

**Technical English for Engineers**  
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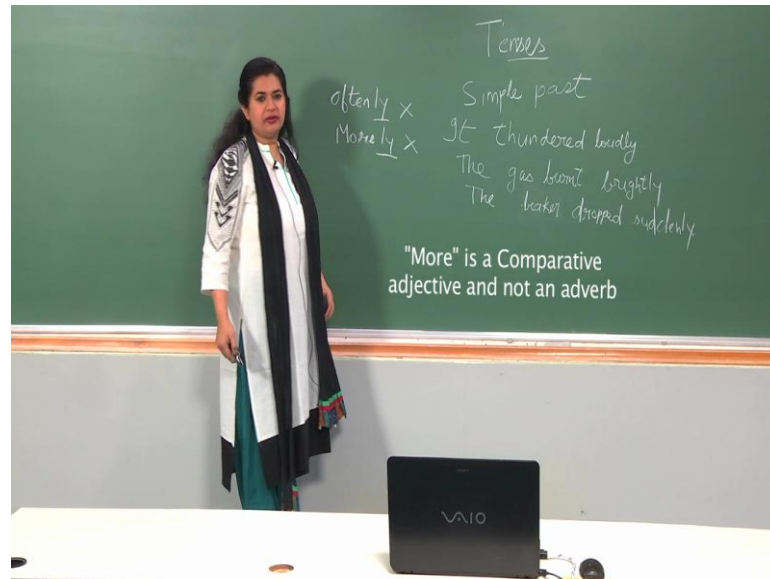
**Lecture - 14**  
**Tenses**

So, let us start with Tenses today. We have been doing verbs and also subject verb agreement. So, tenses are nothing new for us, I am very sure even in your school or at some level, at your university or college you have done something about tenses. In this class today, I am just going to refresh some of your, **I think already existing information about tenses.** I am particularly interested in this simple past, which is so common; like simple present tense.

So, we have past simple and we have present simple. It thundered loudly. The gas burnt brightly. The beaker dropped suddenly. What are we talking about? Actions that are already completed; loudly, brightly, suddenly, what are those? Now, look at the main verbs. You must have noticed, there are no auxiliaries here, main verbs thundered, burned, dropped. Also look at the difference between the two main verbs in sentence one and three; thundered 'ed' form past tense, dropped 'ed' form past tense, but burnt we are not saying burned we are saying burnt.

Now loudly, brightly, suddenly they are qualifiers; it thundered not silently, but loudly. So, we learn something more about the verb in a sentence that word or that phrase is your adverb; it qualifies, it add something to that. So loudly, brightly, suddenly of course, there are exceptions we do not always use the -ly suffix to suggest adverbs. There are several adverbs that do not take the -ly form and some common mistakes, where some students I have often found making mistakes are using a word such as oftenly, morely; now these are wrong.

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Also a very common mistake, I work hardly; I work hardly means I do not work at all. When I say, I work hard, that is an adjective, quality of work. If I say, work hardly; that means, I do not work at all. So, remember these are the exceptions not all adverbs take the -ly form, most adverbs take the -ly form. So, this is your past tense. Now, the end, again remember, what is a past tense? It is a tense we suggest that the action does caught over or action is over, not necessarily just got over but it is finished and completed for ever. The teacher wrote on the blackboard, is done.

Now, what do we do if you passivize these sentences? You remember your voice, active and passive. So, I will give you some sentences look at this slide, here and then I will ask you.

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## Past tense

- Simple past: The storm caused plenty of destruction last night.
- They tested the new car today.
- The minister inaugurated the techno park last week.
- Did you finish the survey yesterday?
- This project cost us a lot of money.

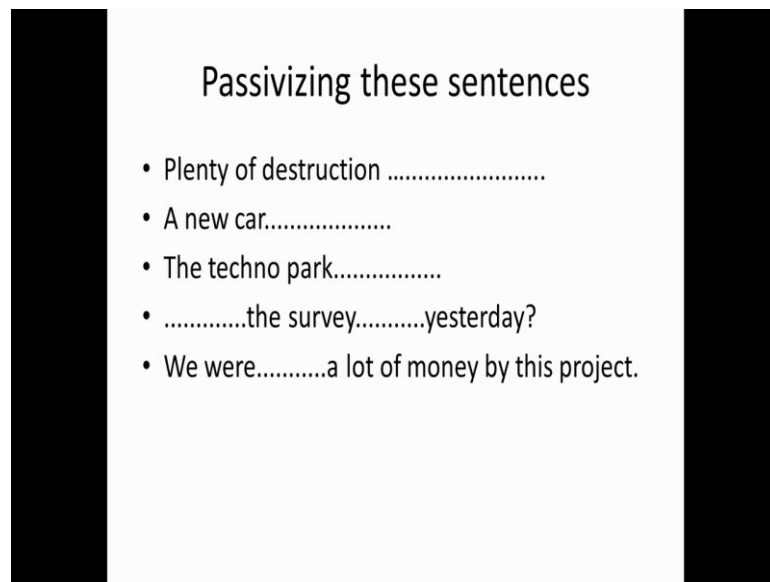
These are simple past tenses and I will ask you to passivize them. Look at the slide please, and read these sentences. The storm caused plenty of destruction last night. They tested the new car today. The minister inaugurated the techno-park last week. Did you finish the survey yesterday? This project cost us a lot of money.

Now, can look at the verbs here and look at the tenses. The storm caused, so 'caused' is your verb. They tested, so 'tested' becomes your main verb as well as simple past. Inaugurated last week, it is over; I inaugurate; the president will inaugurate; the chief minister will inaugurate something today; a new building today or the library today, but it has already been done last week, so it is over. Did you finish, and remember with simple past 'did' the immediate verb that follows has to have the appearance of a present tense because 'did' you do not use 'again'; for example, you will not say, did you finished the survey yesterday? That is wrong use. So, did you ate your lunch today? Did you ate your breakfast today? Did you eat your breakfast? Did you eat your lunch? Did you have your lunch? Did you finish the survey? Did you finish your homework? Did you gift a pen append to your brother? Not, did you gifted; those are rules.

This project cost us a lot of money. 'Cost' is a simple past. What is present? It is cost again. What is its past perfect? It is cost again, it is one of those verbs that does not

change, whatever its category becomes it just remains the same. Put is another such word; **broadcast is yet another set word**; kept is also one of these words. So, you do not say putted, you do not say costed, you do not broadcasted, you do not say costed, you do not say cutted, these are erroneous use of these verbs and remember all these sentences are simple past. Only I am giving you very simple sentences with simple past tense. Now, let us move on and try to passivize these sentences. Here is an exercise for you, please look at the slide.

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Passivizing these sentences

- Plenty of destruction .....
- A new car.....
- The techno park.....
- .....the survey.....yesterday?
- We were.....a lot of money by this project.

Now, let us solve it together. Plenty of destruction was caused by rains or thunder or storm yesterday. A new car was tested last week or yesterday. The techno-park was inaugurated by the minister last week. Did the survey finished yesterday? Now, you see, in this sentence; did the survey finished yesterday? By you, maybe redundant; you may you may not use **it**. We were cost a lot of money by this project. So, this is the way you passivize it.

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**Fill in the blanks**

- i. The sun..... (set)at 7pm today.
- ii. Heavy rains.....(record) in the city this month.
- iii. The first fight....(take) place in 1869.
- iv. The complexity ....(rose) because each customer had unique requirements.
- v. Wipro Biomed.....(debut) in 1989.

Now, here is another exercise for you please look at it. The sun blank set at 7pm today. Heavy rains dash record in the city this month. The first flight dash take place in 1869. The complexity rose because each customer had unique requirements. Wipro Biomed debut in 1989. Use simple past tense forms of these verbs.

How do you do? Let us solve it. The sunset at 7pm today, no difference set - set is another one of those verbs. Heavy rains were recorded. The first flight took place. The complexity it is rose, present rise - rose; I just did that to confuse you, I used the **present** past form. Wipro Biomed debuted 'ed'. So, it is not like debut past tense, it is like certain **cut and put curtain put 1022** and it remains debuted in 1989. You know what is debut? **Making** was first launched and reach your vocabulary. When we **a** consult our dictionary **we should not** just focus on looking or observing just the head word and get the meaning always pay attention to its different kinds of meanings the way those different words are used and the way those words are pronounced and what are the categories are; parts of speech and what are the slang formal technical? Remember, it goes along way if you enrich your vocabulary.

Now, here is another exercise for you I want you to change the sentences, all the sentences, please look at the slide.

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## Present-Past

1. My school insists that all of us wear uniforms.

Ans: My school insisted that all of us wore uniforms.

1. My brother is good at arts but terrible at science.

2. She is worried about her results.

3. He is disappointed with his student.

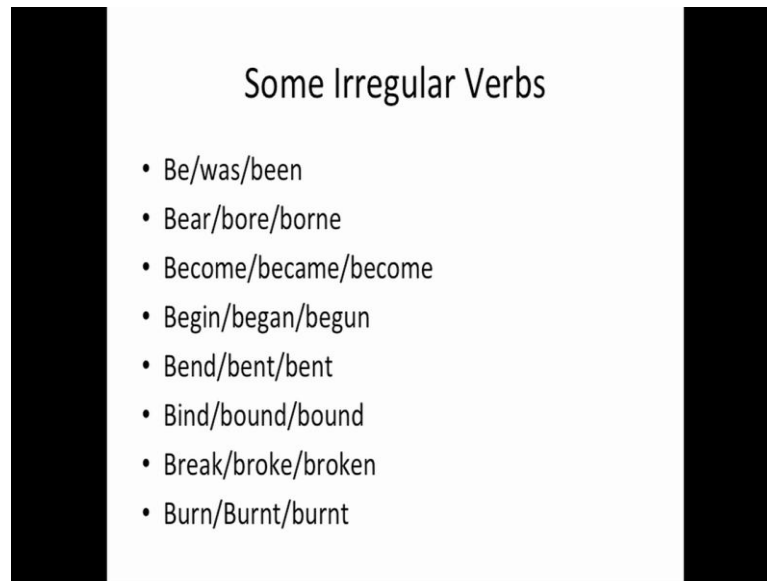
4. Raj is interested in robotics.

5. You are not the first person to solve this equation.

And, I want you to convert these sentences, which are given in the present into past tense. My school insists that all of us wear uniforms. I have done the first one for you, now your exercise. My brother is good at arts but terrible at science. She is worried about her results. He is disappointed with his student. Raj is interested in robotics. You are not the first person to solve this equation. And, what are the past tense forms?

My brother, now remember there is only one main verb in the first sentence is and that is an auxiliary remember that, and **there it** is be form; you remember be form is, was, were, am. So, those are be forms; we have also done has and had and have. So remember, 'my brother' in this first sentence you have only one main verb my brother was good at arts, but terrible at science. She is worried about her results; she was worried. He is disappointed with his student; he was disappointed but not anymore. Raj is interested; Raj was interested. You are not the first person to solve this equation; you were not the first person to solve. So, are changes into verb.

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Here is a list for you please take a look, these are Irregular Verbs.

They will take you very, far if you just pay attention to this list. It is not a very exhaustive list, I had given at the end of this list a very useful link you can go and do a little bit of self study. So, let us take a look at this list, please look at the slide. 'Be' form, then it becomes 'was' and 'been', that is the past participle past perfect, simple past perfect. The root word or simple word is 'bear' it becomes 'bore' and past perfect is 'borne'. Become - became - become; had become, he became very studious; he become, he had become very studious. Begin - began - begun, look at this spellings. Bend - bent - bent, no change. Bind - bound - bound. Break - broke - broken, so the main verb is break, simple past I broke the glass mug; the glass mug was broken by me, it becomes a past perfect also your passive. Look at the slide we continue burn - burnt - burnt.

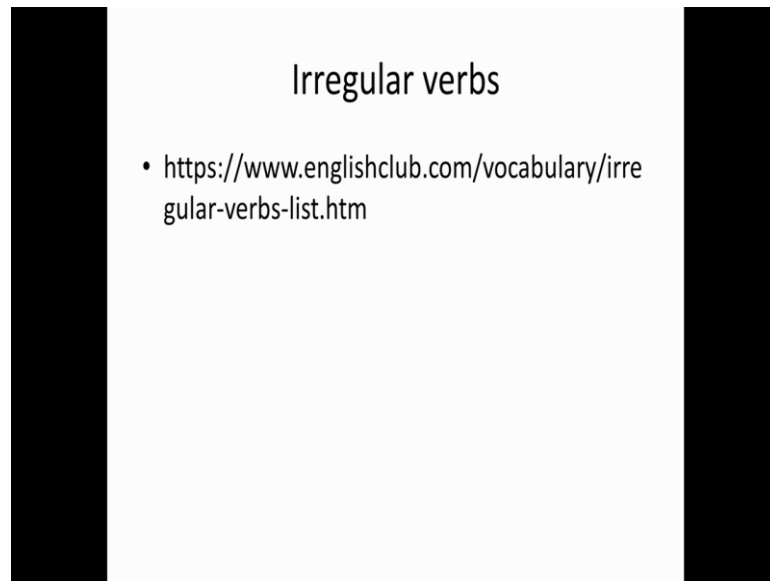
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- Hang/hung/hung
- Have/had/had
- Hit/hit
- Hold/Held
- Keep/kept/kept
- Leave/left/left
- Lie/lay/lain
- Light/lit/lighted light/lit/lighted

We can move on to the next slide, **please look at it**. Hang - hung - hung, I hung the coat on the hanger; the coat was hung by me, no change. When you use the word, a verb such as hanged it changes the entire meaning; The man was hanged for his crimes, whatever he has done, so hanged; but here you hung a thing, you hang a thing and its past tense becomes you hung it. Let us carry on, have - had - had; hit - **hit**, again hit; hold - held - held; keep - kept - kept; leave - left - left; lie - lay - lain, this is interesting and important and please take a look and observe the change in spellings throughout. Light - lit - lighted in all the cases; **you** simple light, simple present, simple past lit was lighted past perfect.



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Irregular verbs

- <https://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/irregular-verbs-list.htm>

And here is the link I was telling you about, irregular verbs. Please note, irregular verbs do not have the 'ed' form as their past tense. Now, look at this slide and match.

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Match

- **YouTube** was founded
- Initially, facebook was discovered
- WhatsApp Inc. was founded
- Microsoft was founded
- 

by **Paul Allen** and **Bill Gates** , was invented by **Mark Zuckerberg**, was founded by **Brian Acton** and **Jan Koum**, by Chad Hurley, Steve Chen, and Jawed Karim.

You know, what you are supposed to do? You have to match, what is given the invention with the inventors. So, the name is all jumbled up you have to match them and you have

to construct full sentences and look at the way we use the passive forms. YouTube, initially, Facebook, WhatsApp inc., Microsoft. As you would know, YouTube founder. So, YouTube was founded by Chad Hurley, Steven Chen and Jawed Karim. Initially, Facebook was invented by Mark Zuckerberg. WhatsApp, who are the people associated? Was founded by Brian Acton and Jan Koum, and the last one Microsoft of course, it was founded by Paul Allen and Bill Gates.

Now, look at the choice of verbs here. Founded, found it, founded, invented. We **have not use induced** discovered here, because there is no discovery made here. So, most of these are inventions and of course, what is the certain difference between invention and discovery? Please find out, on your own. Remember, one **mistake another**, mistake that many students make 'founded' here is something a gadget; I lost it and I found it. I did not, I did not what? So, you are not going to say I founded it, it is only found; you do not say founded this, you lose something you find something in the past tenses found something.

So, find - found - found, but when you are found the when you say, this was founded then it is always in the sense of discovery, inventions and dynasties. Please keep that in mind or great buildings this was founded by so and so. The Tudor dynasty was founded by the great Henry so and so, alright. That is the way we use it. These things are founded, but we do not use it in the sense of lost and found, then it does not become found. So, now, having **done them** so much of it, how do you understand past simple? Past simple is generally used to describe actions, which happened in the past and are now finished.

However, the use may get a little complicated you do not confuse it with past perfect, which we will do soon. Also, you have to bear in mind those irregular verbs and words also in order to suggest or in order to understand past simple and past perfect tenses more clearly. When you say, the first man landed on the moon in 1969. India won freedom in 1947. Columbus discovered America in 1497. Early ships were very small. What are you doing? We are talking about actions that happened in the past and are now finished.

Simple past also can be used to suggest past habits, I used to swim regularly, 'used to' is another auxiliary or helping verb, which is often abused quite badly. So when you say, I

used to walk every morning for one hour that means this action is over and complete and you are not doing it anymore. But if you say, do you walk every morning? You cannot say, yes, I used to walk every morning, which means now you do not. Used to is a simple past, it is over. I used to go, I used to go many students do that they use this expression very often, it is wrong. I used to suggest an action that is over completed and you are not doing any more. So, past habits we were talking about, I used to swim regularly. I used to walk; that means I do not do that anymore. He practice guitar for several hours every day; that means, he does not do that anymore. She wrote beautiful poetry, it is over; she wrote, she does not write anymore.

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**Sample Text: Simple Past**

- In Europe, for a long time, boats **were** small, had one mast and seldom left sight of land. Ships like the Mediterranean *galleys* and the nordic drakkar **relied** mainly on oars for propulsion aided by square sails when there **was** a following wind. They would be steered with a "side oar" that would hang off the back of the boat. In the 1300s, larger loads for war and commerce **were** handled by Cogs . In the north, the rudder had replaced the side oar for steering. In the Mediterranean, lateen sails working as windfoils allowed sailing upwind. Building techniques **improved** to allow the construction of larger crafts with multiple masts.

[http://www.iro.umontreal.ca/~vaucher/History/Ships\\_Discovery/](http://www.iro.umontreal.ca/~vaucher/History/Ships_Discovery/)

I want you to look at this sample text, where I have used simple past and highlighted it please look at the slide. This is how we use in paragraphs and passages.

In Europe, for a long time, boats **were** small, had one mast seldom left sight of land. What part of speech could be seldom? Seldom is another word for rarely; rarely is your adverb, seldom is also your adverb, but we do not say seldomly the seldom is an adverb. Ships like the Mediterranean galleys, galleys is not I have not highlighted it please note it, but I would like you to look at these words related with the sailing industry the shipping industry; and the nordic drakkar **relied** mainly on oars for propulsion aided by

square sails when there **was** a following wind. They would be steered with a "side oar", now, steered is also a simple past; that would hang off the back of the boat, in hang off his is a phrasal verb. That is another very complicated category; many students get terribly confused while using phrasal verbs. In the 1300s, larger loads for war and commerce **were** handled by Cogs. In the north, the rudder had replaced the side oar for his steering. In the Mediterranean, lateen sails working as wind foils allowed, allowed is another past; sailing upwind. Building techniques improved to allow the construction of larger crafts with multiple masts.

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### Exercise: Choose the right word for simple past

Opinion .....(divide) amongst early scientists regarding the speed of light. Some like Aristotle .....(think) that light travelled instantaneously, while others like Al-Haytham .....(think) it was fast, but finite. Galileo ....(try) to measure how fast the light from a lantern travelled from one hilltop to another and back again but ....(fail) because light was too fast—and human reaction time too slow. All Galileo could report ....(be) that light ....(be) faster than sound. The speed of light ....(be) first measured by noticing that the moons of Jupiter ....(take) longer to appear in their predicted places when Jupiter was far from the Earth than they .....(do) when Jupiter was close. Olaf Roemer suggested this was because light .....(take) extra time to reach Earth when Jupiter was further away. Another astronomical measurement, called stellar aberration, confirmed the finite speed of light. The speed of light ....(be) not measured on Earth until Armand Fizeau and Leon Foucault .....(develop) their experiment—essentially a refinement of Galileo's—in the early nineteenth century.

Now, here is an exercise for you please look at the slide. I want you to choose the right word for simple past and the word is the verb and the word is given in the bracket, you use it to make your simple **past fast**.

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## Answers

- Opinion was divided amongst early scientists regarding the speed of light. Some like Aristotle thought that light travelled instantaneously, while others like Al-Haytham thought it was fast, but finite. Galileo tried to measure how fast the light from a lantern travelled from one hilltop to another and back again but failed because light was too fast—and human reaction time too slow. All Galileo could report was that light was faster than sound. The speed of light was first measured by noticing that the moons of Jupiter took longer to appear in their predicted places when Jupiter was far from the Earth than they did when Jupiter was close. Olaf Roemer suggested this was because light took extra time to reach Earth when Jupiter was further away. Another astronomical measurement, called stellar aberration, confirmed the finite speed of light. The speed of light was not measured on Earth until Armand Fizeau and Leon Foucault developed their experiment—essentially a refinement of Galileo's—in the early nineteenth century.
- <http://museumvictoria.com.au/scidiscovery/light/speed.asp>

Alright, I will now give you the answer to it; here is the answer key.

Opinion was divided amongst early scientists regarding the speed of light. Some like Aristotle thought, 'So, think is 'thought', that light traveled instantaneously, while others like Al-Haytham thought 'again think is thought', it was fast, but finite. Galileo tried to measure how fast the light from a lantern traveled. So, simple word or present is travel; traveled is past. From one hilltop to another and back again but failed because light was too fast and human reaction time too slow. All Galileo could report was the 'be' form of a simple past, was that light was faster than sound. The speed of light was first measured by noticing that the moons of Jupiter took longer to appear in their predicted places when Jupiter was far from the Earth than they did when Jupiter was close. Olaf Roemer suggested this was because light took extra time to reach Earth when Jupiter was further away. Another astronomical measurement, called stellar aberration, confirmed the finite speed of light. The speed of light was not measured on earth and until Armand Fizeau and Leon Foucault developed their experiment, essentially a refinement of Galileo's, in the early nineteenth century. So, this is your answer please tally it.

Now, I will move on and I am giving you something more complicated now. Here is a list of jumbled sentences and jumbled sentences I am jumbling words within sentences.

So, you have to make proper and appropriate complete sentences using these words and make an entire passage. I can give you a hint. Now, you may recall those lectures where we had discussed the subject verb agreement and also sentence construction and the various parts of a sentence for example, subject verb complement, subject verb object, subject verb object and object, direct and indirect object. Remember, the questions that are answered by a direct object, remember the questions that answered by an indirect object. Look at this passage here.

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Write the following as complete statements

Born-----Bologna, Italy----1874-----was -----  
Marconi-----in. Was----wealthy----father----in—  
landowner---his----a---. Mother-----distillers---  
was--- a---of----member---family-----Ireland's  
Jameson---his. Educated----University of  
Bologna---by---Livorno Technical Institute----  
tutors----and. Electromagnetic  
interactions---1894---Marconi---generated---  
fascinated---in---Heinrich Rudolf Hertz -----  
discovery---by---of----German physicist  
----"invisible waves".

I am reading it, it is already jumbled do not get hazel by it, but you will find it extremely interesting to solve this exercise. Born Bologna Italy 1874 was Marconi in. Was wealthy father in landowner his full stop. Mother distillers was a of member family Ireland's Jameson his full stop. Educated University of bologna by Livorno Technical Institute tutors and full stop. Electromagnetic interactions 1894 Marconi generated fascinated in Heinrich Rudolf Hertz is one single name discovery by of German physicist "invisible waves".

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### Contd....

- Was---wave-generating ---estate---Marconi--- his---sending---built---away---own---soon--- family's---and---signals---mile---locations--- equipment---a.

This continuous, Was wave-generating estate Marconi his sending built away own soon family's and signals mile locations equipment a full stop; here it ends. And, please look at the answer here. This is solved for you and how simple it is.

(Refer Slide Time: 29:19)

### Answer

- Guglielmo Marconi was born in 1874 in Bologna, Italy. His father was a wealthy landowner. His mother was a member of Ireland's Jameson family of distillers. Marconi was educated by tutors and at the Livorno Technical Institute. In 1894 Marconi became fascinated with the discovery by German physicist Heinrich Rudolf Hertz of "invisible waves" generated by electromagnetic interactions. Marconi built his own wave-generating equipment at his family's estate and was soon sending signals to locations a mile away.

Guglielmo Marconi was born in 1874 in Bologna, Italy. His father was a wealthy

landowner. His mother was a member of Ireland's Jameson family of distillers. Marconi was educated by tutors and at the Livorno Technical Institute, full stop. In 1894 Marconi became fascinated with the discovery by German physicist Hertz of "invisible waves" generated by electromagnetic interactions. Last sentence, Marconi built his own wave-generating equipment at his family's estate and was soon sending signals to locations a mile away.

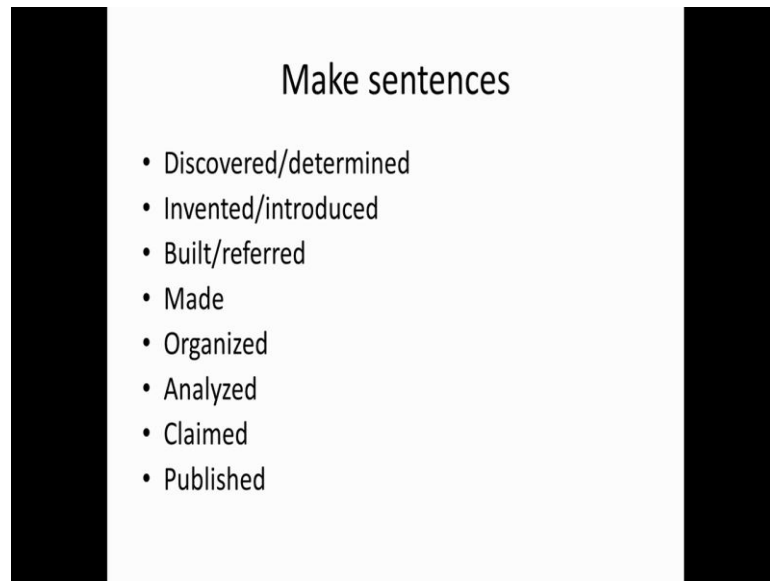
So, far we have been doing simple past and there has to be some kind of review that, what are the basic components of a simple past or past tense when you talk about past tense? What is exactly happening? And we say, you know immediately it is suggesting past time, time that is over, action that is over and when we suggest time, statements of time some of the useful expressions you know that make a very handy for you think of that and in the passages that we have been doing so many exercises, what are the recurring features? What do we talk about? How do we qualify time? So, we talk about the early 20th century, right? The late 19th century, the middle of the 18th century, at the beginning of the 21st century, at the end of so and such and such things or at the end of such and such era. In conclusion, so all these are markers of time. We are coming to and in the later half, in the earlier decades. This the way you qualify.

So, let say 1920, do not say repeat it over and again, I am talking now basically about how to improve the quality of your writing. So, when you say 1910 or 1920 do not say repeatedly 1920 1910 1920, what could you say? In the second decade of the 19th century or you can always say in the first decade of the 20th century. So, in the first day when you say 1907 you want to write 19th century, yes, 1910 you can always say in the first decade of the 20th century. So, that is the way. So, try to bring in some variety of expressions and of course, you are aware of the abbreviations BC and AD that also suggest time, they are qualifiers and statements of time.

Now, here is a list of very useful verbs for you; please take a look.



(Refer Slide Time: 32:42)



**Make sentences**

- Discovered/determined
- Invented/introduced
- Built/referred
- Made
- Organized
- Analyzed
- Claimed
- Published

Make sentences of your own; please take a look at the slide. Why I am giving you this exercise is that while writing and also while making formal presentations you need to use certain kind of vocabulary, you cannot repeatedly say - I say this, I state this, I found this, I found this, I found this. So, you have to use a variety of words and expressions. Here is a list that may help you in your endeavor. Discovered - determined, invented - introduced, built - referred, made, organized, analyzed, claimed, published these are the words that you may use, that you do use in your every day's speech and writing. Try to make sentences that are more related to your area, your domain of study, alright. So, with this note we end and we will soon meet and we will talk about present perfect tense.

Thank you very much.

### ***Tags***

Reading English, English for Engineers, English words, English Exercise, Exercises in English, Grammar usage, English Grammar, vocabulary, words and phrases, spoken communication, written communication, English writing, English speaking, scientific

English, report writing, CV, formal letter, Speech-Preposition, Noun Phrases, Countable and uncountable nouns, singular, plural, Modals and Voice, Tenses

Essay writing, word categories, word formation, formal tone, paragraph writing, tone in writing, speaking tone, signal words, Letter writing, understanding essays, Mechanics of Essays, publishable essays, nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, propositions, determiners, linking words, 'be' form, linking words, reading, listening, sentence, Subject, Verb, Object, Articles, comparatives, passive voice