

English Language Coach, Part 1

Four Kinds of Past

The stories in this unit are, like most stories, written about the past and are written in the past tense. There are four past tense forms of verbs in English.

Simple Past Tense

EXAMPLE: *She ran to the window.*

The **simple past** is the most common tense for telling a story. Generally, the author is recounting events after they've happened.

Past Perfect Tense

EXAMPLE: *She had worried about a storm.*

The **past perfect** is used to tell about something that began and ended in the past. Events or actions in the past perfect tense happened before events or actions in the simple past. This tense is used to relate things in a more distant past that have relevance to the now of the story.

Past Progressive Tense

EXAMPLE: *She was staring out the window.*

The **past progressive** is used to tell about events that began in the past and continue in the present. Generally, this form is used to relate an event that was still going on when something else happened: *She was staring out the window when the lightning struck.*

Past Perfect Progressive Tense

EXAMPLE: *She had been calling to the children.*

The **past perfect progressive** is used to tell about something that began in the past and continued for a while, before ending in the past. Generally, this is used to relate an event that was happening and stopped when something else happened: *She had been calling to the children, but then ran outside and swept them up in her arms.*

ACTIVITY

Directions Read the paragraph. For each sentence, write the verb in the past tense form indicated to complete the sentence. Use helping verbs when necessary.

Emma's mother **1.** _____ her to wash the windows. As Emma started, she remembered
want (simple past)

another time when she **2.** _____ a window and the window suddenly **3.** _____!
wash (past perfect progressive) break (past perfect)

Now, she **4.** _____ that nothing like that would happen again. It didn't, but this time she
hope (simple past)

5. _____ the window when a bird suddenly **6.** _____ outside it!
wash (past progressive) appear (simple past)

Literary Element *(page 10)*

Conflict

The Lady, or the Tiger? FRANK R. STOCKTON

Conflict, or the struggle between two forces, often propels the action of a story. As a reader, you will want to find out how this conflict is resolved.

A conflict can be between two characters, between a character and another force, such as nature, or between two ideas or courses of action in a character’s mind.

Some stories have a variety of different conflicts. “The Lady, or the Tiger?” is one of those stories.

In the chart below, identify a conflict for each character. Describe the conflict. Then tell whether it is an external conflict (with someone or something else) or an internal conflict (within the one character).

ACTIVITY

Directions There are lots of possible conflicts to put on the chart. Write about at least two.

Character	Conflict	Internal or External?

Reading Strategy (page 10)

Summarize

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When you summarize, you restate the main ideas of a text. The characters and the setting are main parts of any story, so you should include them in a summary. Beyond that, you can ask yourself: What events or ideas in this story are most important to it? If you had not read the story, what would you need to know in order to get a complete picture?

ACTIVITY

Directions Read the events or ideas from the story in the first column. Answer the questions in the second and third columns. Use the first row of the chart as a model.

Event or Idea in the Story	Is this important, and why?	Include in a summary?
The king makes people choose between two doors—one with a tiger behind it, and one with a lady behind it—to show their guilt or innocence.	Yes, because this ruling of the king leads to his daughter's lover having to choose between the two doors.	yes
The accused people come out of an area underneath the place where the king and his party sit.	1.	2.
The princess knows who the woman behind the one door is, and she is very jealous of her.	3.	4.

Active Reading Graphic Organizer

Ask your teacher for a copy of the Three-Column Table Graphic Organizer to keep track of events and ideas in the story. Think about whether each idea is important to the story. Do you need to include it in a summary to tell someone briefly what this story is about?

Selection Vocabulary Practice (page 10)**The Lady, or the Tiger?** FRANK R. STOCKTON**Vocabulary**

impartial *adj.* not favoring one side more than another
emanate *v.* to come forth
dire *adj.* dreadful; terrible
fervent *adj.* having or showing great intensity of feeling;
passionate
novel *adj.* new and unusual

EXERCISE A Practice Usage

For each of the following vocabulary words, determine which sentence uses the meaning of the word as Stockton used it.

1. dire
 - A. Poor people often live in dire conditions.
 - B. The hiker was in dire need of something to drink.
2. fervent
 - A. With their fervent cheers, the fans inspired the players to win a game.
 - B. Even though it might have been dangerous, we sat close to the fervent coals to get warm.
3. novel
 - A. Jenny just finished reading her favorite novel for the fifth time.
 - B. The chef was awarded an honor for her novel use of broccoli.

EXERCISE B Applying Meanings

Write the word from the vocabulary box above that belongs in each sentence.

1. As the fire spread, thick smoke began to _____ from the roof.
2. After the hurricane winds died down, the old barn was in _____ shape.
3. To decide a court case fairly, a judge must be _____.
4. Let's not do the same old thing today. Let's do something _____!
5. When I feel strongly about issues, I give them my _____ support.

EXERCISE C Responding to the Selection

The author, Frank R. Stockton, calls the king and his daughter "semibarbaric." Explain what that means, using examples of the characters' actions to support your explanation. Include THREE vocabulary words in your writing. Write on the back of this sheet.

Vocabulary Strategy (page 10)

Multiple-Meaning Words: Distinguishing Definitions

The Lady, or the Tiger? FRANK R. STOCKTON

“The moment that the case of the criminal was thus decided, doleful iron bells were clanged, great wails went up from the hired mourners posted on the outer rim of the arena, and the vast audience, with bowed heads and down-cast hearts, wended slowly their homeward way, mourning greatly that one so young and fair, or so old and respected, should have merited so dire a fate.”

—Frank R. Stockton, “The Lady, or the Tiger?”

Connecting to Literature The word *dire* has two different meanings. It can describe something terrible or something urgent. **Multiple-meaning words** are words that have several definitions listed within a single dictionary entry.

Here are two multiple-meaning words from “The Lady, or the Tiger?”

Word	Meanings	Examples
blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from noble or royal lineage • the fluid that pumps through all vertebrates to keep them alive • one’s ancestry • temperament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The young man was of good <i>blood</i>. • Did the princess fear seeing her lover’s <i>blood</i>? • Her jealousy was increased due to her <i>blood</i>, which came from her barbaric ancestors. • The <i>hot-blooded</i> princess was full of jealousy.
vast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very great in number • very great in area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>vast</i> audience went home, mourning the loss of life. • The arena where a subject’s fate would be decided was <i>vast</i>.

ACTIVITY

Directions Use context clues to determine the meaning of each underlined word. Write down this meaning. Then use a dictionary to write at least one additional meaning for the word.

- The employee dared to talk with her boss’s boyfriend.

- Her dream of marrying him would never happen.

- The awful truth was that his fate was in her hands.

- Henrietta had witnessed many savage decisions made by her father .

Grammar Practice (page 10)**Parts of Speech: Nouns: Singular, Plural, and Collective****The Lady, or the Tiger?** FRANK R. STOCKTON

A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea. A **singular noun** names one person, place, thing, or idea, and a **plural noun** names more than one. Most plural nouns are formed by adding *-s* to the singular form. Words that end in *ch, sh, s, x, or z* form the plural by adding *-es*. Words that end in a consonant and *y* form the plural by changing *y* to *i* and adding *-es*. Some plurals are formed irregularly, for example, *child, children; foot, feet; mouse, mice*. Some singular and plural forms are the same, for example, *sheep, deer, series*.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL		SINGULAR	PLURAL
Person:	child	children	Thing:	piano	pianos
Place:	corner	corners	Idea:	religion	religions

A **collective noun** names a group. A collective noun is singular when it refers to the group as a whole. It is plural when it refers to the individual members of a group.

The **jury** is still deliberating. (singular) The **jury** are arguing loudly. (plural)

ACTIVITY

Directions Circle each singular noun and underline each plural noun. If it is a collective noun, also write *C* above it.

- The princess looked at her lover and waved her arm to the right.
- The lady was the fairest of all the damsels of the court.
- Wails were heard from the hired mourners when the tiger killed the criminal.
- As the subject opened the door, the crowd witnessed his fate.
- The semibarbaric king was influenced by the ideas of his Latin neighbors.
- The kingdom was searched for the most savage beasts to be selected for the arena.
- The masses gathered in the amphitheater on great trial days.
- A band and dancing maidens entered as the wedding began.

Selection Quick Check (page 10)

The Lady, or the Tiger? FRANK R. STOCKTON

Use complete sentences to answer the following questions.

1. What is the king's "semibarbaric method of administering justice"?

2. In what sense is the king's method entirely fair?

3. Who does the king love more than anyone else?

4. What happens when the king discovers his daughter's lover?

5. What does the princess think of the lady chosen to stand behind one of the doors?
