

Grammar

Booster 3: Past tense

Key learning

The tense of a verb tells you when the action happened. For example:

- Something happened in the past.
- Something is happening or happens in the present.
- Something is going to happen in the future.

Before you start writing, think, is the event happening now, has it already happened or will it happen in the future? If you are writing in the past tense you are writing about something that has already happened. The actions could have happened a very long time ago, or just five minutes ago. Either way you need to use the correct past tense. Examples of common past tense verb forms include:

- He went...
- I ate...
- We were...

Worked example:

Fill in the gaps with the correct verbs from the list below.

Sarah _____ pancakes on Sunday morning. She said she _____ the recipe but she still _____ the pancakes – they were black. We _____ eat them. We all thought it was hilarious but _____ laughing when we realised Sarah _____ think it was funny.

made	burnt	didn't
stopped	couldn't	followed

Answers:

Sarah **made** pancakes on Sunday morning. She said she **followed** the recipe but she still **burnt** the pancakes – they were black. We **couldn't** eat them. We all thought it was hilarious but **stopped** laughing when we realised Sarah **didn't** think it was funny.

Your turn:

Now write **four** to **six** sentences about what you did last weekend. You could include:

- where you went
- who you went with
- what you did
- what you liked or disliked about last weekend.

When you have finished, circle all the examples of the past tense.