Lesson Plan © Easy Access English

A history of furniture

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Review and practice using the past tense. Practice talking about the history of your company.



Activity 1 - Use each of the following words in a sentence:

Furniture, Home Furnishings, To Furnish

Activity 2 - **Reading comprehension**

When people learned to farm and lived in permanent settlements they began to make furniture. In Europe some of the earliest known furniture comes from the stone age in Scotland around 2,000 BC. The stone age farmers lived in stone huts. Inside they made stone furniture such as cupboards and beds.

Meanwhile in Egypt rich Egyptians lived in large, comfortable houses with many rooms. Walls were painted and floors had colored tiles. Inside their homes rich Egyptians had wooden furniture such as beds, chairs, tables and chests for storage. However instead of pillows they used wooden head rests.

Ordinary people lived in simpler homes made of mud. People may have slept on the flat roof when it was hot and they did most of their work outside because of the heat. For the poor furniture was very basic. Ordinary Egyptians sat on brick benches.

In Ancient Greece even in a rich home furniture was basic. The Greeks stored things in wooden chests or hung them from wooden pegs on the walls. A rich home would also have a dresser to display expensive cups.

Questions-

1. Where was the first type of furniture found?
2. In what year?
3. What did Egyptians use instead of a pillow?
4. What were ordinary Egyptian house made of?
5. What did a rich Ancient Greek home have?



Activity 3 - Review of The Simple Past-

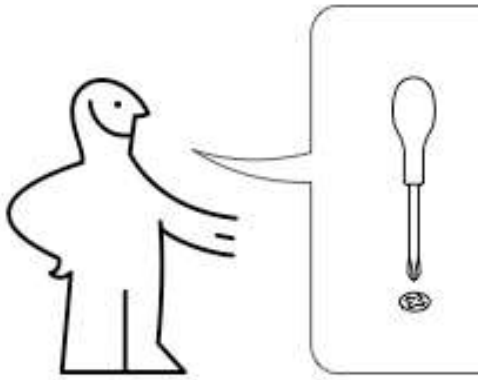
The simple past is the most regularly used past tense in English. It is used to describe a completed action in the past- e.g. I took the bus to work today.

It is formed by adding ED at the end of the verb.- VERB+ ED

- I play football everyday- Present simple
- I play**ed** football yesterday- Past Simple

N.B. In the past simple there are A LOT of irregular past tense verbs in English which do not take ED. The best way to learn these verbs is to make a note every time you hear and see one and gradually you will become familiar with them.

Look at these sentences in relation to Furniture. Fill in the gaps with the past simple- Hint-watch out for the irregulars!



1. I _____ (make) my bed yesterday.
2. Two weeks ago, My friend and I _____ (build) a boat.
3. I had fun when I_____ (stay) at my friends house.
4. We _____ (do) a lot during my holiday.
5. I imagine you_____ (enjoy) your weekend.
6. I can't believe they_____ (kill) Harambe.
7. They were very upset their team_____ (lose) the game.
8. I am so relieved that she _____ (bring) some wine.
9. I _____ (want) to take my kids to the restaurant but they were_____ (tire)
10. Last night we _____ (assemble) some furniture.

Activity 4 - Look at the images and write the name of each item of furniture













Activity 5 - ***Your*** **history with furniture.**

Answer the questions using the past tense.

1. How long have you been working for a furniture store?
2. What different types of furniture have you sold since you started?
3. How have the trends and styles evolved since you have been working for IKEA?

Activity 6 - **The history of IKEA. Read the article and replace the verbs in CAPITAL LETTERS in the article, with the correct past participles.**

The History of IKEA

1920s At the age of five, *Ingvar Kamprad* STARTS selling matches to his nearby neighbors and by the time he IS seven, he STARTS selling further afield, using his bicycle. He FINDS that he CAN buy matches in bulk cheaply in Stockholm and re-sell them individually at a very low price but still make a good profit. From matches he EXPANDS to selling flower seeds, greeting cards, Christmas tree decorations, and later pencils and ball-point pens.

1940's-1950's This period SEES the exploration of furniture design, self assembly, advertising, the use of a catalogue and a showroom to reach many people.

1960's-1970's The IKEA concept STARTS to take shape. New IKEA stores OPEN and hero products are developed such as POÄNG and the BILLY bookcase. It IS a time where the concept TAKES shape and WAS documented in Ingvar Kamprad's book The Testament of a Furniture Dealer.

1980's IKEA EXPANDS dramatically into new markets such as the USA, Italy, France and the UK.

1990's IKEA GROWS even more. Children's IKEA IS introduced and the focus IS on home furnishing solutions to meet the needs of families with children. The IKEA Group IS formed and responsibility for people and the environment IS then seen as a prerequisite for doing good business.

2000's IKEA EXPANDS into even more markets such as Japan and Russia. Everything for the bedroom and kitchen IS explored and presented in co-ordinated furnishing solutions. This period also SEES the successes of several partnerships regarding social and environmental projects.

Activity 7 - **Explain in the past tense** some ***more recent changes*** which happened since the 2000's to your company.

Activity 8 - **What happened? -** Imagine that you are in the following situations, explain, in a ***dialogue***, what happened:

1. You arrive two hours late for work and explain why to your boss.
2. The BILLY range is completely out of stock and you need to explain why to a customer.
3. The coffee machine in the restaurant is broken and you explain what happened to the supplier.
4. A customer's delivery did not arrive on the planned day and you call to explain why.

