Lesson Plan © Easy Access English

Every building tells a story

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn about and practice the different past tenses in English
Listening comprehension and building vocabulary.



Activity one: **Ask and Answer the questions with a partner or your teacher**

1. How do you feel about your childhood home?
2. What did you like about it?
3. What did you hate about it?
4. What is your favorite house now and why?

Activity two: **Listening comprehension**

Listen to the Architect's story and answer the comprehention questions
Title: 'Why the buildings of the future will be shaped by ... you'
Speaker: Marc Kushner

Before you listen, have a look at the following vocabulary and discuss with a partner what you think each means

New Jersey	I used to share	It overlooked the family room
Hated	Based on	Trick
Library	Pendulum	Sellouts

Comprehension questions :
Where is the speaker from?

1. What did he feel?



2. What did he hate?

3. How much time do Americans spend indoors?

4. What's the trick in Architecture?

5. Why is building Architecture terrifying?

6. What are the messages we can get from looking at Architecture?

7. What is a pendulum when talking about Architecture?

Activity three: **Vocabulary**

Explain what the following building materials are with your partner, and their differences

- Concrete and cement, what's the difference?
- Wood: what types are there?
- Brick and stucco, what's the difference?
- vinyl, what is it used for?
- steel and iron, what's the difference?





Activity four: **The past tenses in English**

Tense	Affirmation/Negative / Question	Use	Signal word
Simple past	A: He spoke. N: He did not speak. Q: Did he speak?	action in the past taking place once, never or several times actions taking place one after another action taking place in the middle of another action	yesterday, 2 minutes ago, in 1990, the other day, last Friday if sentence type II (If I talked, …)
Past continuous	A: He was speaking. N: He was not speaking. Q: Was he speaking?	• action going on at a certain time in the past • actions taking place at the same time • action in the past that is interrupted by another action	while, as long as
Present perfect	A: He has spoken. N: He has not spoken. Q: Has he spoken?	• putting emphasis on the result • action that is still going on • action that stopped recently • finished action that has an influence on the present • action that has taken place once, never or several times before the moment of speaking	already, ever, just, never, not yet, so far, till now, up to now
Present perfect continuous	A: He has been speaking. N: He has not been speaking. Q: Has he been speaking?	• putting emphasis on the course or duration (not the result) • action that recently stopped or is still going on • finished action that influenced the present	all day, for 4 years, since 1993, how long?, the whole week
Past perfect	A: He had spoken. N: He had not spoken. Q: Had he spoken?	• action taking place before a certain time in the past • sometimes interchangeable with past perfect progressive • putting emphasis only on the fact (not the duration)	already, just, never, not yet, once, until that day if sentence type III (If I had talked, …)
Past perfect continuous	A: He had been speaking. N: He had not been speaking. Q: Had he been speaking?	action taking place before a certain time in the past sometimes interchangeable with past perfect simple putting emphasis on the duration or course of an action	for, since, the whole day, all day

Activity five: **Gap fill**

Fill in the gaps using the correct past tense forms. (The gaps can have more than one word*)

1. This _____(be) my childhood bedroom.
2. Around the corner from my bedroom _____(be) the bathroom that I _____(use) share with my sister.
3. Okay, 30 years ago we _____(come) out of the '70s.
4. Architects _____(be) busy_____(experiment) with something called brutalism.
5. I _____(feel) like a sellout.
6. The builder _____ first _____(build) the house in wood but then added a concrete foundation.
7. The contractor _____(work) on the new addition when the architect _____(insist) to make a change.
8. Our team _____ just _____(finish) the design for the new client.

Activity Six: **Past experiences**

With your partner, talk about your past experiences in a building that you have visited.

1. What had been in its place before?

2. What did it look like.

3. What was its function?

4. Would you visit it again? Why or why not?

Activity Seven: **Tell a story**

Look at the pictures and tell a story to your partner about the image that you have chosen. Think of how the speaker spoke in Activity two. If there is time, tell a second story with another image.









learning objectives
How far have you got?
easy access english
Fill in the bars to show your progress