

Practicing the 4 past tenses in English with *Little Red Cap* by the Brothers Grimm

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Author

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Purpose

To practice using the four past tenses of the English language

Exercise

I generated new, original phrases that I inserted into the original story. I checked these sentences against the meaning of each of the four past tenses. I adjusted my phrases as needed.

If you have not read *Little Red Cap* by the Brothers Grimm yet, go check it out. Here is the original [story](#). This exercise works with any short text. If you have a favorite short story, then use it. The point is to insert at least one of each type of past tense into whatever story you choose.

English has four past tenses. They are: simple past, past progressive, past perfect, and past perfect progressive. When I started this exercise, I did not know exactly what each of these meant. It's okay if you do not know either. In my editing chart, I included columns that define the type and provide an example sentence. There is a blank version of the chart at the end of this document.

Have fun writing!

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Sample Sentences from Cody	Past Tense Type	Past Tense Example
<p>And Little Red Cap thought to herself;</p> <p>She peeked at them secretly while they walked side by side;</p> <p>After a moment, Little Red Cap decided the wolf must be a friendly one;</p> <p>Nobody chose scariness;</p> <p>So, Little Red Cap released her judgmental presumptions about the wolf;</p> <p>...and she thought he was sweet;</p> <p>So, the two of them enjoyed each other's company and continued to her grandmother's house;</p>	<p>Simple Past The simple past tense describes something that was started and completed entirely in the past.</p>	<p>E.g. John wanted to be a writer.</p>
<p>Afterall, wolves were always facing the burden of these awful weapons;</p>	<p>Past Progressive The past progressive tense describes something that was started and continues in the past.</p>	<p>E.g. He was always writing in his journal.</p>
<p>In fact, he had given her compliments...;</p>	<p>Past Perfect The past perfect tense describes something that was completed before something else.</p>	<p>E.g. John had begun to write his first novel in</p>

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		November.
The notion of vicious fangs and sharp claws had frightened Little Red Cap before she looked at them herself;	Past Perfect Progressive The past perfect progressive tense describes something that was started and continued to a specific point in the past.	E.g. He had been writing his novel for 2 months before he finished.

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	Simple Past The simple past tense describes something that was started and completed entirely in the past.	E.g. John wanted to be a writer.
	Past Progressive The past progressive tense describes something that was started and continues in the past.	E.g. He was always writing in his journal.
	Past Perfect The past perfect tense describes something that was completed before something else.	E.g. John had begun to write his first novel in November.
	Past Perfect Progressive The past perfect progressive tense describes something that was started and continued to a specific point in the past.	E.g. He had been writing his novel for 2 months before he finished.