

Discovering the american past 7th edition Online PDF

Discovering the American Past 7th Edition: An In-Depth Examination

Introduction to the Textbook

Discovering the American Past 7th Edition stands as a comprehensive and authoritative textbook designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of American history. Crafted by renowned historians, this edition aims to illuminate the complex socio-political, economic, and cultural developments that have shaped the United States from its earliest days to the modern era. Its detailed narrative, rich with primary sources and analytical insights, makes it a vital resource for both students and instructors seeking to explore the multifaceted story of America.

Overview of Content and Structure

The 7th edition of *Discovering the American Past* is structured to facilitate chronological learning while emphasizing thematic insights. It covers major periods such as colonial America, the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, the World Wars, the Cold War, and contemporary America. The textbook employs a modular approach, breaking down complex epochs into digestible chapters that focus on key themes, figures, and events.

Main features include:

- Chronological narrative complemented by thematic analysis
- Extensive use of primary source documents
- In-depth discussions on social movements, economic shifts, and political transformations
- Visual aids, maps, and charts to enhance understanding
- Critical thinking questions and discussion prompts for classroom engagement

Pedagogical Approach and Methodology

The textbook adopts a student-centered approach, encouraging active learning through various pedagogical tools. These include:

- Primary Source Analysis: The inclusion of original documents, letters, speeches, and

photographs prompts students to interpret history through the eyes of those who lived it.

- Chronological and Thematic Balance: While following a timeline, the book also emphasizes recurring themes such as democracy, race relations, economic change, and social justice.
- Contextual Explanations: Complex issues are explained within their historical context to foster a nuanced understanding.
- Critical Thinking Questions: Each chapter concludes with prompts designed to challenge students to analyze and synthesize information.

Strengths of Discovering the American Past 7th Edition

This edition offers several notable strengths that distinguish it from other American history textbooks.

Comprehensive Coverage

The textbook covers the breadth of American history with depth, ensuring that students gain a well-rounded perspective. It balances political history with social, cultural, and economic dimensions.

Primary Source Integration

The extensive use of primary sources allows students to engage directly with historical materials, fostering critical analysis and a more personal connection to the past.

Enhanced Visual and Digital Resources

The inclusion of high-quality images, maps, and charts helps visual learners grasp complex concepts. Additionally, supplemental online resources, such as quizzes and interactive timelines, enhance the learning experience.

Focus on Diversity and Inclusion

Recognizing the importance of multiple perspectives, the textbook emphasizes voices from diverse groups, including Indigenous peoples, African Americans, women, and immigrants, providing a more inclusive historical narrative.

Limitations and Criticisms

Despite its strengths, *Discovering the American Past 7th Edition* has faced some criticisms, which are worth considering.

Complexity for Beginners

Some readers find the detailed analyses and extensive primary sources overwhelming for introductory-level students, suggesting that supplementary support may be necessary.

Potential Biases

As with any historical narrative, interpretations may reflect the authors' perspectives, and some critics argue that certain themes or groups may be underrepresented or presented through a particular lens.

Cost and Accessibility

The comprehensive nature of the textbook, coupled with supplementary digital resources, often results in a higher cost, potentially limiting access for some students.

Comparison with Other Textbooks

When evaluating *Discovering the American Past 7th Edition*, it is helpful to compare it with other prominent American history textbooks.

- **America: A Narrative History** offers a more concise overview but may lack the depth of primary source analysis found in *Discovering the American Past*.
- **The American Pageant** emphasizes engaging storytelling and vivid narratives but might be less focused on thematic analysis and primary sources.
- **America in the World** integrates global perspectives more heavily, which can complement but may diverge from the national-focused approach of *Discovering the American Past*.

This comparison highlights that *Discovering the American Past* excels in providing a detailed, source-rich exploration of American history, making it particularly suitable for courses emphasizing critical thinking and primary source analysis.

Applications in Education

In classroom settings, *Discovering the American Past 7th Edition* serves as a versatile tool for:

- Lecture support?providing detailed background and discussion prompts
- Student research projects?offering primary sources for analysis
- Exam preparation?through review questions and thematic summaries
- Discussion development?encouraging debates on controversial topics

Additionally, many educators integrate digital platforms associated with the textbook to facilitate blended learning environments.

Future Directions and Updates

Given the evolving nature of historical scholarship, future editions of *Discovering the American Past* are expected to incorporate recent research, emerging perspectives, and technological tools.

Potential areas of development include:

- Increased focus on digital history and multimedia resources
- Enhanced coverage of contemporary issues like climate change, technology, and social justice movements
- Greater emphasis on global interconnectedness and transnational history
- Inclusion of more voices from marginalized communities

These updates aim to maintain the textbook's relevance and pedagogical effectiveness in a rapidly changing educational landscape.

Conclusion

Discovering the American Past 7th Edition stands out as a detailed, source-rich, and inclusive textbook that offers a comprehensive look into the multifaceted history of the United States. Its pedagogical features foster critical thinking and active engagement, making it a valuable resource for students and educators alike. While it faces challenges related to accessibility and complexity, its strengths in coverage, primary source integration, and thematic analysis make it a noteworthy choice for courses aiming to deepen understanding of American history. As scholarship advances and educational needs evolve, future editions are poised to further enhance its role as a foundational text in American history education.

Discovering the American Past 7th Edition: An In-Depth Review

Introduction to Discovering the American Past 7th Edition

Discovering the American Past 7th Edition stands as a comprehensive, authoritative textbook designed to illuminate the complex and multifaceted history of the United States. Authored by a team of esteemed historians, this edition continues to serve as an essential resource for students, educators, and history enthusiasts eager to explore America's past through a nuanced, engaging lens. The book's structure, rich content, and pedagogical features make it an invaluable tool for understanding the transformative events and enduring themes shaping American history.

Overview of Content and Scope

Chronological and Thematic Coverage

Discovering the American Past 7th Edition offers a detailed chronological narrative that spans from pre-Columbian societies to the early 21st century. The book is organized into thematic chapters that allow readers to connect events across different periods, fostering a holistic understanding of American history.

Key periods covered include:

- Indigenous societies before European contact
- Colonial foundations and settlement patterns
- The American Revolution and early nationhood
- Civil War and Reconstruction
- The rise of industrial America
- The Great Depression and New Deal
- Post-World War II developments
- Contemporary America, including recent political, social, and technological changes

This breadth ensures readers gain a comprehensive view that contextualizes pivotal moments within broader societal trends.

Depth and Detail

The authors excel at balancing narrative storytelling with analytical depth. Each chapter delves into:

- Critical political developments
- Economic transformations
- Cultural shifts
- Social movements
- Foreign policy implications

The inclusion of diverse perspectives—ranging from political leaders and reformers to marginalized groups—enriches the narrative, highlighting the multifaceted nature of American history.

Pedagogical Features and Teaching Aids

Chapter Introductions and Summaries

Each chapter begins with a compelling introduction that sets the stage for the material to follow, outlining key themes and questions. Concluding summaries reinforce main points, aiding retention and comprehension.

Primary Source Documents

A hallmark of this edition is the integration of primary sources—letters, speeches, treaties, photographs, and more—allowing students to engage directly with historical evidence. These documents:

- Provide authentic voices from different eras
- Encourage critical analysis
- Illustrate historical debates and perspectives

Maps, Charts, and Graphs

Visual aids are strategically used throughout to:

- Clarify geographic and demographic information
- Illustrate economic data
- Track societal changes over time

For example, population growth charts and economic indicators help contextualize shifts in American society.

Discussion Questions and Critical Thinking Exercises

End-of-chapter questions stimulate reflection and discussion, prompting students to:

- Analyze cause-and-effect relationships
- Compare different historical interpretations
- Connect past events to contemporary issues

These features enhance engagement and deepen understanding.

Strengths of Discovering the American Past 7th Edition

Comprehensive and Balanced Narrative

The book's strength lies in its balanced approach, covering political history alongside social, cultural, and economic dimensions. It avoids a narrow focus on elites, giving voice to marginalized communities, women, indigenous peoples, and minorities.

Inclusivity and Diversity

Recent editions, including the 7th, emphasize the diversity of American experiences. This inclusivity is evident in:

- The inclusion of Native American perspectives
- Coverage of African American, Hispanic, Asian American, and other minority histories
- Attention to gender roles and cultural identities

Engaging Writing Style

The authors employ a clear, accessible writing style that appeals to students at various levels. Narratives are lively, often incorporating anecdotal stories that humanize historical figures and events.

Updated Content and Contemporary Relevance

The 7th edition benefits from recent scholarship and current events, making historical connections to contemporary debates—such as immigration, civil rights, and economic inequality—more relevant and immediate.

Areas for Improvement and Critical Considerations

Density and Volume of Content

While comprehensive, some readers may find the volume of material overwhelming, especially for introductory courses. Condensing certain sections or providing clearer navigation tools could improve usability.

Digital Integration and Resources

Although the textbook includes digital supplements, some users desire more interactive features such as:

- Online quizzes

- multimedia presentations
- Virtual timelines

Enhanced digital resources could facilitate more engaging learning experiences.

Bias and Interpretative Perspectives

As with any history textbook, interpretative biases may influence the portrayal of certain events or groups. Critical readers should supplement with other sources to gain multiple viewpoints.

Comparison with Other Textbooks

Discovering the American Past 7th Edition distinguishes itself through its comprehensive scope and focus on diversity. When compared to other American history textbooks, it offers:

- Greater emphasis on marginalized voices
- Rich primary source integration
- Broader thematic coverage

However, some competitors may provide more streamlined or visually appealing layouts, which could aid in quick review.

Target Audience and Usage Scenarios

This edition is ideal for:

- Undergraduate history courses, especially those emphasizing social and cultural history
- Educators seeking a balanced, detailed textbook
- History enthusiasts interested in a thorough exploration of America's past

It can be used in:

- Lecture-based courses
- Seminar discussions
- Independent study

Its myriad features support diverse teaching and learning styles.

Final Verdict

Discovering the American Past 7th Edition remains a cornerstone resource in American historical scholarship. Its detailed narrative, inclusive approach, and pedagogical tools make it particularly suited for fostering critical understanding of complex historical processes. While it could benefit from enhanced digital features and streamlined content, its strengths far outweigh these limitations.

Whether used as a primary textbook or supplementary resource, this edition offers students a rich, nuanced journey through the American past—an essential step toward becoming informed, critically engaged citizens.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Discovering the American Past 7th Edition stands as a comprehensive, well-crafted exploration of American history. Its balanced treatment of political, social, cultural, and economic themes, combined with engaging instructional features, makes it an invaluable resource for students and educators alike. As history continues to evolve, this textbook provides a solid foundation for understanding the past's enduring influence on contemporary America.

Question What are the key themes covered in 'Discovering the American Past 7th Edition'? The book explores themes such as colonial foundations, revolutionary movements, the development of American institutions, social and cultural change, and the impact of major events like the Civil War and 20th-century conflicts. **Answer** How does 'Discovering the American Past 7th Edition' approach the discussion of Native American history? The edition emphasizes Native American perspectives, highlighting their experiences before and after European contact, as well as the effects of U.S. policies on indigenous communities throughout history. What updates or new content are included in the 7th edition of 'Discovering the American Past'? The 7th edition incorporates recent scholarship, updated historiographical debates, and new primary source analyses, along with contemporary issues like immigration and civil rights movements. Is 'Discovering the American Past 7th Edition' suitable for introductory history courses? Yes, it is designed for introductory courses, providing a comprehensive overview with accessible language, engaging narratives, and relevant primary sources to support student learning. How does this edition incorporate primary source documents into the narrative? The book integrates primary sources through curated excerpts, images, and documents that allow students to analyze historical perspectives firsthand and develop critical thinking skills.

Related keywords: American history, educational textbooks, history curriculum, U.S. history, historical events, social studies, textbook resources, American heritage, history education, pedagogical tools

PARAGRAPH USING PAST PERFECT TENSE

Introduction: Understanding the Paragraph Using Past Perfect Tense

Paragraph using past perfect tense is an essential element of English grammar that helps writers and speakers convey actions or states that were completed before another point in the past. Mastering how to craft such paragraphs enhances clarity, coherence, and the overall quality of your writing. Whether you're composing academic essays, storytelling, or professional reports, understanding the proper use of past perfect tense within paragraphs enables you to narrate events in a chronological and logical manner.

The past perfect tense is often overlooked by learners but is crucial for expressing sequences of past events, emphasizing the earlier action, and establishing clear timelines. This article provides an in-depth exploration of how to construct effective paragraphs using past perfect tense, including grammatical rules, examples, common mistakes, and practical tips for writing with precision and clarity.

What Is the Past Perfect Tense?

Definition and Usage

The past perfect tense describes an action that was completed before another action or time in the past. It is formed with the auxiliary verb "had" followed by the past participle of the main verb.

Structure:

- Affirmative: Subject + had + past participle (e.g., She had finished her homework.)
- Negative: Subject + had not (hadn't) + past participle (e.g., They hadn't arrived yet.)
- Interrogative: Had + subject + past participle? (e.g., Had you seen that movie?)

Primary uses include:

- Indicating an action completed before a specific point in the past.
- Showing cause-and-effect relationships between different past events.
- Narrating stories or histories with a clear sequence.

Examples of Past Perfect Tense

- She had already left when I arrived.
- They had completed the project before the deadline.
- By the time the meeting started, he had prepared all the documents.
- We had lived in that city for ten years before moving abroad.

Constructing a Paragraph Using Past Perfect Tense

1. Planning Your Narrative or Explanation

Before writing a paragraph in past perfect tense, it is vital to plan the sequence of events. Identify which actions occurred first and which followed. This planning ensures logical flow and clarity.

Steps to plan:

- List the key past events you want to include.
- Arrange them chronologically, noting which happened first.
- Decide where to use past perfect tense to emphasize the earlier actions.

2. Using Past Perfect to Clarify Time Relationships

The past perfect sets the background for a story or explanation, establishing what had happened before another past event. It helps avoid confusion about the sequence.

Example:

After she had finished her work, she went out for a walk.

In this sentence, "had finished" clearly indicates that her work was completed before she went out.

3. Combining Past Perfect with Simple Past

Typically, a paragraph using past perfect tense includes a mixture of past perfect and simple past to depict the sequence of events.

Example:

They had already eaten dinner when we arrived. We decided to wait until they finished.

Here, "had already eaten" is past perfect, happening before "we arrived," which is simple past.

4. Structuring the Paragraph Effectively

To craft a well-organized paragraph using past perfect tense, follow this structure:

- Topic Sentence: Introduce the main idea or event.
- Supporting Sentences: Use past perfect to describe actions completed before the main event.
- Additional Details: Include context or consequences, often using simple past or other tenses.
- Concluding Sentence: Summarize or reflect on the sequence.

Example Paragraph:

Before the company launched its new product, the marketing team had conducted extensive research. They had analyzed customer feedback, studied competitors, and tested various advertisement strategies. By the time the campaign started, they had already identified the target audience and tailored their messaging accordingly. This preparation contributed significantly to the campaign's success.

Common Mistakes in Using Past Perfect in Paragraphs

Understanding common errors can help you avoid pitfalls and improve your writing.

1. Overusing Past Perfect

Using past perfect unnecessarily can clutter your writing. Reserve its use for actions that clearly occurred before other past actions.

Incorrect:

- She had went to the store and bought groceries. (Incorrect form: "had went" should be "had gone.")

Correct:

- She went to the store and bought groceries.

2. Confusing Past Perfect with Past Simple

Mixing these tenses without clarity can confuse the reader about the sequence of events.

Incorrect:

- I had breakfast, then I went to school.

Better:

- I had had breakfast before I went to school. (Use past perfect for the first action.)

3. Omitting the Past Perfect When Needed

Failing to use past perfect when necessary can distort the timeline.

Example:

- She arrived after he had left. (Correct)
- She arrived after he left. (Possible but less clear about the sequence)

Practical Tips for Writing Effective Paragraphs Using Past Perfect Tense

- Identify the timeline: Clearly determine which actions occurred first.
- Use past perfect for earlier actions: Employ it to set the background or sequence.
- Combine with simple past: Use simple past for subsequent actions.
- Maintain consistency: Keep verb tenses consistent to avoid confusion.
- Use time markers: Words like "already," "before," "by the time," "when," help clarify the sequence.

Examples of Effective Paragraphs

Example 1: Narrative of an Event

By the time the guests arrived, she had already prepared all the decorations. She had decorated the entire house, set up the tables, and arranged the flowers. When her friends knocked on the door, everything was ready, and she welcomed them with a smile. Her meticulous planning had paid off, making the celebration memorable.

Example 2: Historical Explanation

The explorers had discovered the island months before the scientific team arrived. They had documented the flora and fauna, set up temporary camps, and collected samples. When the researchers finally reached the site, they had a wealth of data to analyze, which contributed to groundbreaking ecological studies.

SEO Optimization Tips for Writing About Paragraphs Using Past Perfect Tense

To ensure your article reaches a wider audience, incorporate relevant SEO strategies:

- Use keywords naturally throughout the article, such as "past perfect tense," "how to write a paragraph using past perfect," "grammar tips for past perfect," and "examples of past perfect tense."
- Include descriptive headings with keywords.
- Maintain a clear and logical structure, making it easy for search engines to index your content.
- Use relevant internal and external links to authoritative grammar resources.
- Optimize meta descriptions and image alt texts if applicable.

Conclusion: Mastering Paragraphs Using Past Perfect Tense

Crafting well-structured paragraphs using past perfect tense is a vital skill for effective storytelling, academic writing, and professional communication. By understanding the grammatical rules, recognizing how to sequence events logically, and avoiding common mistakes, writers can produce clear, coherent, and engaging narratives. Remember to plan your narrative carefully, use past perfect to set the background, and combine it seamlessly with other tenses for smooth flow.

Practicing these techniques will enhance your command of English grammar and elevate your writing to a more professional level. Whether you're recounting past experiences, explaining historical events, or narrating stories, mastering the paragraph using past perfect tense will enable you to communicate with precision and clarity.

Start implementing these tips today and see your writing transform into compelling, well-structured narratives that captivate your audience!

Paragraph Using Past Perfect Tense

The past perfect tense, a fundamental aspect of English grammar, has long been an essential tool for writers and speakers aiming to express actions that had been completed before another past event. Its nuanced function allows for clarity and precision in storytelling, historical recounting, and detailed descriptions. This tense provides a way to establish a clear sequence of events, making narratives more coherent and engaging. Over the years, the use of the past perfect tense has

evolved, influencing literature, journalism, academic writing, and everyday communication. In this article, we will explore the intricacies of the past perfect tense, its formation, usage, common pitfalls, and effective strategies for mastering it.

Understanding the Past Perfect Tense

Definition and Basic Structure

The past perfect tense is used to describe an action that had occurred before another action or point in the past. It is formed by combining the auxiliary verb *had* with the past participle of the main verb.

Structure:

- Affirmative: Subject + *had* + past participle (e.g., She *had finished* her homework.)
- Negative: Subject + *had not* (*hadn't*) + past participle (e.g., They *hadn't arrived* yet.)
- Interrogative: *Had* + subject + past participle? (e.g., *Had you seen* that movie?)

Formation Rules and Examples

The formation of the past perfect is straightforward but requires attention to verb forms. Regular verbs form the past participle by adding *-ed*, whereas irregular verbs have unique past participle forms.

Verb Type	Example Sentence	Past Participle
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Regular	I had walked to the park before it rained.	walked
Irregular	She had written several letters before noon.	written

Examples:

- They *had left* the house when I arrived.
- She *had already eaten* when the guests came.
- We *had never seen* such a beautiful sunset before that day.

Common Uses of the Past Perfect Tense

Expressing Completed Actions Before a Past Point

The primary use of the past perfect is to specify that an action was completed before another past event.

Example:

- By the time the movie started, we had already bought the tickets.

In Reported Speech and Indirect Statements

The past perfect is often used when reporting speech, especially when the original statement involved a past perfect tense.

Example:

- She said she had finished her project before the deadline.

In Conditional Sentences

Past perfect is common in third conditional sentences, indicating hypothetical situations in the past.

Example:

- If I had known about the traffic, I would have left earlier.

To Show Cause and Effect in Past Narratives

It helps to clarify cause-and-effect relationships in stories.

Example:

- He had forgotten his umbrella, so he got soaked.

Advantages of Using the Past Perfect Tense

Using the past perfect tense effectively enhances communication by adding clarity and depth. Here

are some notable advantages:

- Clarifies sequence: It helps differentiate between two past actions, establishing which occurred first.
- Adds depth to storytelling: Creates a layered narrative, giving context to events.
- Improves coherence: Assists in maintaining logical flow in complex sentences and narratives.
- Enables precise reporting: Vital in academic and journalistic contexts for accurate recounting of events.

Challenges and Common Mistakes

Overuse or Misuse of the Past Perfect

One common error is overusing the past perfect where simple past would suffice, leading to clunky sentences.

Example of overuse:

- Incorrect: She had gone to the store, and then she had bought groceries.
- Correct: She went to the store and then bought groceries.

Confusing Past Perfect with Other Tenses

Learners often confuse the past perfect with the simple past or past continuous, leading to grammatical inaccuracies.

Incorrect:

- I had saw him yesterday.
- Correct: I saw him yesterday.

Tip: Remember that "had" + past participle is past perfect; "saw" is simple past.

Misapplication in Conditional Sentences

Using the wrong tense in conditionals can distort meaning.

Incorrect:

- If she had studied, she would pass the exam.
- Correct: If she had studied, she would have passed the exam.

Strategies to Master the Past Perfect Tense

Practice with Timeline Exercises

Creating timelines of events can help visualize the sequence and reinforce correct tense usage.

Tip: Map out events and identify which happened first, then practice forming sentences accordingly.

Engage in Reading and Analysis

Reading literature, news articles, and historical accounts that employ the past perfect can improve understanding and intuition.

Exercise: Highlight sentences with past perfect and analyze their function.

Writing and Revising

Regularly practice writing stories or recounts involving past events. Review and revise to ensure correct tense usage.

Use Grammar Tools and Resources

Leverage online grammar checkers, tutorials, and exercises dedicated to past perfect tense.

Examples in Literature and Media

Many authors and speakers have utilized the past perfect to craft compelling narratives.

Literary Examples:

- In Charles Dickens' works, past perfect often appears to set historical context.
- In memoirs, authors frequently use past perfect to recount prior experiences.

Media and Journalism:

- News reports often employ the past perfect when describing events leading up to a recent

incident.

Conclusion

The past perfect tense, though seemingly simple in structure, plays a crucial role in conveying complex sequences of past actions. Its correct application enhances clarity, storytelling depth, and grammatical precision. While it can pose challenges for learners, consistent practice, mindful analysis, and contextual reading can significantly improve mastery. As language users continue to refine their understanding of this tense, their ability to narrate, report, and analyze past events with nuance and accuracy will undoubtedly strengthen. Embracing the past perfect as a vital grammatical tool opens up richer ways to communicate the layered tapestry of human experiences and histories.

In summary, mastering the past perfect tense involves understanding its formation, recognizing its primary functions, avoiding common pitfalls, and applying it effectively in various contexts. Whether in academic writing, storytelling, or everyday conversation, the past perfect remains a powerful means to articulate the sequence and significance of past events with clarity and sophistication.

Question What is the past perfect tense used for in a paragraph? The past perfect tense is used in a paragraph to show that an action was completed before another past action or point in time. How can I identify a paragraph that uses the past perfect tense? Look for verbs that are in the form of had + past participle, which indicate actions completed before other past events within the paragraph. Why is it important to use past perfect tense correctly in a paragraph? Using past perfect correctly helps clarify the sequence of events, making the timeline of actions clear and improving the coherence of the paragraph. Can you give an example of a paragraph using the past perfect tense? Sure. 'She had finished her homework before her friends arrived. By the time I called, she had already left the house.' What are common mistakes to avoid when using past perfect tense in a paragraph? Common mistakes include using the past perfect with simple past instead of when it's necessary, or omitting 'had' and just using the past participle. How does the past perfect tense improve storytelling in a paragraph? It provides clarity on the sequence of events, helping the reader understand what happened first and how events are connected chronologically. Is it necessary to use past perfect tense in all past narratives? No, it's only necessary when you want to emphasize that one past action occurred before another past action. How do I change a simple past sentence into a past perfect sentence? Add 'had' before the past participle of the verb. For example, 'She finished her work' becomes 'She had finished her work.' What are some signal words that indicate the use of past perfect in a paragraph? Words like 'before', 'by the time', 'already', and 'when' often signal the need for past perfect tense. Can past perfect tense be used in both formal and informal writing within a paragraph? Yes, past perfect tense can be used in both contexts to clarify the sequence of events, although it is more common in formal writing.

Related keywords: past perfect tense, paragraph writing, grammatical structure, writing tips, tense usage, English grammar, sentence construction, language learning, writing skills, tense consistency

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