**QualityTime-ESL” presents…**

**Your English No. 65**

**Was It Love? (1) - Story with Irregular Verbs of Groups 1 & 2**

Hi. I’m Marianne Raynaud. Irregular verbs are always a problem, but if you master them, you will be on your way to speaking very good English. In what we call our “Irregular Verb Challenge” we plan to include all of the 140+ irregular verbs in one single tale! If you find this story difficult, first go to “QualityTime-ESL” Podcasts Nos. 61 and 63 to work on exercises with these verbs.

*Here is the first set of irregular verbs from groups 1 and 2. Listen and repeat.*

| lead | say | feed | breed | leap | feel | sleep | weep | keep | hear | dream |

Listen and repeat the story in the simple present tense. (*Irregular verbs are in bold.*)

A pretty young woman **leads** a nice, calm life. She **says** she **is** contented. At 5.00 in the morning she **feeds** the ducks that she **breed**s. Her dogs **leap** with joy on seeing her. She **feels** happy watching the sunrise. The children **are** in their rooms. They **sleep** in their small beds. They never **weep** about anything. They **keep** quiet until they **hear** the alarm clock, and they **dream** about traveling to foreign countries.

Listen and repeat the story in the simple past tense.

A pretty young woman **led** a nice, calm life. She **said** she **was** contented. At 5.00 in the morning she **fed** the ducks that she **bred**. Her dogs **leapt** with joy on seeing her. She **felt** happy watching the sunrise. The children **were** in their rooms. They **slept** in their small beds. They never **wept** about anything. They **kept** quiet until they **heard** the alarm clock, and they **dreamt** about traveling to foreign countries.

*In the next exercise you will work as a “tense” interpreter. I will read sentences in the simple present, and you will put these sentences into the simple past tense. Listen to the examples.*

*I say: A pretty young woman **leads** a nice, calm life.  
You say: A pretty young woman **led** a nice, calm life.*

*I say: She **says** she **is** contented.  
You say: She **said** she **was** contented.*

Now you go on in the same way. Be sure to speak before I give the answer.

A pretty young woman **leads** a nice, calm life.  
A pretty young woman **led** a nice, calm life.  
She **says** she **is** contented.  
She **said** she **was** contented.  
She **feeds** the ducks that she **breed**s.  
She **fed** the ducks that she **bred**.  
Her dogs **leap** with joy.  
Her dogs **leapt** with joy.  
She **feels** happy.  
She **felt** happy.  
The children **sleep** in their small beds.  
The children **slept** in their small beds.  
They never **weep** about anything.  
They never **wept** about anything.  
They **keep** quiet.  
They **kept** quiet.  
They **hear** the alarm clock.  
They **heard** the alarm clock.  
They **dream** about traveling.  
They **dreamt** about traveling.

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The story continues with nine other verbs from groups 1 and 2. Listen and repeat.

| have | smell | burn | creep (up) | build | spill | sweep | leave | slide |

Listen and repeat the continuation of the story in the simple present tense.

The young woman has her coffee while preparing bacon and eggs. The food smells good. The wood burns in the fireplace, and the cat creeps up to rub her leg. After breakfast the children learn their lessons. Then they build paper planes to fly in the bedroom. Sometimes the children spill the milk for the cat, but they sweep the floor before they leave for school. Outside they slide on the freshly fallen snow.

Listen and repeat the story in the simple past tense.

The young woman had her coffee while preparing bacon and eggs. The food smelt good. The wood burnt in the fireplace, and the cat crept up to rub her leg. After breakfast the children learnt their lessons. Then they built paper planes to fly in the bedroom. Sometimes the children spilled the milk for the cat, but they swept the floor before they left the house for school. Outside they slid on the freshly fallen snow.

Now you will put the sentences I read into the simple past tense. Listen to the examples.

I say: The young woman has her coffee.            I say: The food smells good.
You say: The young woman had her coffee.          You say: The food smelt good.

Now you go on in the same way. Be sure to speak before I give the answer.

The young woman has her coffee.        The children learnt their lessons.
The young woman had her coffee.         They build paper planes.
The food smells good.                   They built paper planes.
The food smelt good.                    Sometimes the children spill the milk.
The wood burns in the fireplace.       Sometimes the children spilt the milk.
The wood burnt in the fireplace.      They sweep the floor before they leave the house.
The cat creeps up to rub her leg.       They swept the floor before they left the house.
The cat crept up to rub her leg.        Outside they slide on the freshly fallen snow.
The children learn their lessons.      Outside they slid on the freshly fallen snow.

Irregular verbs in Part 1: Finally, a last quick test. You will give the past and the past participle.

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(*These verbs can be regular or irregular, but we use their irregular forms.)
That’s the end of this episode. In a coming podcast we will continue our story. My colleague Catherine Alhinc made up the different verb groups to help you. Visit our website www.qualitytime-esl.com for the script and the “Chart of Irregular Verbs”. You can also go to podcasts No. 61 & 63 in our other series QualityTime-ESL to get more practice with the verbs we worked on in this episode. Teachers interested in more effective teaching can order “QualityTime-ESL: The Digital Resource Book” (on a DVD) or get it immediately in a slightly lighter downloadable version. Bye for now, and don’t forget to keep smiling.