# **PUC SPEL Online** Center



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#### **Grammar Reference**

## Use of the preterite

The preterite is used when:

 talking about actions or completely finished events that have no link to the present.

Example: We spent three years in Switzerland.

 talking about a specific action in the past. With expressions describing moments in the past such as yesterday, last month, ago..., the preterite is necessary.

*Example*: They **married** two years **ago**.

He died in 1964.

talking about past habits.

Example: My grandfather worked on a farm.

#### Use of the past participle as an adjective

#### A - Formation

Certain past participles may be used as adjectives.

The past participles of regular verbs are formed by adding '-ed' or '-d' to their infinitives.

Example: enjoyed (to enjoy) created (to create) designed (to design) liked (to like)

The past participles of irregular verbs follow no general rules.

Example: come (to come) made (to make) taken (to take) gone (to go)

## B - <u>Use</u>

Past participles used as adjectives usually have passive meanings.

## Example:

Your soiled clothes are in the laundry. I will fix the broken cup.

#### **Final prepositions**

**Prepositions** can be placed after verbs in the following kinds of **prepositional** clauses:

 direct or indirect clauses introduced by interrogative pronouns.

**Example**: What kind of music do you like to

listen to?

What ad are you talking about? I never know where the wind is

coming from.

 relative clauses (whose relative pronouns, in such cases, are usually omitted)

**Example**: I don't like the girl she's talking to.

('who(m)' is omitted)

We've forgotten the discount we talked

about.

('which' is omitted)

infinitive clauses

**Example**: She has nothing to complain about.

• elliptical questions. In such cases, the **prepositions** go after the interrogative **pronouns**.

**Example**: Yesterday I went to the opera.

Who with?

<u>Note</u>. In an elliptical question expressing surprise or indignation, the preposition precedes the interrogative pronoun.

Example: I just came back from Brazil.

From where?

Note. Final prepositions are very common in writing and dominant in speech. Nevertheless, many Americans still follow a traditional rule according to which no sentence must ever end with a preposition. Following this rule entails placing prepositions before their objects.

Example: He is the one to whom I addressed my

complaint.

With what money are you planning to

buy the car?