



40 LEVEL 1

PRETERIT

WHAT HAPPENED?

Wentworth: Sarah, did you hear about Carson's story?

Sarah: I didn't. What is it? A novel?

Wentworth: Not at all. Yesterday, I watched the evening news and they referred to this person named Carson, Tim Carson. Apparently, two weeks ago, he travelled to Indonesia. He was on holiday.

Sarah: A lot of people enjoy spending their holiday in Indonesia. It is usually cheap. What happened to him?

Wentworth: He wanted to meet other friends there. So he contacted one of them. That person invited him to stay at a very luxury hotel. I think it was a 5-star hotel. Carson was on a budget so he didn't decline the offer. Then, his friend asked him to bring a souvenir back to his mother who lived in England. Carson accepted.

Sarah: So far so good. .. If this piece of news makes the headline then something was not right...

Wentworth: When Carson arrived at the airport, he lined for check-in. There he was arrested. In his bag, there was one kilo of cocaine and pills. It was in the 'souvenir' he was supposed to bring home, for his friend's mother. They interviewed him live. Oh God! He cried so much. That was terrible. His parents looked devastated.

Sarah: Unfortunately, he is not the first foreigner to play the role of a 'drug mule'.

Wentworth: He didn't eat the drugs. He didn't know the drug was in his luggage.

Sarah: So, what happened, in your opinion? Is he innocent or guilty? What's your opinion?

Wentworth: Innocent. I'm positive. His tears were real. I hope he will be found not guilty.



WHAT HAPPENED?	To be on a budget
To happen	A souvenir
To hear (about)	To accept
A story	'So far so good'
A novel	A piece of news
Not at all	'To make the headlines'
yesterday	Something was not right
To watch the evening news	To line (US)/ to queue(UK)
To refer (to)	Check-in
named	To be arrested
apparently	To be supposed (to v)
(two weeks) ago	To bring home
To travel	To interview
'ON HOLIDAY'	'live'
To spend(a holiday)	'Oh God'
usually	To cry
cheap	So much
What happened to (him)?	terrible
there	To look
To contact	devastated
One of (them)	unfortunately
To invite	The first
To stay	A foreigner
luxury	'in your opinion'
A (5)-star hotel	guilty
To decline	positive
An offer	A tear
Then	real
To ask (someone)	To hope
To bring back	'found not guilty'

Grammar: PRETERIT

In English, We use the PRETERIT to refer to past events:

a) a completed action. -ex: I ate salad for dinner.

b) an action which occurred at a specific time in the past- ex: I didn't have breakfast yesterday.

c) a past status. -ex: They were married until 2010.



They usually have a date or time marker such as:

Yesterday, last month, 2 weeks ago

PATTERNS:

1/ Regular verbs:

- a) All regular verbs end in –ED for positive statements.

Example: he worked / They enjoyed the movie

For verbs like cry or try, we remove the y and put –ied at the preterit.

Example: he cried

- b) Pronunciation of the –ED ending:

- /èd/ after t or d : Example: he contact**ed**/wanted**ed**/accepted**ed**/invited**ed**
- /T/ after f, k, p, s, ch, sh: he stop**ped**/miss**ed**/ask**ed**/watch**ed**/wash**ed**
- /d/ in all other cases: he liv**ed**/call**ed**/travell**ed**/tried**ed**

2/ Questions and negative statements

When we ask questions, we use the past auxiliary DID, for all verbs except BE (!).

The pattern is: DID + S + v ?

Example: Did you understand? / Did she call?

When creating negative sentences, we use DID NOT + v, for all verbs except BE (!).

We usually use shortened forms: didn't + v.

Example: She didn't call / You didn't say bye

3/ BE

Be careful,(!)

BE is an irregular verb(!). He is one of the irregular verbs (see item 4).

a) Be in the past becomes ' **was** ' for I/ HE-SHE-IT. Example: I was sick

It becomes ' **were** ' for YOU/ WE/ THEY. Example: We were happy to see you

b) For negative statement, we add NOT.

Example: I was not sick / We were not happy

4/ Irregular verbs



A lot of common verbs are irregular in English. Make sure to learn them. The preterit form is in the second column of the list below:

Infinitive	Preterit	PastParticiple
be	was,were	been
begin	began	begun
break	broke	broken
bring	brought	brought
buy	bought	bought
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
cut	cut	cut
do	did	done
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
fly	flew	flown
forget	forgot	forgotten
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	got/gotten
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hide	hid	hidden
hit	hit	hit
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
know	knew	known
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
meet	met	met
pay	paid	paid



put	put	put
quit	quit	quit
read	read	read
ride	rode	ridden
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
shake	shook	shaken
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sit	sat	sat
sleep	slept	slept
speak	spoke	spoken
spend	spent	spent
spread	spread	spread
steal	stole	stolen
stick	stuck	stuck
swim	swam	swum
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
throw	threw	thrown
wake	woke	woken
wear	wore	worn
win	won	won
write	wrote	written