

## The Past Simple Tense

- “He married Miss Sedley five days ago” Dobbin replied. “I was his groomsman” (Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*, 2001:262)
- “The old clerk shook his head. Dobbin begged Chopper to report progress to him at the hotel where he was stopping, and walked off moodily westwards, greatly perturbed as to the past and the future.” (Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*, 2001:262)
- “The town was quite quiet when she woke up at ten o’clock, and partook of coffee, very requisite and comforting after the exhaustion and grief of the morning’s occurrences.” (Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*, 2001:339)
- “O mother, mother!” cried poor Amelia in reply. “You told me nothing-I-I promised him the books. I-I only sold my shawl this morning... And she went into her room, and sank down in despair and utter misery. She saw it all now. Her selfishness was sacrificing the boy” (Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*, 2001:542)
- “At his new home master George ruled like a lord: at dinner he invited the ladies to drink wine with the utmost coolness, and took off his champagne in a way which charmed his old grandfather.” (Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*, 2001:656)
- “And with Georg, when we first met each other, I instantly hated him because he was bigger and stronger and I was older.” (Lester, *shtum*, 2017:250)
- “Dorian Gray grew pale as she watched her. He was puzzled and anxious. Neither of his friends dared to say anything to him. She seemed to them to be absolutely incompetent. They were horribly disappointed” (Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, 1994:97)
- “But where were you? Did you go down and see the girl’s mother? For a moment I thought of following you there. They gave the address in the paper.” (Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, 1994:125)
- “I calmed down. I reminded myself forcefully that this had been my situation for the last long while, to be living with a live tiger hot beneath me.” (Martel, *Life of Pi*, 2016:264)
- “Did you think I wouldn’t notice you’d gone? I did. After three notes went unanswered, I made a personal visit to St James’s Place, where I encountered the iron Miss Tilley, who said you were out of town.” (Shaffer & Barrows, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, 1919:51)