

## Unit 16 - Tense

### Lesson 2 - Understanding the past

#### Day 1:

#### Activity

- Share news report stories by setting up a newscast desk at the front of the room.
- Take a few of the paragraphs and ask students to change all of the present verbs into past tenses.  
e.g. *I walked. I was walking. I did walk.*

#### Activity

- What happened in gym or P.E. class yesterday?
- Tell the students that you are looking for a variety of ways to say things in the past. Write down all of the actions that they describe from gym class. Lead them into saying some of the less familiar forms of past tenses by asking them questions in those tenses.  
e.g. *What have you done up until now in gym?*  
*What had the teacher taught you to do before that?*
- Have them brainstorm six versions of past tenses.  
e.g. *We kicked.*  
*We have kicked.*  
*We did kick.*  
*We used to kick.*  
*We were kicking.*  
*We had kicked.*
- Plot them roughly on the timeline without naming the different past tenses. Make one point in the past for a form that indicates one completed action. Make repeated strokes in the past for forms that indicate repeated action in the past. Make an extended wavy line for extended action, etc.

#### Discuss

- Two common tenses that occur in the past in many languages are the **perfect** tense and the **imperfect** tense.
- If a student hands in a paper, and the teacher returns it saying that it is perfect, then that means that the student's work is completed; there is nothing more he can do; his work is perfect or completed. If a student's work is handed back labeled imperfect, then that student has to do it over and over until it is completed; it is imperfect / not completed once.
- The perfect tense describes action that was completed once in the past. The imperfect tense describes action that was either repeated in the past or that happened over a period of time, not in one completed action. The **pluperfect** is the third past tense. Plu = plus = more. The pluperfect is more in the past than the perfect tense. A pluperfect action had happened before another action in the past.

#### Activity

- Have the students try to figure out which forms of the verb to kick from above belong to which past tenses.
- Plot the names of the tenses on the timeline.
- Perfect: *We kicked.*  
- *We have kicked.*  
- *We did kick.*  
Imperfect: *We used to kick.*  
- *We were kicking.*

- We kicked.  
Pluperfect: We had kicked.

## Discuss

Two verb forms look identical, but the difference can be figured out by the context.

**We kicked the ball to Martha, but she missed the pass.**  
Perfect: this is a completed action.

**We kicked the ball every time we got near the goal.**  
Imperfect: a repeated action in the past.

Pluperfect would be before either of those past actions occurred.

**I had passed him the ball, so he was able to make a goal.**

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Homework  
pages 121-122

Terms  
perfect  
imperfect  
pluperfect

**Day 2:**

Review homework pages 121-122.

Complete forms of past tenses on p. 123.

Complete p. 124 as a class.