
sold	to shop
invited	mirrors
said	have some fun
offered her	away
wanted to	uncomfortable
a group of	boys and girls
took the markers	goodbye
felt	the mall

Column A	Column B
colorful	the rules
big	floor
new	mustache
against	purse
black	cream
beauty	beard
special	bookstore
small	mirrors
bad	markers
good	salon

D) After these exercises, what do you think this story is about?

Simple Past, Story 1

The Trouble with Markers



Penelope took a nap on the couch. Her three-year-old son played beside her on the floor. Penelope did not know that her son had markers. Markers were against the rules for a three-year-old.

While Penelope slept, her son drew all over the floor with the markers. Penelope woke up and saw a very colorful floor! Penelope got mad. She said, “No!” and took the markers away from him.

A few hours later, Penelope’s husband came home from work. She really needed a break by then! She grabbed her purse and left the house. She did not even speak to her husband. She did not even look at him.

Penelope drove to the mall. She liked to shop and wanted to have some fun.

She walked into the mall. A woman stopped Penelope and invited her into a beauty salon. Penelope said, “No, thank you.”

The woman smiled and said goodbye.

A few minutes later, another woman stopped Penelope and invited her into her store. There she offered her a special cream for her face.

Penelope was surprised. “No, thank you,” she said and walked away.

She walked into a bookstore. She saw a group of boys and girls. They all looked at her in a weird way. “What happened?” she asked herself.

Penelope felt uncomfortable, so she left the bookstore.

She walked past a store that sold mirrors. She saw herself in the mirrors. “Oh no!” she thought. She had a mustache! A big, black, marker mustache! Her son drew on her while she was asleep! Well, at least he did not draw a beard too!

Simple Past, Story 1

After Reading

Grammar—Correct Form of the Verb

A) This is a copy of the original story. Go over it and fill in the blanks with the right form of every verb.

Penelope _____ (take) a nap on the couch. Her three-year-old son _____ (play) beside her on the floor. Penelope _____ (not know) that her son had markers. Markers _____ (be) against the rules for a three-year-old.

While Penelope _____ (sleep), her son _____ (draw) all over the floor with the markers. Penelope _____ (wake) up and _____ (see) a very colorful floor! Penelope _____ (get) mad. She _____ (say), “No!” and _____ (take) the markers away from him.

A few hours later, Penelope’s husband _____ (come) home from work. She really _____ (need) a break by then! She _____ (grab) her purse and _____ (leave) the house. She _____ (not even speak) to her husband. She _____ (not even look) at him.

Penelope _____ (drive) to the mall. She _____ (like) to shop and _____ (want) to have some fun.

She _____ (walk) into the mall. A woman _____ (stop) Penelope and _____ (invite) her into a beauty salon. Penelope _____ (say), “No, thank you.”

The woman _____ (smile) and _____ (say) goodbye.

A few minutes later, another woman _____ (stop) Penelope and _____ (invite) her into her store. There she _____ (offer) her a special cream for her face.

Penelope _____ (be) surprised. "No, thank you," she _____ (say) and _____ (walk) away.

She _____ (walk) into a bookstore. She _____ (see) a group of boys and girls. They all _____ (look) at her in a weird way. "What _____ (happen)?" she _____ (ask) herself.

Penelope _____ (feel) uncomfortable, so she _____ (leave) the bookstore.

She _____ (walk) past a store that _____ (sell) mirrors. She _____ (see) herself in the mirrors. "Oh no!" she _____ (think). She _____ (have) a mustache! A big, black, marker mustache! Her son _____ (draw) on her while she _____ (be) asleep! Well, at least he _____ (not draw) a beard too!

Vocabulary—Find the Right Word

B) Read the description and write down what it is. Use the box below for help.

nap	beard	markers	purse	beauty salon
couch	floor	rules	mall	cream

1. It grows on a man's face. What is it? _____
2. It is a short sleep. What is it? _____
3. You walk on it. What is it? _____
4. You can draw with them. What are they? _____
5. You can sit on it. What is it? _____
6. It is a small bag. What is it? _____
7. You can put it on your face. What is it? _____
8. It has many stores. What is it? _____
9. They tell you what to do. What are they? _____
10. This place can help people look better. What is it? _____

Grammar—Sentence Structure

C) The following sentences are all mixed up. Put the words on each line in the correct order to make a logical sentence.

1. nap couch took a the Penelope on.

2. colorful woke Penelope very up and floor saw a!

3. left purse She and the house her grabbed.

Grammar—Questions, Negative Sentences, and Positive Sentences

D) Turn the following sentences into questions.

1. Penelope liked to shop.

2. A woman stopped Penelope.

3. Markers were against the rules.

E) Turn the following sentences into negative sentences.

1. She saw a group of boys and girls.

2. Penelope felt uncomfortable.

3. Penelope was surprised.

F) Turn the following sentences into positive sentences.

1. Did Penelope have a beard?

2. She did not see herself in the mirrors.

3. Her son did not draw on her while she was asleep.

Comprehension

G) Answer the following questions.

1. What happened while Penelope was asleep?

2. Why did she get mad?

3. What happened to Penelope at the mall?

4. What did Penelope see in the mirrors?

Essay Writing

H) Answer the following questions. Write a short essay for each.

1. In Penelope's house markers were against the rules. What rules did you have in your house in the past? Were they good or not?

2. At the mall people tried to help Penelope. Tell about a time when you tried to help someone you did not know.

Simple Past, Story 2

Before Reading

A) Look at the title of the story and the picture. What do you think this story is about?

B) Write down the present form of every verb. Use the box below for help.

have	put	be	want	look	stay	tell
start	go	gain	push	eat	feel	take

gained	_____	was	_____
had	_____	took	_____
started	_____	put	_____
told	_____	ate	_____
looked	_____	went	_____
felt	_____	pushed	_____
wanted	_____	stayed	_____

meet	look	stop	think	forget	continue	give
laugh	walk	panic	make	find	leave	realize

walked	_____	made	_____
met	_____	stopped	_____
gave	_____	found	_____
thought	_____	panicked	_____
continued	_____	realized	_____
looked	_____	forgot	_____
laughed	_____	left	_____

C) Match the words in column A to the words in column B. (There can be more than one correct answer.)

Column A	Column B
gained	great
had	weight
walked	a lot of weight
looked	old
put on	her baby
lose	her new stroller
five weeks	faster
took out	dinner
put together	sports shoes
ate	of the box

Column A

went
pushed
stayed
walked
started
met
looked
gave
continued on
started

Column B

to sweat
a man
outside
at each other
the stroller
a weird look
quiet
a diet
toward her
her way

Column A

a lot of
one
new
sports
shiny
quiet
weird
no
down
unusual

Column B

stroller
baby
morning
look
wonder
the street
weight
diet
shoes
box

D) After these exercises, what do you think this story is about?

Simple Past, Story 2

A Quiet Walk



Debbie gained a lot of weight during pregnancy. After she had her baby, she started a diet. Everyone told her she looked great. But she felt like she looked awful. She wanted to lose more weight!

One morning, when her baby was five months old, Debbie took her new stroller out of the box and put it together. After she and her husband ate dinner, Debbie put on her sports shoes and went outside with her shiny new stroller.

She pushed the stroller down the street. Her baby was quiet. That was unusual.

Then she pushed the stroller up the street. Her baby stayed quiet. That was unusual.

Debbie walked faster. She started to sweat. She pushed the stroller faster. Her baby stayed quiet! That was very unusual!

Debbie met a man on the sidewalk. She pushed her stroller to the side of the sidewalk. As the man walked by her, he looked into her stroller and then gave Debbie a weird look. Debbie thought the man was weird. She continued on her way.

Two kids walked toward her. Again, Debbie pushed her stroller to the side of the sidewalk. The two kids looked at Debbie, then looked into the stroller, then looked at each other, and then looked at Debbie again. Then they laughed!

This made Debbie nervous. She stopped. She walked around to the front of her stroller. She looked in the stroller and found . . . no baby! Debbie panicked! She looked around. No baby! Oh no!

Then Debbie realized. She forgot her own baby! In her excitement, she left her baby in his bed at home. Oops! No wonder the baby stayed so quiet!

Simple Past, Story 2

After Reading

Grammar—Correct Form of the Verb

A) This is a copy of the original story. Go over it and fill in the blanks with the right form of every verb.

Debbie _____ (gain) a lot of weight during pregnancy. After she _____ (have) her baby, she _____ (start) a diet. Everyone _____ (tell) her she _____ (look) great. But she _____ (feel) like she _____ (look) awful. She _____ (want) to lose more weight!

One morning, when her baby _____ (be) five months old, Debbie _____ (take) her new stroller out of the box and _____ (put) it together. After she and her husband _____ (eat) dinner, Debbie _____ (put) on her sports shoes and went outside with her shiny new stroller.

She _____ (push) the stroller down the street. Her baby _____ (be) quiet. That _____ (be) unusual.

Then she _____ (push) the stroller up the street. Her baby _____ (stay) quiet. That _____ (be) unusual.

Debbie _____ (walk) faster. She _____ (start) to sweat. She _____ (push) the stroller faster. Her baby _____ (stay) quiet! That _____ (be) very unusual!

Debbie _____ (meet) a man on the sidewalk. She _____ (push) her stroller to the side of the sidewalk. As the man _____ (walk) by her, he _____ (look) into her stroller and then _____ (give) Debbie a weird look. Debbie _____ (think) the man was weird. She _____ (continue) on her way.

Two kids _____ (walk) toward her. Again, Debbie _____ (push) her stroller to the side of the sidewalk. The two kids _____ (look) at Debbie, then _____ (look) into the stroller, then _____ (look) at each other, and then _____ (look) at Debbie again. Then they _____ (laugh)!

This _____ (make) Debbie nervous. She _____ (stop). She _____ (walk) around to the front of her stroller. She _____ (look) in the stroller and found . . . no baby! Debbie _____ (panic)! She _____ (look) around. No baby! Oh no!

Then Debbie _____ (realize). She _____ (forget) her own baby! In her excitement, she _____ (leave) her baby in his bed at home. Oops! No wonder the baby _____ (stay) so quiet!

Vocabulary—Find the Right Word

B) Read the description and write down what it is. Use the box below for help.

weight	diet	dinner	bed	street
excitement	stroller	sidewalk	sports shoes	look

1. It is a strong feeling of happiness and interest. What is it? _____
2. It is how heavy someone is. What is it? _____
3. It is a large meal. What is it? _____
4. You can sleep in it. What is it? _____
5. The baby can go from place to place inside it. What is it? _____
6. People can walk on it. What is it? _____
7. It has houses and buildings. What is it? _____
8. It shows what you think. What is it? _____
9. People wear them when they exercise. What are they? _____
10. When you do it you must eat correctly. What is it? _____

Grammar—Sentence Structure

C) The following sentences are all mixed up. Put the words on each line in the correct order to make a logical sentence.

1. pregnancy Debbie during weight gained a of lot.

2. stroller box Debbie together took her put new and out of the it.

3. sidewalk to She side the of stroller the pushed her.

Grammar—Questions, Negative Sentences, and Positive Sentences

D) Turn the following sentences into questions.

1. Debbie looked great.

2. Debbie thought the man was weird.

3. Debbie panicked.

E) Turn the following sentences into negative sentences.

1. She pushed the stroller faster.

2. Her baby stayed quiet.

3. She started to sweat.

F) Turn the following sentences into positive sentences.

1. Did Debbie forget her baby?

2. She did not stay at home.

3. Her husband did not push the stroller.

Comprehension

G) Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Debbie gain a lot of weight?

2. Why did she put on her sports shoes?

3. What happened on the way?

4. Where was Debbie's baby?

Essay Writing

H) Answer the following questions. Write a short essay for each.

1. Debbie forgot her own baby at home. Tell about a time when you forgot something very important at home. What did you do?

2. When people saw Debbie's stroller they thought it was weird. Tell about a time when you saw something very weird on the street.

Simple Past, Story 3

Before Reading

A) Look at the title of the story and the picture. What do you think this story is about?

B) Write down the present form of every verb. Use the box below for help.

do	announce	say	make	want	wait	talk
decide	ask	be	win	look	wonder	care

were	<hr/>	waited	<hr/>
did	<hr/>	announced	<hr/>
cared	<hr/>	won	<hr/>
wanted	<hr/>	made	<hr/>
said	<hr/>	wondered	<hr/>
decided	<hr/>	asked	<hr/>
talked	<hr/>	looked	<hr/>

understand	feel	give	get	meet	tell	buy
imagine	smile	forget	be	need	complain	realize

understood	_____	complained	_____
forgot	_____	felt	_____
bought	_____	realized	_____
met	_____	needed	_____
imagined	_____	gave	_____
was	_____	told	_____
smiled	_____	got	_____

C) Match the words in column A to the words in column B. (There can be more than one correct answer.)

Column A

cared about
 wanted to
 win
 waited
 announced
 never
 made her
 had
 looked
 forgot

Column B

be very rich
 the winning numbers
 won
 money
 angry
 a ticket
 confused
 the lottery
 that part
 excitedly

Column A

met
 wanted a big
 imagined
 was
 complained about
 felt
 needed
 gave
 buy
 asked

Column B

their future wedding
 bad
 a little push
 a lottery ticket
 wise advice
 her out
 their slow progress
 a handsome man
 happy family
 embarrassed

Column A

different as
 every
 months
 best
 eight
 slow
 in the right
 their own
 next
 lottery

Column B

friends
 children
 progress
 direction
 efforts
 day
 week
 later
 ticket
 night and day

D) After these exercises, what do you think this story is about?

Simple Past, Story 3

For Love or Money



Michelle and Jamie were best friends. They did everything together. However, they were as different as night and day. Michelle cared about money. She wanted to be very rich. Jamie cared about love. She wanted a big happy family.

At one point, Michelle decided that she wanted to win the lottery. She talked about it all the time. Every week, Michelle waited excitedly as the television announced the winning numbers. But Michelle never won. This made her angry.

Jamie wondered if Michelle even had a ticket. So she asked her. Michelle looked confused and then embarrassed. "No," she said, "I forgot that part." Michelle never bought a ticket!

Months later, Jamie met a handsome man at work. She imagined their future wedding and eight children. But Jamie never talked to him. She never even smiled at him. He did not know she existed.

Jamie complained about their slow progress to Michelle. Michelle felt bad for Jamie. She realized that Jamie needed a little push in the right direction.

"Jamie," Michelle said.

"What?" Jamie asked.

"You once gave me some wise advice."

"I did?" Jamie asked.

"Yes. You told me that if I wanted to win the lottery, I had to buy a lottery ticket."

“Yes, so?” Jamie asked.

“With love or money, people got what they wanted because of their own efforts.” Michelle explained.

“Oh!” Jamie understood!

The next day at work, Jamie talked to the handsome man. They talked a lot. And he asked her out!

Simple Past, Story 3

After Reading

Grammar—Correct Form of the Verb

A) This is a copy of the original story. Go over it and fill in the blanks with the right form of every verb.

Michelle and Jamie _____ (be) best friends. They _____ (do) everything together. However, they _____ (be) as different as night and day. Michelle _____ (care) about money. She _____ (want) to be very rich. Jamie _____ (care) about love. She _____ (want) a big happy family.

At one point, Michelle _____ (decide) that she _____ (want) to win the lottery. She _____ (talk) about it all the time. Every week, Michelle _____ (wait) excitedly as the television _____ (announce) the winning numbers. But Michelle never _____ (win). This _____ (make) her angry.

Jamie _____ (wonder) if Michelle even _____ (have) a ticket. So she _____ (ask) her. Michelle _____ (look) confused and then embarrassed. “No,” she _____ (say), “I _____ (forget) that part.” Michelle never _____ (buy) a ticket!

Months later, Jamie _____ (meet) a handsome man at work. She _____ (imagine) their future wedding and eight children. But Jamie never _____ (talk) to him. She never even _____ (smile) at him. He _____ (not know) she _____ (exist).

Jamie _____ (complain) about their slow progress to Michelle. Michelle _____ (feel) bad for Jamie. She _____ (realize) that Jamie _____ (need) a little push in the right direction.

“Jamie,” Michelle _____ (say).

“What?” Jamie _____ (ask).

“You once _____ (give) me some wise advice.”

“I _____ (do)?” Jamie _____ (ask).

“Yes. You _____ (tell) me that if I _____ (want) to win the lottery, I _____ (have) to buy a lottery ticket.”

“Yes, so?” Jamie _____ (ask).

“With love or money, people _____ (get) what they _____ (want) because of their own efforts.” Michelle _____ (explain).

“Oh!” Jamie _____ (understand)!

The next day at work, Jamie _____ (talk) to the handsome man. They _____ (talk) a lot. And he _____ (ask) her out!

Vocabulary—Find the Right Word

B) Read the description and write down what it is. Use the box below for help.

friends	family	television	wedding	advice
love	lottery	ticket	children	push

1. It is parents and their children. What is it? _____
2. You know and like them. What are they? _____
3. It is a piece of paper with numbers. What is it? _____
4. People watch it. What is it? _____
5. They are young people. What are they? _____
6. It is when you like someone very much. What is it? _____
7. It tells you what you can do. What is it? _____
8. People hope to win it. What is it? _____
9. It is a happy event when two people become husband and wife. What is it?

10. It helps you do something. What is it? _____

Grammar—Sentence Structure

C) The following sentences are all mixed up. Put the words on each line in the correct order to make a logical sentence.

1. wanted She family a happy big.

2. together They everything did.

3. as day were night different as and They.

Grammar—Questions, Negative Sentences, and Positive Sentences

D) Turn the following sentences into questions.

1. She wanted to win the lottery.

2. Michelle never won.

3. Michelle and Jamie were best friends.

E) Turn the following sentences into negative sentences.

1. This made her angry.

2. She asked her.

3. Jamie met a handsome man.

F) Turn the following sentences into positive sentences.

1. Did Jamie talk to him?

2. She did not complain.

3. Michelle did not feel bad for Jamie.

Comprehension

G) Answer the following questions.

1. How were Michelle and Jamie different?

2. Why did Michelle never win the lottery?

3. Why did Jamie have slow progress?

4. How did Jamie solve her problem?

Essay Writing

H) Answer the following questions. Write a short essay for each.

1. Michelle and Jamie waited for things to happen by themselves. Did that happen to you? Tell about a time when you did not act, and waited. What happened? And how did it make you feel?

2. Jamie met a handsome man at work. Did you meet someone you liked at work or school? What did you do?

Simple Past, Story 4

Before Reading

A) Look at the title of the story and the picture. What do you think this story is about?

B) Write down the present form of every verb. Use the box below for help.

like	be	wonder	invite	have	leave	look
come	put	eat	say	fix	ask	spend

were	_____	fixed	_____
liked	_____	came	_____
invited	_____	asked	_____
left	_____	looked	_____
spent	_____	said	_____
wondered	_____	ate	_____
put	_____	had	_____

call	become	think	get	return	watch	visit
agree	want	be	smile	answer	need	sit

was	_____	answered	_____
called	_____	smiled	_____
got	_____	agreed	_____
wanted	_____	became	_____
visited	_____	thought	_____
returned	_____	watched	_____
needed	_____	sat	_____

C) Match the words in column A to the words in column B. (There can be more than one correct answer.)

Column A

liked
invited
asked for
put on
fixed
came
looked
answer
not say
ate

Column B

help
her hair
out
at her
the question
them out
anything
each other
dinner
makeup

Column A

stuck
have
invited her to
got
visited
returned without
spent
come
asked
before they

Column B

a job interview
nervous
an hour
in her teeth
any outfits
with her
me
a mirror
left
all the stores

Column A

always
very
new
all the stores
the best
one
over
how
in the
Lisa's

Column B

thing
outfit
an hour
agree
she looked
problem
quickly
in the mall
bathroom
Friday

D) After these exercises, what do you think this story is about?

Simple Past, Story 4

A Friend or a Mirror?



Jennifer and Lisa were roommates. They liked each other, but they did not always agree.

One Friday a friend invited them out. Before they left, Jennifer spent over an hour in the bathroom. While she was in there, she put on makeup and fixed her hair. When she came out of the bathroom, she asked Lisa how she looked.

Lisa looked at her and said, "Why did you ask me? Did you not have a mirror in the bathroom?"

Jennifer wondered why Lisa did not answer the question, but she did not say anything.

A week later, Jennifer and Lisa ate dinner together at home. Then Jennifer asked Lisa if she had anything stuck in her teeth. Lisa looked at her and said, "Why did you ask me? Did we not have a mirror in the house?"

Jennifer did not like Lisa's answer, but she did not say anything.

A few weeks later, a business owner called Lisa and invited her to a job interview. She got nervous very quickly. She wanted a new outfit for the interview. She visited all the stores in the mall, but returned without any new outfits.

Lisa asked Jennifer for help. She wanted Jennifer to come with her to the mall.

"Why did you ask for my help?" Jennifer asked Lisa.

"I needed help to choose the best outfit. I wanted to make sure the outfit looked good on me," Lisa answered.

"But Lisa," Jennifer smiled, "Did they not have a mirror in the mall?"

"They had mirrors," Lisa smiled too. "But I needed a friend, not a mirror!"

Simple Past, Story 4

After Reading

Grammar—Correct Form of the Verb

A) This is a copy of the original story. Go over it and fill in the blanks with the right form of every verb.

Jennifer and Lisa _____ (be) roommates. They _____ (like) each other, but they _____ (not always agree).

One Friday a friend _____ (invite) them out. Before they _____ (leave), Jennifer _____ (spend) over an hour in the bathroom. While she _____ (be) in there, she _____ (put) on makeup and _____ (fix) her hair. When she _____ (come) out of the bathroom, she _____ (ask) Lisa how she _____ (look).

Lisa _____ (look) at her and _____ (say), "Why _____ (you ask) me? _____ (you not have) a mirror in the bathroom?"

Jennifer _____ (wonder) why Lisa _____ (not answer) the question, but she _____ (not say) anything.

A week later, Jennifer and Lisa _____ (eat) dinner together at home. Then Jennifer _____ (ask) Lisa if she _____ (have) anything stuck in her teeth. Lisa _____ (look) at her and _____ (say), "Why _____ (you ask) me? _____ (we not have) a mirror in the house?"

Jennifer _____ (not like) Lisa's answer, but she
_____ (not say) anything.

A few weeks later, a business owner _____ (call) Lisa and _____
(invite) her to a job interview. She _____ (get) nervous very quickly. She
_____ (want) a new outfit for the interview. She _____ (visit) all
the stores in the mall, but _____ (return) without any new outfits.

Lisa _____ (ask) Jennifer for help. She _____ (want) Jennifer to
come with her to the mall.

"Why _____ (you ask) for my help?" Jennifer
_____ (ask) Lisa.

"I _____ (need) help to choose the best outfit. I _____ (want) to
make sure the outfit _____ (look) good on me," Lisa _____
(answer).

"But Lisa," Jennifer _____ (smile), " _____ (they
not have) a mirror in the mall?"

"They _____ (have) mirrors," Lisa _____ (smile) too. "But I
_____ (need) a friend, not a mirror!"

Vocabulary—Find the Right Word

B) Read the description and write down what it is. Use the box below for help.

roommates	makeup	stores	teeth	business
outfit	hair	question	answer	interview

1. It is a set of clothes you wear together. What is it? _____
2. It grows on people's heads. What is it? _____
3. They live together in the same place. What are they? _____
4. It asks for information. What is it? _____
5. Women use it to look nicer. What is it? _____
6. It gives information. What is it? _____
7. You use them to eat. What are they? _____
8. They sell things. What are they? _____
9. In this meeting you answer questions about you. What is it? _____
10. It makes or sells things. What is it? _____

Grammar—Sentence Structure

C) The following sentences are all mixed up. Put the words on each line in the correct order to make a logical sentence.

1. fixed on She and put her hair makeup.

2. did Why me ask you?

3. a bathroom the Did in mirror you have not?

Grammar—Questions, Negative Sentences, and Positive Sentences

D) Turn the following sentences into questions.

1. Jennifer and Lisa were roommates.

2. Lisa smiled too.

3. She visited all the stores in the mall.

E) Turn the following sentences into negative sentences.

1. I needed help.

2. A business owner called Lisa.

3. Jennifer and Lisa ate dinner together.

F) Turn the following sentences into positive sentences.

1. Did you ask for my help?

2. She did not answer.

3. Jennifer did not like Lisa's answer.

Comprehension

G) Answer the following questions.

1. Did Jennifer and Lisa like each other?

2. Why did Lisa get nervous?

3. What did Lisa do at the mall?

4. Why did Lisa need Jennifer's help?

Essay Writing

H) Answer the following questions. Write a short essay for each.

1. Jennifer did not like Lisa's answers, but she did not say anything. Tell about a time when you did not like something, but did not say anything. What happened?

2. In the end, Lisa understood Jennifer. Tell about a time when you realized you were wrong. What made you see that? And what did you do after that?

Simple Past, Story 5

Before Reading

A) Look at the title of the story and the picture. What do you think this story is about?

B) Write down the present form of every verb. Use the box below for help.

want	think	beg	sit	be	stand	say
become	watch	ask	draw	offer	get up	drive nuts

wanted	_____	drew	_____
asked	_____	watched	_____
were	_____	drove nuts	_____
said	_____	begged	_____
became	_____	stood	_____
sat	_____	offered	_____
thought	_____	got up	_____

run	lick	walk	scream	feel	see	flip
come	can	adopt	warm	tickle	believe	turn out

warmed	_____	came	_____
felt	_____	walked	_____
tickled	_____	could	_____
screamed	_____	believed	_____
ran	_____	licked	_____
flipped	_____	turned out	_____
saw	_____	adopted	_____

C) Match the words in column A to the words in column B. (There can be more than one correct answer.)

Column A

wanted
asked for
had
take
did not
became
sat
thought
drew
watched

Column B

enough
sad
in his room
about cats
pictures
cat shows
a pet cat
care
need a cat
permission

Column A

adopt
drove
begged for
stood
offered
flipped the
licked
screamed
walked into
believe

Column B

nuts
a pet cat
light switch on
its paw
again
his eyes
firm
his house
a goldfish
a cat

Column A

pet
animal
Jeremy's
no
tiny
some
warm it
run
light
the most

Column B

mother
milk
store
a little
by her foot
switch
beautiful cat
way
mouse
shelter

D) After these exercises, what do you think this story is about?

Simple Past, Story 5

A Pet in the House



Jeremy wanted a pet cat. He asked his mother for permission to adopt a pet cat. (There were many free cats at the animal shelter.)

Jeremy's mother said no way! She said that she had enough things to take care of. She did not need a cat too!

Jeremy became sad. He sat in his room and thought about cats. He drew pictures of cats. He watched cat shows on television. He drove his mother nuts.

"Mom, please, please, please," Jeremy begged for a cat.

His mother stood firm. "No Jeremy, no cats!"

Finally, she offered him a goldfish from the pet store. But Jeremy said, "No, thank you." He wanted a cat.

One night, Jeremy's mother got up in the middle of the night to get some milk. She wanted to warm it a little. As she stood in the kitchen, she felt something run by her foot in the dark. It tickled. She screamed.

She ran to the light switch and flipped it on. Then she saw it. A tiny mouse ran in her kitchen! She screamed again.

The next day, Jeremy came home from school. He walked into his house and could not believe his eyes. The most beautiful cat in the world sat in the middle of the couch. The cat looked at Jeremy and then licked its paw. Jeremy felt so happy.

"Mom!" Jeremy said, "What happened?"

"Well, Jeremy, it turned out that I always wanted a cat. I just did not know it!"

Simple Past, Story 5

After Reading

Grammar—Correct Form of the Verb

A) This is a copy of the original story. Go over it and fill in the blanks with the right form of every verb.

Jeremy _____ (want) a pet cat. He _____ (ask) his mother for permission to adopt a pet cat. (There _____ (be) many free cats at the animal shelter.)

Jeremy's mother _____ (say) no way! She said that she _____ (have) enough things to take care of. She _____ (not need) a cat too!

Jeremy _____ (become) sad. He _____ (sit) in his room and _____ (think) about cats. He _____ (draw) pictures of cats. He _____ (watch) cat shows on television. He _____ (drive) his mother nuts.

"Mom, please, please, please," Jeremy _____ (beg) for a cat.

His mother _____ (stand) firm. "No Jeremy, no cats!"

Finally, she _____ (offer) him a goldfish from the pet store. But Jeremy _____ (say), "No, thank you." He _____ (want) a cat.

One night, Jeremy's mother _____ (get) up in the middle of the night to get some milk. She _____ (want) to warm it a little. As she

_____ (stand) in the kitchen, she _____ (feel) something run by her foot in the dark. It _____ (tickle). She _____ (scream).

She _____ (run) to the light switch and _____ (flip) it on. Then she _____ (see) it. A tiny mouse _____ (run) in her kitchen! She _____ (scream) again.

The next day, Jeremy _____ (come) home from school. He _____ (walk) into his house and _____ (can) not believe his eyes. The most beautiful cat in the world _____ (sit) in the middle of the couch. The cat _____ (look) at Jeremy and then _____ (lick) its paw. Jeremy _____ (feel) so happy.

“Mom!” Jeremy _____ (say), “What happened?”

“Well, Jeremy, it _____ (turn) out that I always _____ (want) a cat. I just _____ (not know) it!”

Vocabulary—Find the Right Word

B) Read the description and write down what it is. Use the box below for help.

permission	milk	light switch	couch	please
shelter	mouse	school	paw	foot

1. It is a tiny animal. What is it? _____
2. You can sit and relax on it. What is it? _____
3. People say it when they want something. What is it? _____
4. Animals without a home can live there. What is it? _____
5. It is the bottom part of the leg. What is it? _____
6. It is white and people drink it. What is it? _____
7. It lets you do things. What is it? _____
8. It is the foot of an animal. What is it? _____
9. It turns on the light. What is it? _____
10. Students study there. What is it? _____

Grammar—Sentence Structure

C) The following sentences are all mixed up. Put the words on each line in the correct order to make a logical sentence.

1. cat Jeremy pet a wanted.

2. permission cat a He pet asked adopt his mother for to.

3. There shelter were animal many the cats free at.

Grammar—Questions, Negative Sentences, and Positive Sentences

D) Turn the following sentences into questions.

1. Jeremy begged for a cat.

2. Jeremy became sad.

3. The cat licked its paw.

E) Turn the following sentences into negative sentences.

1. There were many free cats.

2. She ran to the light switch.

3. A tiny mouse ran in her kitchen!

F) Turn the following sentences into positive sentences.

1. Did Jeremy's mom need a cat?

2. She did not want a mouse.

3. The cat was not beautiful.

Comprehension

G) Answer the following questions.

1. What did Jeremy want?

2. Why did his mother disagree?

3. Then what did Jeremy do?

4. In the end, how did he get a cat?

Essay Writing

H) Answer the following questions. Write a short essay for each.

1. Jeremy's mother did not want a cat, and she stood firm. Tell about a time you stood firm on something.

2. Jeremy wanted a cat very much and did not give up. Tell about a time you wanted something very much and got it in the end.

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This is a storybook for **complete** beginners learning English.

- Simple and easy stories
- Fully illustrated by the author to provide expressive visual aids
- Specifically designed for complete beginners
- Useful to teach reading, basic sentence structure, and practice basic sounds of letters



LEVEL 2

English Short Stories for Beginners

This is a storybook for beginners learning English.

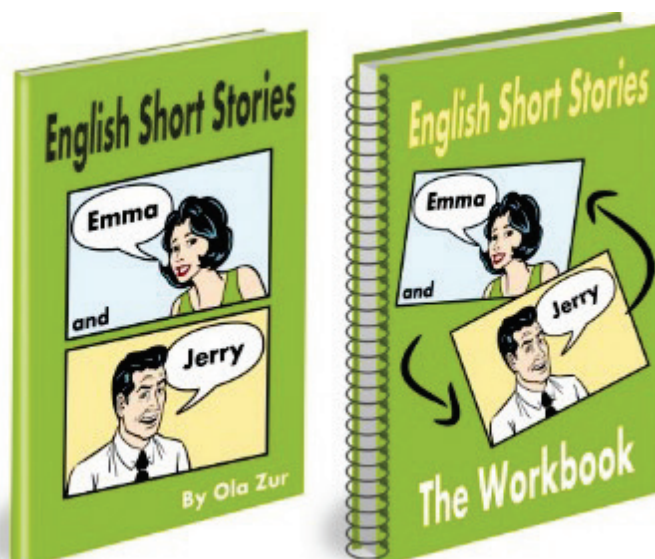
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- Nouns with identical singular and plural forms
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- Countable and uncountable nouns



Simple Past Tense, a Step by Step Guide

This booklet provides you with full lessons on:

- What is the simple past tense and how it is used
- Regular and irregular verbs
- Dozens of different exercises
- A special section to practice this tense within a story (reading and exercises)
- Forming correct positive and negative sentences, as well as questions



English Grammar Test

This is a downloadable test for students in the intermediate level. It comes complete with answers. It is divided into five parts:

- Part A—Parts of Speech 1
- Part B—Parts of Speech 2
- Part C—Verb Tenses 1
- Part D—Verb Tenses 2
- Part E—Sentence Structure

