

“QualityTime-ESL” presents...



QT-ESL Podcast No. 4

“The Simple Past of Irregular Verbs” Part 1

Hi! I’m Marianne Raynaud, and I’m here to help you improve your level of spoken English.

Today we will be working on the simple past of irregular verbs. If you don’t know the meaning of these verbs, stop and look them up in your dictionary.

The first group of verbs we will be using today are:

| | | |
|-------|------|-------|
| Read | See | Say |
| Write | Tell | Think |

Now I will give the infinitive and the simple past. Just listen and repeat:

| | | | |
|--|-------|------|---------|
| Read | Write | Tell | Think |
| Read (<i>pronounce like the color <red></i>) | Wrote | Told | Thought |
| | See | Say | |
| | Saw | Said | |

Now I will say the verbs in the infinitive and you will say the simple past. Examples:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>I say: read.</i> | <i>You say: wrote</i> |
| <i>You say: read.</i> | <i>I say: see</i> |
| <i>I say: write</i> | <i>You say: saw</i> |

Now you go on. Be sure to speak BEFORE I give the right answer.

| | | | | | |
|------|-------|-----|------|------|---------|
| Read | Write | See | Tell | Say | Think |
| Read | Wrote | Saw | Told | Said | Thought |

Now listen and repeat.

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| an article on the Internet | a wonderful movie | something I regret |
| an email to a friend | a funny story | the cost of the project |

Go on repeating after me.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| I read an article on the Internet. | I told a funny story. |
| I wrote an email to a friend. | I said something I regret. |
| I saw a wonderful movie. | I thought about the cost of the project. |



QT-ESL Podcast No. 3 The verb “Simple Past (Part 1)” (Cont.)

Now repeat some more but start each sentence with “yesterday”.

Yesterday I read an article on the Internet.
 Yesterday I wrote an email to a friend.
 Yesterday I saw a wonderful movie.

Yesterday I told a funny story.
 Yesterday I said something I regret.
 Yesterday I thought about the cost of the project.

Now listen to the following examples.

*I say: read an article on the Internet.
 You say: Yesterday I read an article on the Internet.
 I say: write an email to a friend.
 You say: Yesterday I wrote an email to a friend.
 I say: see a wonderful movie.
 You say: Yesterday I saw a wonderful movie.*

Read an article on the Internet.
 Yesterday I read an article on the Internet.
 Write an email to a friend.
 Yesterday I wrote an email to a friend.
 See a wonderful movie.
 Yesterday I saw a wonderful movie.

Tell a funny story.
 Yesterday I told a funny story.
 Say something I regret.
 Yesterday I said something I regret.
 Think about the cost of the project.
 Yesterday I thought about the cost of the project.

Now you go on. Be sure to speak BEFORE I give the right answer.

Please notice that the simple past tense is easy, because it is the same for all persons, singular or plural. Listen to the following examples with the verb “to hear”:

*I say: I
 You say: I heard something interesting last night.
 I say: You
 You say: You heard something interesting last night.
 I say: He
 You say: He heard something interesting last night.*

Now you go on in the same way. Be sure to speak BEFORE I give the right answer.

| | |
|---|--|
| I | She |
| I heard something interesting last night. | She heard something interesting last night. |
| You | We |
| You heard something interesting last night. | We heard something interesting last night. |
| He | They |
| He heard something interesting last night. | They heard something interesting last night. |

Now let's try the same thing with another group of verbs.

Feel Catch Take Sing Eat Drink



QT-ESL Podcast No. 3 The verb “Simple Past (Part 1)” Cont.

Listen and repeat:

| | | | |
|-------|--------|------|-------|
| Feel | Caught | Sing | Ate |
| Felt | Take | Sang | Drink |
| Catch | Took | Eat | Drank |

Now I will say the verbs in the infinitive and you will say the simple past. Listen to the examples.

I say: feel.

I say: catch.

You say: felt.

You say: caught.

Now you do the same. Be sure to speak BEFORE I give the right answer.

| | | | | | |
|------|--------|------|------|-----|-------|
| Feel | Catch | Take | Sing | Eat | Drink |
| Felt | Caught | Took | Sang | Ate | Drank |

Now I will give you the present continuous tense, and you will give me the simple past. Listen to the examples:

I say: He is feeling ill.

You say: She caught a bus yesterday, too.

You say: He felt ill yesterday, too.

I say: I am taking a bath.

I say: She's catching a bus.

You say: I took a bath yesterday, too.

Be sure to speak BEFORE I give the right answer:

He is feeling ill.

You are singing a song.

He felt ill yesterday, too.

You sang a song yesterday, too.

She's catching a bus.

We are eating a big lunch.

She caught a bus yesterday, too.

We ate a big lunch yesterday, too.

I am taking a bath.

They are drinking a glass of beer.

I took a bath yesterday, too.

They drank a glass of beer yesterday, too.

Now just listen and repeat.

Today I have been working on the simple past of some irregular verbs. The simple past is used much more often than any other past tense. Moreover, the irregular verbs are the ones that are used the most of all in English. I know you have to learn them by heart. I also know that by practicing regularly I will learn them perfectly. If I practice *QualityTime-ESL* exercises for just 10 minutes every day, I will definitely improve my speaking skills. I must try to do these exercises WITHOUT consulting the written script. If I am really interested in speaking correct English, I will need to learn how to use these verbs and their tenses perfectly.

That is the end of today's podcast. We will soon be back with more exercises and short texts to repeat. Thank you all for listening and don't forget to keep smiling!