

3

Good times, bad times

Past tenses • Spelling and pronunciation • Giving opinions

STARTER

Play the *Fortunately, Unfortunately* game around the class.

Start: I woke up very early this morning.

Student A Fortunately, it was a lovely day.

Student B Unfortunately, I had to go to school.

VINCENT VAN GOGH

Past tenses and *used to*

- 1 Look at the pictures by the painter, Vincent Van Gogh. What do you know about him? Was he happy? Was he successful?
- 2 Read the notes below about Vincent Van Gogh. Complete the questions about his life.

Vincent Van Gogh 1853–1890

Vincent Van Gogh was born in 1853. When he was a young man he worked in London and Paris, but he was dismissed.

He tried to commit suicide.

In Paris, Vincent met many famous artists while he was ...

In 1888 he moved to Arles in the south of France. Another famous painter came to live with him. He was an old friend.

One evening Van Gogh left the house carrying a ... He cut off part of his ear.

After this, he moved into an asylum. Many of his most famous paintings were completed here.

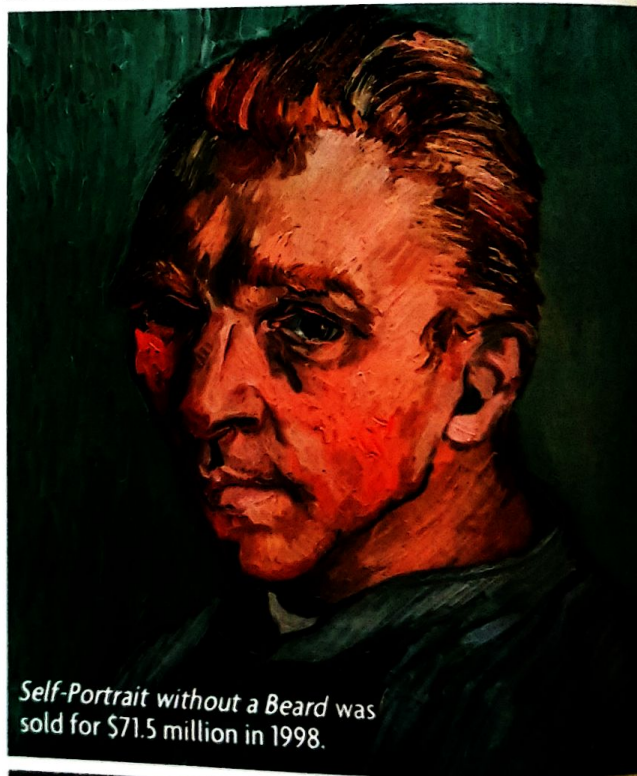
In 1890, while he was ..., he shot himself in the chest. Two days later he died. He was buried.

When he died, he had no money.

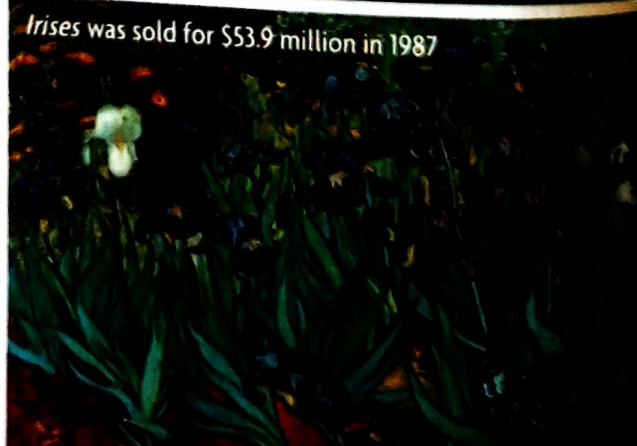
- 1 Where was he born?
- 2 What ... job?
- 3 Why ...?
- 4 Why ...?
- 5 Which ...?
- 6 What ... when he met them?
- 7 Who ...?
- 8 Where ... first meet?
- 9 What ...?
- 10 Why ...?
- 11 Which ...
- 12 What ... doing ...?
- 13 Why ...?
- 14 Where ...?
- 15 Why didn't ...?



The Red Vineyard was sold for 400 francs in 1890.



Self-Portrait without a Beard was sold for \$71.5 million in 1998.



Irises was sold for \$53.9 million in 1987

T 3.1 Listen and check the questions.

- 3 Read the full text about Vincent Van Gogh. With a partner ask and answer the questions from exercise 2.

T 3.2 Listen and check.

Vincent

Vincent Van Gogh, the genius unrecognized in his own lifetime

Vincent Van Gogh was born in Brabant in the Netherlands in 1853. As a young man he worked as an art dealer in London and Paris. He was dismissed from this job because he had argued with customers about art.

In 1881 he tried to commit suicide. He was depressed because he had fallen in love with his cousin, but she had rejected him.

In 1886 he went to Paris to study art, and it was while he was studying that he met Degas, Pissarro, Seurat, Toulouse-Lautrec, Monet, and Renoir.

After two years in Paris, Van Gogh went to live in Arles in the south of France. His friend and fellow painter, Gauguin, who he had met in Paris, came to join him. The two men settled down in Arles, but there was a lot of tension between them. Vincent used to drink heavily, and they quarrelled fiercely, mainly about the nature of art.

One evening in December 1888, Van Gogh left the house carrying a razor blade. He'd been drinking, and he'd had an argument with Gauguin. He cut off part of his ear.

After this, he moved voluntarily into an asylum for the insane at St-Rémy-de-Provence. He used to wake up at six in the morning and go out to paint. It was here, in the last two years of his life, that many of his most famous paintings were completed. These included *Starry Night*, *Irises*, and *Self-Portrait without a Beard*.

In 1890 he left the warm south and moved to Auvers-sur-Oise. Here he continued working despite his growing depression. It was while he was painting outside that Vincent shot himself in the chest. Two days later, he died. He was buried in the cemetery in Auvers.

When Van Gogh died, he had no money because he'd only sold one of his paintings, *The Red Vineyard*, in his entire life. His sister-in-law took his collection to Holland, where his work was published. He was instantly recognized as a genius.

GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 In these sentences, which verb form is ... ?
Past Simple Past Continuous Past Simple passive

He **worked** as an art dealer.

He **was dismissed**.

He **was studying** art.

Find more examples of the three verb forms in the text.

- 2 In this sentence, what happened first?

He **was dismissed** because he **had argued** with customers.

had argued is an example of the Past Perfect tense.

How is this tense formed? Find more examples in the text.

- 3 Look at the sentence.

Vincent **used to** drink heavily.

Do you think this happened once or many times? Find another example of *used to* in the text.

►► Grammar Reference 3.1–3.7 p135–7

Pronunciation

- 4 **T 3.3** Listen and repeat the weak forms and contracted forms.

/wəz/ */wəz/*
What **was** he **doing**? He **was** **studying**.

/wə/ */hɪd/*
They **were** **working** ... He'd **had** an argument.

/ðeɪd/ */hɪd bɪn/*
They'd **met** in Paris. He'd **been** drinking.

- 5 Write the verbs from the box in the chart according to the pronunciation of *-ed*.

~~worked~~ dismissed tried rejected
quarrelled moved completed
continued died published recognized

/t/	/d/	/ɪd/
worked		

T 3.4 Listen and check.

PRACTICE

I didn't do much

- 1 **T3.5** Listen to four people saying what they did last night. Who said these lines? Write a number 1-4.

- ☐ I went for a drink with a couple of friends.
- ☐ We talked for a bit.
- ☐ I didn't do much.
- ☐ I got home about nine.
- ☐ I had an early night.
- ☐ I didn't get home till about midnight.
- ☐ I did some stuff on the computer.
- ☐ Quite a late night for me!

- 2 What did *you* do last night? Discuss in small groups.

Discussing grammar

- 3 Compare the use of tenses in these sentences. Say which tense is used and why.

- 1 It

rained	all day yesterday.
was raining	when I woke up.
- 2 I *wore* a suit for my interview.
She looked great. She *was wearing* a black top and tight jeans.
- 3 'What *were* you *doing* when you lost your phone?'
'Shopping.'
'What *did* you *do* when you lost your phone?'
'Bought a new one.'
- 4 When Bill arrived,

we <i>were having</i> lunch.
we <i>had</i> lunch.
we'd <i>had</i> lunch.
- 5 I got to the cinema. The film

started.
had started.
- 6 When I was a kid I *used to play* football with my dad.
I *played* football with my kids last Saturday.

A newspaper story

- 4 Read the newspaper article. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct past tense, active or passive.

T3.6 Listen and check.

- 5 **T3.7** Listen to a radio news item on the subject of the same accident. What do you learn that wasn't in the newspaper article?

Dictation

- 6 **T3.8** You will hear a summary of the interview at dictation speed. Write it down. Compare with a partner.

SMASH!

Clumsy visitor destroys priceless vases By Tom Ball

A CLUMSY visitor to a British museum has destroyed a set of priceless 300-year-old Chinese vases after slipping on the stairs.



The three vases, which (1) _____ (produce) during the Qing dynasty in the 17th century, (2) _____ (stand) on the windowsill at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge for forty years. Last Thursday they (3) _____ (smash) into a million pieces. The vases, which (4) _____ (donate) in 1948, (5) _____ (be) the museum's best-known pieces.

The Fitzwilliam (6) _____ (decide) not to identify the man who (7) _____ (cause) the disaster. 'It was a most unfortunate and regrettable accident,' museum director Duncan Robinson said, 'but we are glad that the visitor (8) _____ seriously _____ (not injure).'

The photograph of the accident (9) _____ (take) by another visitor, Steve Baxter. 'We (10) _____ (watch) the man fall as if in slow motion. He (11) _____ (fly) through the air. The vases (12) _____ (explode) as though they (13) _____ (hit) by a bomb. The man (14) _____ (sit) there stunned in the middle of a pile of porcelain when the staff (15) _____ (arrive).'

The museum declined to say what the vases were worth.

