

STUDY – Corporal punishment

TRANSCRIPT

It's quite a while now since I was at school now but I'm pretty sure things are nowhere near as **strict** as they used to be. A lot of the **kids** at my school were pretty bad and were always **getting into trouble**, which must've been **a nightmare** for the teachers to deal with but I don't think the teachers helped themselves much either. I remember seeing teachers regularly **lose their temper** with **pupils** in secondary school and very often they **got physical with the kids**. This would never happen today as the law on **corporal punishment** has changed and a teacher who hits a pupil will probably **end up in court** and certainly lose his job. But when I was at school I saw teachers hitting **pupils on a regular basis**.

I remember one time a science teacher **held** a boy up against the wall by his throat because he **had been fighting** with another boy. This kid was always in trouble but I don't think using violence on the boy really gave him the best example of how to deal with a problem. Another time in my English class the teacher **asked** everyone in the class if they **had done** their homework. One boy said he **had forgotten** so the teacher went mad. He **grabbed** the boy by his hair and shook his head while shouting "Why did you forget?" No-one ever forgot their homework again though!

The story I remember most at junior school was a boy who was always **getting into trouble**. He was sent to see the **headmaster** who **punished** the **pupils** who **misbehaved** by '**giving them the slipper**'. The **slipper** is like a shoe you wear in the house. Long before my time, teachers used '**the cane**', which was a long stick and they used to hit the pupils with the stick. But when I was at school the headmaster used a **slipper** to hit the child **on the backside**. Everyone was very scared of that and wanted to avoid it but this boy **had been misbehaving** in class so he **had to** see **the head**. But when **the head** hit him with the **slipper** the boy turned around and **punched** the teacher on the chin and **knocked him to the floor**. So as far as I know, that was the last time **the head** ever used the **slipper** on any of the **pupils**!

VOCABULARY

strict – severe, disciplined, hard

kids – children

a nightmare – a difficult situation

lose your temper – get angry

pupils – school children, under 16 years old

get physical with someone – be violent and aggressive

corporal punishment – repeatedly beating someone's body

end up in court – face legal prosecution

on a regular basis – often, regularly

grab – hold something or someone firmly, with strength

headmaster/headmistress/the head – the person in charge of a school

punish – make someone suffer for something wrong they have done

misbehave – children who act in a bad way

knocked him to the floor – hit someone so they fall down

punch – hit someone with a closed hand (fist)

GRAMMAR

Past perfect progressive

*I saw a teacher hold a boy up against the wall because he **had been fighting** with another boy*

(the boy was fighting, but this was not complete because the teacher came; then the teacher stopped the fight and held the boy against the wall)

use the **past perfect progressive** to talk about a past action that was in progress but was not completed before another past event

the **past perfect progressive** shows that these two events did not happen at the same time but as the first action was interrupted, there may be a connection between them

use had + been + present participle to form the **past perfect progressive**