

Past Tense Chain Story

Context used: Integrated English III Core (or any speaking or writing class). I noticed last year that even some of the advanced students were making easy past tense mistakes (even with BE), and had an inability to link sentences together coherently.

Level: Any Level

Possible application: Used to help students work on past tense usage in an imaginative and fun way. Also, to learn how to connect sentences and express their ideas in an organized and sequential fashion.

Past Tense Chain Story

Preparation:

If possible, at the end of the previous week's class take a few minutes to briefly explain the game.

- Read regular & irregular verb lists and look up meanings of new words. (Posted to CoursePower the week before).
- Please read the following links on how to use useful transition words (also called linking or connecting words). Connecting words prevent our writing and speaking from sounding choppy. They 'sew' our sentences and paragraphs together, making our speaking or writing transition (flow better), connecting one idea to the next. (Posted to CoursePower the week before).

<https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/style-and-usage/list-transition-words.html>

[Transition Words: Examples in Sentences, Paragraphs & Essays | YourDictionary](#)

Some useful connecting words: Next, after that, then, the next day, soon, soon after that, so, but, for example, etc.

Explanation:

Let's play a past tense (過去形). speaking game called a "chain story."

The purpose is to help you practice using past tense, and connect or link sentences together, so that your thoughts and words flow without sounding awkward. It will also strengthen your speaking and writing skills.

- You can do almost **ANYTHING**. You are rich, or a superwoman or superman. You can jump to China! You can swim to America! **Use your imagination!**

BUT you can only use the past tense verb once and you cannot use any notes.

- **Each group member starts at the beginning of the story** and adds their own part using a different **past tense verb** and a connecting word. (If you think there is an error in grammar and/or usage please suggest a correction. Make eye contact with your group members when you speak to help you remember.

Example:

Student A: Last Friday (use any time in the past) I **went** to London and **met** Harry Stiles from 1D.

B: Last Friday I **went** to London and **met** Harry Stiles. Then we **ate** lunch together.

C: Last Friday I **went** to London and **met** Harry Stiles. Then we **ate** lunch together. After that we **saw** Big Ben.

D: Last Friday I **went** to London and **met** Harry Stiles. Then we **ate** lunch together. After that we **saw** Big Ben. The next day, he **bought** me a diamond necklace!

Add more and more and more sentences!

Remember you can only use the past tense verb once.

Try to use different transition words.

Make at least 4 circles around the group.

At the end each group will tell their story to the class.