

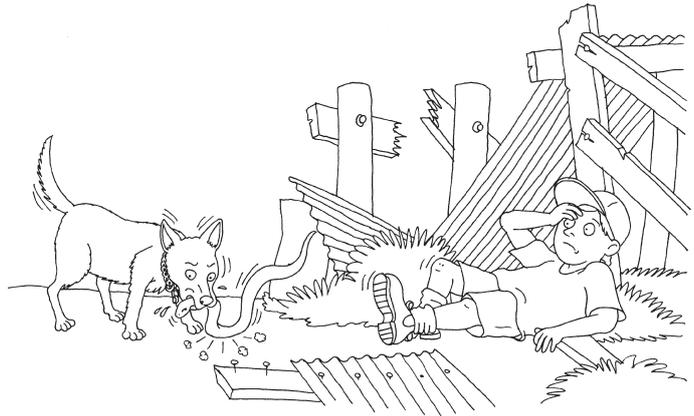
REVISION OF SPELLING

Past Tense Verbs

A quick reminder:

Writing about something that has already happened is called **past tense**. We put 'ed' at the end of verbs (doing words) to show that they are past tense.

Minty **could** sense danger and **understood** the urgency in Billy's voice.



"Go on girl! Get Dad."

From *Old Minty*, Adventure stories

Minty reluctantly **trotted** a few paces, then **halted**, turning her big brown eyes towards Billy. Then she **realised** what she must do and **bounded** off towards the farm.

Most past tense verbs have 'ed' added at the end like in *bounded* and *halted*.

Rules for adding 'ed'.

If the verb *already* ends in 'e', we just add 'd', as in *realised*.

If the verb ends with a short vowel/consonant pattern as in *trot*, we need to double the last consonant and then add 'ed' – *trotted*.

EXERCISE 1

Finish these sentences from the story *Old Minty* by changing the verbs in the brackets to past tense.

1. Eight year old Billy had (decide) _____ it would be fun to explore the old pigsty and outhouses down by the creek. He called Minty and together they (trudge) _____ through the fields until they (reach) _____ the derelict sheds.
2. Minty (respond) _____ as she always did to Billy's voice, by thrashing her long tail.

3. Minty had been a lovely red cattle dog, but the years had generously (speckle) _____ her soft coat with grey.
4. Billy (start) _____ to lift the iron and form a lean to.
5. "This'll make a great hide out Minty. No one but us will know about it." Billy (chuckle) _____ as he (continue) _____ with his building.
6. Suddenly a brown shape struck his knee. It was a snake! It was a quick flash, then it (recoil) _____, ready to strike again.
7. A cross Mr Kingsley (scowl) _____ at Minty.
8. She (bark) _____ and (whine) _____ so long that Mr Kingsley knew something was wrong. He (climb) _____ into the truck. He (follow) _____ the old dog to where a pale faced Billy lay.
9. "Knew Minty would fetch you," said Billy. "Bring the snake, girl," he (add) _____ as his Dad (lift) _____ him into the farm truck and (head) _____ for the little country hospital.
10. The doctor (marvel) _____ at Billy still being conscious when he saw the size of the snake (drag) _____ proudly to the door by Minty.

EXERCISE 2

Did you know that 'ed' sometimes makes a 't' sound at the end of a word? Change the verbs in the brackets to past tense then read them aloud to hear some examples of this.

1. Minty was a cattle dog who had (work) _____ on the farm before the Kingsley family bought it 10 years ago.
2. She rounded up the chickens whenever they (escape) _____ from their run.
3. The three Kingsley children had grown up being (watch) _____ over by Minty.
4. Billy groped for a couple of narrow pieces of wood and (strap) _____ them to his leg as best he could.
5. Minty (bark) _____ and (jump) _____ up, spilling the bucket of milk in Mr Kingsley's hands.

Challenge:

Sometimes past tense verbs don't have 'ed' at the end, the whole word actually changes. Can you work out the missing past tense verbs in these sentences?

1. "I'm going to make a den, Minty," Billy (tell) _____ her.
2. Suddenly a brown shape (strike) _____ his knee just as he was bending down to pick up a piece of timber.
3. Minty had (deal) _____ with snakes before and she (know) _____ she must grasp it at the back of the head.
4. She (hold) _____ on grimly, thrashing the long body against the hard ground until the man gled and squirming killer was still.
5. He calmly (take) _____ out his grubby hanky, feeling lucky that for once he did have one.
6. They had (teach) _____ him at a weekend camp that with a snake bite you must keep the limb still.
7. Billy (bind) _____ his hankie broadly around the leg.
8. He (feel) _____ sick and his head ached. He (bite) _____ his lip, the pain causing him to open his eyes.
9. Minty (sit) _____ on the steps outside.
10. "Hi, Dad," Billy (say) _____ with a weak smile.