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The History Of the Hamburger

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Review the past tenses. Learn expressions for apologizing. Practice new expressions. Practice the past tenses. Comprehension activity.

Activity One - With a partner/ your teacher. **Discuss**.



1. Do you like hamburgers?
2. Do you like McDonalds or other fast food?
3. What is your favorite type of fast food?
4. What's your favorite type of hamburger?
5. What are the ingredients in your favorite fast food?

Activity Two - **With a new partner. Invent.**
Invent an unusual and tasty recipe for a new type of hamburger. Present it to the rest of the class or to your teacher.

Activity Three - **Past tense review - Telling stories or talking about history in the past tenses**. Read the information.

When we talk about past events in English we usually use the past simple, it's the most commonly used past tense. This is why you really need to learn the irregular past participles off by heart. (See the list at the end of this lesson).

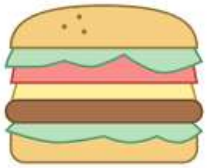
When you are unsure of which past tense to use, if you choose the simple past then at least you can be sure that people will understand that you are talking about the past and more often than not it is the right choice. So, don't worry and hesitate, just use the simple past when you are not sure.

Don't be tempted to use the Present perfect systematically. French students of English tend to do (mainly because they are translating directly from French). For example they think *'j'ai mangé un gateau'* and say 'I have eaten a cake' because in French there is an auxiliary verb in this sentence.

In English you should say 'I ate a cake' if you are talking about an action that is finished with no link to the present. So, no auxiliary verb. We only use the present perfect (have done) when there is some connection or link to what you are talking about in the present or to your present situation. This is one of the most common errors French people make with the past tense in English. When we are making a simple statement about the past, something that is over and finished, you use the simple past tense.

Another common mistake is to use the present tense when you are talking about something that started in the past and continues today. For example people often say - ~~I am working~~ in Macdo for two years. The correct sentence is **I have been working** in Macdo for two years. This is the present perfect continuous, an action in the past which is still happening today.

Let's **review** the different past tenses and their uses so that you can feel more confident.





SIMPLE PAST

I went to Montpellier and I saw McDonald's

Action in the past taking place once, never or several times
Actions taking place one after another

PRESENT PERFECT

Have you been to McDonald's before?

We use the Present Perfect to say that an action happened at an unspecified time before now. You **can't** use it with specific time expressions such as: yesterday, one year ago, last week, etc.

PAST CONTINUOUS

I was visiting McDonald's when I saw a big rat!

Use the Past Continuous to indicate that a longer action in the past was interrupted. The interruption is usually a shorter action in the Simple Past. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

I have been living in Montpellier for five years.

We use the Present Perfect Continuous to show that something started in the past and has continued until now.

PAST PERFECT

I had live in Montpellier for three years before I ate at McDonald's.

The Past Perfect shows that something happened before another action in the past or before a specific time in the past.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

She had been living in Montpellier for several years before the McDonald's was opened.

We use the Past Perfect Continuous to show that something started in the past and continued up until another time in the past.

Activity Four - **Read the History** of the Hamburger and identify the different past tenses used.

18th and 19th Centuries - Hamburg Steak:

In the late eighteenth century, the largest ports in Europe were in Germany. Sailors who had visited the ports of Hamburg, Germany and New York, brought this food and term "Hamburg Steak" into popular usage. To attract German sailors, eating stands along the New York city harbor offered "steak cooked in the Hamburg style."

Immigrants to the United States from German-speaking countries brought with them some of their favorite foods. One of them was Hamburg Steak. The Germans simply flavored shredded low-grade beef with regional spices, and both cooked and raw it became a standard meal among the poorer classes. In the seaport town of Hamburg, it acquired the name Hamburg steak. The originated on the German Hamburg-Amerika line boats, which brought emigrants to America in the 1850s. There was at that time a famous Hamburg beef which was salted and sometimes slightly smoked, and therefore ideal for keeping on a long sea voyage. As it was hard, it was minced

and sometimes stretched with soaked breadcrumbs and chopped onion. It was popular with the Jewish emigrants, who continued to make Hamburg steaks, as the patties were then called, with fresh meat when they settled in the U.S.

There are three different claims to who invented the first Hamburger:

Louis' Lunch: This New Haven, Connecticut, burger joint claims to have invented our favorite lunchtime (and dinnertime) meal in 1900. From its website: "One day in the year 1900 a man dashed into a small New Haven luncheonette and asked for a quick meal that he could eat on the run. Louis Lassen, the establishment's owner, hurriedly sandwiched a broiled beef patty between two slices of bread and sen the customer on his way, so the story goes, with America's first hamburger."

"Hamburger Charlie" Nagreen: It's said that he started selling meatballs at the age of 15 at the summer fair in Seymour, Wisconsin. But, homeofthehamburger.org says, "Charlie was a resourceful young man with an outgoing personality. After not experiencing much success selling the meatballs, he had an idea and located some bread. He realized people could take this meal with them if he simply smashed the meat together between two pieces of bread. He called it a "hamburger" and yes, in 1885 the burger was born at the fair in Seymour, Wisconsin."

Menches Brothers: The brothers' descendants, who now operate a small chain in Ohio called, not surprisingly, Menches Bros. claim that their great-grandfather and his brother (Charles and Frank, respectively) invented the dish at an 1885 fair in Hamburg, New York. The brothers originally sold sausages but ran out and were forced to use ground beef, which at the time was considered declassé. John Menches, in a Businessweek story, says, "Faced with nothing to sell at all, they fried [the ground beef] up, but it was too bland. My grandfather decided to put coffee, brown sugar, and some other household ingredients in it and cooked up the sandwich. My great-uncle Frank served the first sandwich, a gentleman tasted it and said, 'What do you call it?' Uncle Frank didn't really know what to call it, so he looked up and saw the banner for the Hamburg fair and said, 'This is the hamburger.' " Which do you think is true?

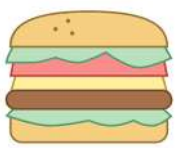
Activity Five - **Apologizing politely...**

When you don't like something that someone offers you to eat. Or, when you go to a restaurant and you ask for something special, or indeed when you work in a restaurant and have to deal with a mistake made in the kitchen - you have to apologize! Here are some expressions:

I'm afraid that ….	I really am sorry but ….
I'm sorry to say that…	Please accept our apologies….
I must tell you that ….	I'm terribly sorry but…
I do apologize but….	I'm really sorry about this but..
Thanks so much for your patience,	Please understand that…

Activity Six - **Difficult Customers.** Act out the situations using the past tenses.

1. You go into a local hamburger restaurant with your son to make a complaint to the manager. You are very rude and angry because last time you were there you found a finger nail in your food!



2. You go to the drive in part of a fast food restaurant and start to order. You change your mind multiple times and the person taking your order gets really crazy and angry and walks out!
3. You go to a very exclusive expensive restaurant and order a hamburger. You want it to be exactly like Mcdonald's. The waiter is very offended!
4. You go to Mcdonald's and ask for a hamburger with lots of changes to it, in the end it's just bread!

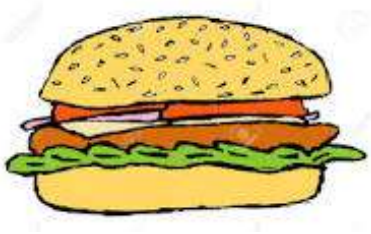
Activity Seven - **Interview**.

You are a journalist. You are interviewing the descendants of the Menches brothers who tell the story of the first hamburger. You try to challenge them about Hamburger Charlie and they get very defensive and tell you some new details which really seem to prove their version of the story.

Activity Eight - **LIST OF COMMON IRREGULAR VERBS**

Choose three verbs and write a sentence with each of the past participles for that word…

- be was, were been
- beat beat beat
- become became become
- begin began begun
- bend bent bent
- bet bet bet
- bleed bled bled
- blow blew blown
- break broke broken
- bring brought brought
- build built built
- burn burnt burnt
- buy bought bought
- catch caught caught
- choose chose chosen
- come came come
- cost cost cost
- cut cut cut
- deal dealt dealt
- do did done
- draw drew drawn
- dream dreamed dreamed
- drive drove driven
- drink drank drunk
- eat ate eaten
- fall fell fallen
- feed fed fed
- feel felt felt
- fight fought fought
- find found found
- fly flew flown
- forget forgot forgotten
- get got gotten
- give gave given
- go went gone
- grow grew grown
- hang hung hung
- hear heard heard
- hide hid hidden
- hold held held
- hurt hurt hurt
- keep kept kept
- know knew know
- lay laid laid
- lead led led
- learn learned learned
- leave left left
- lend lent lent
- let let let
- lose lost lost
- make made made
- mean meant meant
- meet met met
- pay paid paid
- prove proved proved
- put put put
- read read read
- ride rode ridden
- ring rang rung
- rise rose risen
- run ran run
- say said said
- see saw seen
- sell sold sold
- send sent sent
- show showed showed
- shut shut shut
- sing sang sung
- sink sank sunk
- sit sat sat
- sleep slept slept
- slide slid slid
- speak spoke spoken
- speed sped sped



- spend spent spent
- spit spat spit
- spread spread spread
- stand stood stood
- steal stole stolen
- stick stuck stuck
- sting stung stung
- string strung strung
- swear swore sworn
- swim swam swum
- take took taken
- teach taught taught
- tell told told
- think thought thought
- throw threw thrown
- understand understood understood
- uphold upheld upheld
- upset upset upset
- wake woke woken
- wear wore worn
- win won won
- write wrote written

