

## Unit 3 Past tense

Most stories are told in the past tense. Read the passage from the book *Goat Expectations* below. The underlined words are in the past tense.

The four boys made their way quickly up the narrow, dark alleyway towards Main Road. Sizwe's long legs set a cracking pace. He was nearly seventeen ...

- You know that the simple past tense is most often formed in this way: [verb] + [ed]. Below are some examples.

### Simple past tense

Tembile agreed ... Vuyo crossed his arms ... he muttered.

- Many past tense verbs are not [verb] + [ed]. Learn the examples below, as well as those on the list your teacher gives you.

### Irregular verbs that do not get -d or -ed in the past tense

make – made	put – put	speak – spoke	have – had
is – was	cut – cut	sit – sat	stand – stood
are – were	set – set	eat – ate	swing – swung
do – did	let – let	begin – began	catch – caught

### ★ Tips

- When a verb ends on -e, the past tense form is [verb] + [d], for example *agree – agreed*.
- Verbs ending on -y change like this in the past tense: *carry – carried*; *hurry – hurried*.

## Activity 3.1 Changing verbs into the past tense

30 minutes

- Read the paragraph from *Goat Expectations* below. In your exercise book, change the underlined verbs from the present tense to the past tense.

The small windows of the workshop **a)** are grey with the grime of many years. Sizwe **b)** rubs a pane with his sleeve, but the dirt **c)** is on the inside. Carefully he **d)** tries the door. It **e)** opens! ... Sizwe **f)** creeps stealthily down the short passageway into the old workshop. He **g)** checks around carefully. A high, dusty window **h)** lets in faint light from the street light outside ... Broken metal cabinets **i)** lie strewn in heaps against one of the walls ... He **j)** hears soft voices. (10)

Do you still remember what the **predicate** and the **object** of a sentence are? Refer to Module 5 if you cannot see that *a pane* and *the door* are both direct objects in the paragraph above.

- Rewrite the following paragraph. Complete it by filling in **past tense verbs** of your own choice.

The joggers **a)** \_\_\_\_\_. They **b)** \_\_\_\_\_ they **c)** \_\_\_\_\_ in the wrong place. Suddenly a dog **d)** \_\_\_\_\_. Then they **e)** \_\_\_\_\_ a light. (5)

Total: 15

2.3  
Spelling test  
got summary of all the tenses  
Paste in book  
✓  
Do this



## Activity 3.1 Changing verbs into the past tense

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30 minutes

1.
  - a) were (1)
  - b) rubbed (1)
  - c) was (1)
  - d) tried (1)
  - e) opened (1)
  - f) crept (1)
  - g) checked (1)
  - h) let (1)
  - i) lay (1)
  - j) heard (1)

2. Learners supply their own words, for example:

The joggers a) stopped/halted. They b) knew/realised they c) were/found themselves in the wrong place. Suddenly a dog d) barked/yelped. Then they e) saw/noticed/spotted a light. (5)

**Note:** You may want to elicit from learners which words from the options above, or others that they may have used, are more emotive choices, for example *halted* is more emotive than *stopped*; *yelped* is more emotive than *barked*, and so on.

**Total: 15**



# The principal parts of some irregular verbs

1.	2.	3.	1.	2.	3.	1.	2.	3.
am	was	been	fight	fought	fought	read	read	read
awake	awoke	awoken	find	found	found	ring	rang	rung
become	became	become	fling	flung	flung	say	said	said
begin	began	begun	fly	flew	flown	see	saw	seen
bend	bent	bent	forgive	forgave	forgiven	set	set	set
bleed	bled	bled	fret	fret	fret	show	showed	shown
blow	blew	blown	go	went	gone	sing	sang	sung
break	broke	broken	give	gave	given	sink	sank	sunk
breed	bred	bred	grow	grew	grown	sit	sat	sat
bring	brought	brought	have	had	had	sleep	slept	slept
buy	bought	bought	hear	heard	heard	spin	spun	spun
catch	caught	caught	hit	hit	hit	steal	stole	stolen
come	came	come	hold	held	held	swim	swam	swum
cry	cried	cried	know	knew	known	swing	swung	swung
cut	cut	cut	lay	laid	laid	take	took	taken
dig	dug	dug	lie	lay	lain	tell	told	told
do	did	done	lie	lied	lied	think	thought	thought
drink	drank	drunk	lend	lent	lent	throw	threw	thrown
drive	drove	driven	lose	lost	lost	wake	woke	woken
eat	ate	eaten	meet	met	met	wear	wore	worn
fall	fell	fallen	pay	paid	paid	wring	wrung	wrung
feel	felt	felt	put	put	put	write	wrote	written