

## Regular Past Tense

Past tense verbs tell us what has happened. They end in 'ed' e.g. walked**ed**, kicked**ed**, shouted**ed**.

All children make errors using verb tenses when they are younger. Some children need extra help to get it right.

### How can I help my child with understanding and using regular past tenses?

- Your child will first need to understand how regular past tense endings work. Explain to your child that when something has happened, we usually put an '**ed**' sound on the end. e.g. "yesterday, the man climbed**ed** the ladder."
- Talk to your child about what they did yesterday or earlier today. Tell them what you did e.g. "I cooked**ed** some dinner and earlier I walked**ed** the dog".
- Give your child lots of praise when they remember to use the present tense e.g. "that's right, yesterday Sam climbed**ed** to the top of the slide"

### Practising regular past tense

- Play 'Simon Says' games to carry out a range of actions. These could include: Jump, hop, laugh, smile, walk, kick the ball. When your child has completed the action, ask them "What did you do?" The child should say "I hopped". Don't worry if they don't, just repeat the word back to them, emphasising 'ed' ending. "Yes, you hopped**ed**". Let them have a go at being Simon.
- When looking at books talk about things that happened. e.g. 'the boy kicked**ed** a ball on the roof, the man climbed**ed** up the ladder to get it for him'.
- Use pictures given to you by your therapist or cut out pictures from magazines, newspapers or catalogues. You can use them to play pairs, snap or lotto games. Make sure you say the word every time you or your child put down or pick up a card, e.g. 'the girl kicked the ball'
- Skittles: Place a picture under each skittle. Take turns to roll the ball and knock the skittles down. You and your child say what has happened in the pictures under each skittle that is knocked down.





- Bean bag game: Lay the pictures face down, on the floor. Take turns to throw a beanbag onto the pictures. Talk about the picture you land on. e.g. 'this man waved**ed** at his friend.'
- Put the pictures in a pile and play any board game. Take turns to turn over a card and make a sentence, e.g. 'the cows walked to the field.' When you use the correct verb ending you roll the dice and take a turn on the board game.

## Self Correction

When your child becomes more familiar with using present tense verbs:

- Give your child choices "Do you mean she hop or hopped**ed**?"
- Encourage your child to monitor and self correct "He jump, does that sound right?"

Download and read the story ***A bad day for Sid – verb tenses*** story from this website.

## A Bad Day for Sid

Tom quickly grabbed his coat as he opened the front door and smiled at his friend James who had been knocking for a whole minute. "Hurry up Tom," said James, "we are going to be late for school." Tom smiled because this happened every morning and James always got cross with him and said he wouldn't call for him again. James was Tom's best friend and he always smiled again when Tom said he was sorry. Tom just couldn't get organised in the morning.

The boys left the house and were walking up the road when they saw an ambulance race past them with its sirens blaring. It quickly turned into the road ahead and stopped. The boys parted as Tom went to see what was happening.



Tom quickly realised the ambulance had stopped at old Sid's house. Sid was a family friend who had worked with his granddad for years. Sid was old but very funny and Tom always enjoyed taking him the dinner that mum sent round for him each day. Sid told Tom stories about things that happened a long time ago. Once Sid told Tom about the war and how his family had to hide in air raid shelters when the sirens went off. He also told him that people didn't have televisions when he was young and just had the radio to listen to. Tom couldn't imagine life without television and his favourite programs.

Tom watched as the ambulance men wheeled Sid into the street and put him into the ambulance. Tom waved to Sid but Sid didn't seem able to see him and didn't give his usual cheeky smile. Tom ran home to tell his mum. He was still calling out to her when she came running in from the garden. "Mum, mum" said Tom, "Old Sid is ill and the ambulance is taking him away." "Tom, calm down", said mum, "is the ambulance there now or has it already gone to the hospital."

Tom wasn't sure, he always got confused about what was happening now and what had already happened in the past. It seemed very clear when Sid was talking to him because he knew the stories were about things that happened before he was born so it was easy to know they were in the past. "It's happening now mum, they are there. You might see them if you go quickly."

Tom's mum ran out the door as quickly as she could. Tom didn't think he had ever seen her run before. Well, there was one time when he was 4 and he went to run after his ball that had rolled onto the road. His mum had been very angry with him. It was a long time ago but he could still remember it well because his mum had been so angry that she cried and gave him a big hug.

Tom didn't know if he should stay at home or go to school. After a few minutes, when his mum didn't come back, Tom wrote a note to tell his mum that he had gone to school and that he would see her later. Tom stayed in school all day but found it very difficult to concentrate. Mr Parker had been very cross with him when he got to school but once he heard his story they were very kind. Mr Parker let him ring his house at lunchtime to see if there was any news, but his Mum said she would give him the news later in the day when he got home from school. He was at school now she said, and he should be concentrating on that.



At the end of the school day Tom ran all the way home and raced through his front door calling out to his mum. Mum gave Tom a big hug and told him he did not need to worry about Sid. Sid was feeling a bit unwell but the doctors said they would let him come home in a couple of days. Tom's mum had told the doctors he could stay with them for a little while and they would look after him. Tom was very excited and ran upstairs to help mum tidy out the spare room so it was ready for Sid when he was well enough to come home.



Tom was so excited that Sid was going to be staying in his house he asked his mum if they could go to Sid's house and get some of his favourite things to put in the spare room. Mum said they could do that after tea and they both agreed having some of Sid's favourite things around him would make him feel more welcome.



## Note for Parents / Teachers

You could use this story to talk about what has happened in the past as this is covered in the story.

Do any of the children have grandparents (or parents) who have told them stories about how things used to be?

Talk about the end of the story and how this is about what is going to happen. As this hasn't happened yet it is in the future.

Ask the children about their plans after school, what will they be doing? Does anyone have plans for the school holidays etc?