

Stage 6 Grammar notes - Verbs in the past

Remember:
· verbs are actions!
· the past happened already!

In Latin, there are two ways of talking about actions that already happened:

1. the imperfect tense
2. the perfect tense

Imperfect Tense:

· poeta recitabat. → The poet was reciting.

· servi in horto ambulabant. → The slaves were walking...

ba → imperfect signal: let's you know the action was happening in the past

How to translate imperfect:

· was...ing } I was walking...
· were...ing } you were sleeping...

uses of the imperfect:

{
· ongoing actions in the past
· actions that were interrupted
→ I was walking, but then I tripped.

Perfect Tense:

· coquus intravit.

· amici Caecilium salutaverunt.

V → perfect signal: let's you know the action happened in the past

How to translate perfect:

· -ed → simple past: I walked.

uses of the perfect:

completed actions in the past
→ cl was walking, but then cl tripped.

System for forming ALL verbs:

stem + tense signal + ending
(o, s, t, nt)

↓
va - imperf
v - perf

The stem of the verb is at the beginning & is where we understand the meaning of the action.

ambula + va + t
he + was + walking

pulsa + v + erunt
they + hit (past)

cl if a verb does not have a tense signal, it is in the present tense → ambulat: he walks