



Working with Language (Page 17)

Question 1. Look at these sentences from the story

I spotted it in a junk shop in Bridport... The man said it was made in the early nineteenth century. This one was in a bad condition. The italicised verbs are in the past tense. They tell us what happened in the past, before now.

(i) Read the passage below and underline the verb in the past tense.

A man got on the train and sat down. The compartment was empty except for one lady. She took her gloves off. A few hours later the police arrested the man. They held him for 24 hours and then freed him.

Answer: A man got on the train and sat down. The compartment was empty except for one lady. She took her gloves off. A few hours later the police arrested the man. They held him for 24 hours and then freed him.

Now look at these sentences.

The veneer had lifted almost everywhere. Both fire and water had taken their toll on this desk.

Notice the verb forms had lifted, had taken (their toll).

The author found and bought the desk in the past. The desk was damaged before the author found it and bought it. Fire and water had damaged the desk before the author found it and bought it.

- We use verb forms like had damaged for an event in the 'earlier past'. If there are two events in the past, we used the 'had' form for the event that occurred first in the past.
- We also use the past perfect tense to show that something was wished for, or expected before a particular time in the past. For example, I had always wanted one
- Discuss with your partner the difference in meaning in the sentences below.
- When I reached the station, the train left.
- When I reached the station, the train had left.

(ii) Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

My little sister is very naughty. When she ----- (come) back from school yesterday, she had ----- (tear) her dress. We ----- (ask) her how it had ----- (happen). She ----- (say) she ----- (have, quarrel) with a boy. She ----- (have, beat) him in a race and he ----- (have, try) to push her. She ----- (have, tell) the teacher and so he ----- (have, chase) her and she ----- (have, fall) down and ----- (have, tear) her dress.

Answer: My little sister is very naughty. When she came back from school yesterday, she had torn her dress. We asked her how it had happened. She said she had quarrelled with a boy. She had beaten him in a race and he had tried to push her. She had told the teacher and so he had chased her and she had fallen down and had torn her dress.

(iii) Underline the verbs and arrange them in two columns, Past and Earlier

- (a) My friends set out to see the caves in the next town, but I stayed at home, because I had seen them already.
 (b) When they arrived at the station, their train had left. They came back home, but by that time I had gone out to see a movie!
 (c) So they sat outside and ate the lunch I had packed for them.
 (d) By the time I returned, they had fallen asleep!

Past	Earlier past

Answer:

- (i) A man got on the train and sat down. The compartment was empty except for one lady. She took her gloves off. A few hours later the police arrested the man. They held him for 24 hours and then freed him.
 (ii) My little sister is very naughty. When she came (come) back from school yesterday, she had torn (tear) her dress. We asked (ask) her how it had happened (happen). She said (say) she had quarrelled (have, quarrel) with a boy. She had beaten (have, beat) him in a race and he had tried (have, try) to push her. She had told (have, tell) the teacher and so he had chased (have, chase) her, and she had fallen (have, fall) down and had torn (have, tear) her dress.
 (iii) (a) My friends set out to see the caves in the next town, but I stayed at home, because I had seen them already.
 (b) When they arrived at the station, their train had left. They came back home, but by that time I had gone out to see a movie!
 (c) So they sat outside and ate the lunch I had packed for them.
 (d) By the time I returned, they had fallen asleep!

Past	Earlier past
set out	had seen
stayed	had left
arrived	had gone
came	had packed
sat	had fallen
ate	

returned	
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Question 2. Dictionary Work

By the end of the journey, we had run out of drinking water.
Look at the verb run out of in this sentence. It is a phrasal verb: it has two parts, a verb and a preposition or an adverb. Phrasal verbs often have meanings that are different from the meanings of their parts.

Find these phrasal verbs in the story.

burn out	light up	look on	run out	keep out
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“House number 12 turned out to be nothing but a burned-out shell(destroyed by fire). Write down the sentences in which they occur. Consult a dictionary and write down the meaning that you think matches the meaning of the phrasal verb in the sentence.

Answer:

- That was the moment her eyes lit up with recognition, and her face..... (brightened).
- Hans Wolf and I looked on and cheered, clapping our hand..... (considered somebody to be somebody)
- The time came, and all too soon when the game was finished, the schnapps and the run and the sausage had long since run out, and we knew it was all over, (become used up, finished)
- Hans Wolf and I looked on and cheered clapping our hands and stamping our feet, to keep out thg cold as much as anything, (to avoid)

Question 3. Noun Phrase

Read the following sentence.

I took out a small black tin box.

- The phrase in italics is a noun phrase.
- It has the noun—box—as the head word, and three adjectives preceding it.
- Notice the order in which the adjectives occur—size (small), colour (black) and material (tin) of which it is made.

We rarely use more than four adjectives before a noun and there is no rigid order in which they are used, though there is a preferred order of modifiers/adjectives in a noun phrase.

Question 4. The table below contains a list of nouns and some adjectives. Use as many adjectives as you can to describe each noun. You might come up with some funny descriptions!

Noun	Adjective
elephant	circular, striped, enormous, multicoloured,
face	round, cheerful, wild, blue, red, chubby, large, medium-sized, cold
building	
water	

Answer:

Noun	Adjective
elephant	enormous, cheerful, wild, large, medium-sized,
face	round, cheerful, chubby
building	multi-coloured, blue, red, large, medium-sized
water	blue, cold

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