

The Past Tense

USE THE **PAST TENSE** TO DESCRIBE ACTIONS COMPLETED
OR CONDITIONS THAT EXISTED IN THE PAST.

There are two kinds of past tense endings.

1. The apostrophe -d ending is a contraction meaning "had" or "would":

Bill thought he had flunked.

Bill thought he'd flunked.

2. The added -d ending is added to a verb (or a word that could be a verb) that does not change its basic meaning; for example:

WITHOUT -D ENDING

like
prejudice
miss

WITH -D ENDING

liked
prejudiced
missed

A -d ending cannot be added to all verbs. Only certain verbs, called regular verbs, take a -d ending.

A -d ending may be added to a regular verb for one of two reasons:

- a. It may be used to put the verb into the simple past tense:

The doctor removed a particle of glass.

The particle of glass has been removed.

- b. It may be used to make a modifier (describing word) out of a verb:

The removed particle of glass is two centimeters long.