



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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Banta Learning Past Tenses 1 by K S Sandhu

The Brave Explorer Estevanico

Estevanico was born in Azemmour, a town in North Africa, around 1500. He grew up in a busy port city near the sea. Life was peaceful until Portuguese explorers captured him when he was young. They took him to Spain and sold him as a slave. A Spanish captain, Andrés Dorantes de Carranza, bought him. Estevanico worked hard for his master and learned Spanish quickly.

In 1527, Dorantes heard exciting stories about the New World. He decided to join an expedition with Pánfilo de Narváez. Estevanico went with him. They sailed across the Atlantic Ocean with about 300 men. They hoped to find gold and new lands.

The journey did not go well. A storm damaged their ships. They landed in Florida in 1528. Native Americans attacked them, and many men died. Narváez disappeared in the chaos. The survivors built five rafts and sailed west along the coast. Hunger and illness killed more people. Finally, only four men survived: Estevanico, Dorantes, Cabeza de Vaca, and Castillo. They lived among different Native American tribes for years. Estevanico was clever and learned many languages. He acted as a healer and trader. The tribes respected him because he cured sick people and spoke kindly.

After eight difficult years, in 1536, the four men reached New Spain (now Mexico). They told amazing stories about the lands they saw. Dorantes finally gave Estevanico his freedom. Estevanico felt happy and proud. He walked as a free man for the first time in many years.

But freedom did not last long. In 1539, the viceroy sent Estevanico on a new expedition with a friar, Marcos de Niza. They searched for the famous Seven Cities of Gold. Estevanico went ahead as a scout. He wore feathers and carried a medicine gourd. He met many tribes and sent messages back to the friar.

Estevanico arrived at a Zuni pueblo called Hawikuh. The people there were suspicious. Some said he demanded treasures and acted arrogantly. Others thought he was a spy. The Zuni warriors attacked him. They killed Estevanico with arrows. He died in 1539, far from home.

Estevanico was a remarkable man. He crossed oceans, survived shipwrecks, lived with Native Americans, and explored unknown lands. He was the first

African to walk in what is now the southwestern United States. His courage and skills helped open the way for others.

Today, people remember Estevanico as a brave explorer who faced hardship with strength. His story shows that even in difficult times, a person can be resilient and influential.

Questions:

Question 1: Where was Estevanico born?

Question 2: Who bought Estevanico as a slave in Spain?

Question 3: How many years did Estevanico and the other survivors live among Native American tribes?

Question 4: In which year did Estevanico finally become a free man?

Question 5: Why did the Zuni people kill Estevanico in 1539?

Answers:

Answer 1: Estevanico was born in Azemmour, a town in North Africa (around 1500).

Answer 2: Andrés Dorantes de Carranza (a Spanish captain) bought him.

Answer 3: They lived among Native American tribes for eight years.

Answer 4: He became a free man in 1536 (when Dorantes gave him his freedom in New Spain / Mexico).

Answer 5: The Zuni people killed him because they were suspicious of him / they thought he was arrogant, demanded treasures, or acted like a spy (they attacked him with arrows).

Before you start

- 1 Read the article about Marco Polo. Look at the **highlighted** grammar examples.

MARCO POLO

Marco Polo **lived** from 1254 to 1324. His father was a trader and often **travelled** to distant countries. In 1271 Marco left Venice with his father to go on a long voyage to the East. Clearly, journeys **used to take** much longer then than they do now, and it was only after they **had been travelling** for three years that they arrived in China, at the palace of the great Kublai Khan. The Emperor remembered Marco's father from when he **had visited** before and he welcomed the travellers.

While he **was living** in China, Marco learned the language, and **would often**



travel on business for the Emperor. After several years Marco and his father decided to leave China, and they **were discussing** their wishes with the Emperor **when** a message arrived from the King of Persia, who wanted to marry Kublai Khan's daughter. Marco and his father decided to accompany the wedding group, so, after twenty-four years away, Marco Polo arrived back in Venice in 1295.

- 2 Now read the sentences and choose the correct words in *italics*. The **highlighted** grammar examples will help you.

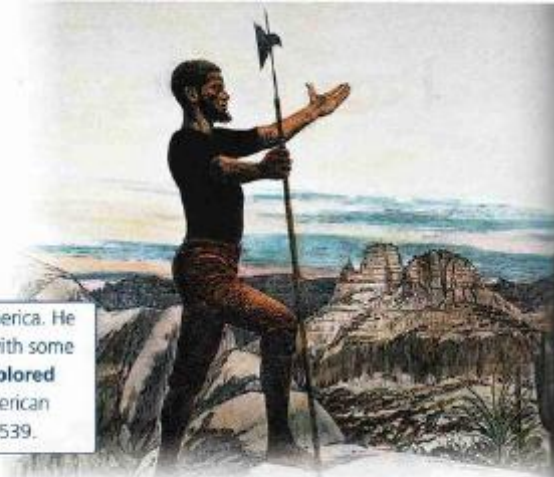
- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1 I <i>travelled</i> / <i>did travel</i> a lot when I was younger. | ➤ Unit 30 |
| 2 We <i>have worked</i> / <i>worked</i> in Venice from 2006 to 2008. | ➤ Unit 30 |
| 3 We visited a lot of museums while we <i>stayed</i> / <i>were staying</i> in Beijing. | ➤ Unit 31 |
| 4 They <i>were having</i> / <i>had</i> dinner when the police knocked on the door. | ➤ Unit 31 |
| 5 Fiona was working at Harrods <i>when</i> / <i>while</i> she met her husband. | ➤ Unit 32 |
| 6 People <i>used to travel</i> / <i>used to travelling</i> by ship a lot in those days. | ➤ Unit 33 |
| 7 When Simon was at college, he <i>had</i> / <i>would</i> sleep late every day. | ➤ Unit 33 |
| 8 I didn't want to join you because I <i>saw</i> / <i>had seen</i> the film before. | ➤ Unit 34 |
| 9 We had <i>been using</i> / <i>been used</i> the machine for days without any problems. | ➤ Unit 35 |

- 3 Check your answers below. Then go to the unit for more information and practice.

1 travelled 2 worked 3 were staying 4 were having 5 when 6 used to travel 7 would 8 had seen 9 been using

30 Past simple

Estevanico **was** the first black explorer to reach North America. He **lived** in the sixteenth century. He **travelled** to America with some Spanish explorers, as a slave. **When** they arrived, they **explored** Texas and New Mexico and he **learned** several native American languages. He **became** a free man in 1536 and **died** in 1539.



1 Regular and irregular verbs

Most verbs add **-ed** to the infinitive to form the past simple: *stay* → *stayed*, *learn* → *learned*

POSITIVE	<i>I stayed with my friend last night. He learned native American languages. They failed the exam.</i>
NEGATIVE	<i>I did not (didn't) stay with her last night. She did not (didn't) learn any languages. We did not (didn't) fail the exam.</i>
QUESTIONS	<i>Did you stay with her? (Yes, I did.) Did she learn any languages? (No, she didn't.) Which exam did they fail?</i>

Many common verbs are irregular, e.g. *be* → *was/were*, *do* → *did*, *go* → *went*, *have* → *had*, *make* → *made*, *put* → *put*, *say* → *said*, *see* → *saw*, *take* → *took*, *tell* → *told*

Spelling rules for regular verbs ➤ page 350 Irregular verbs ➤ page 348

i The pronunciation of the **-ed** ending depends on the sound that comes before it, for example

- /ɪd/ after /t/ and /d/: *started, waited, added, ended*
- /t/ after the sounds /p/, /f/, /k/, /s/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/: *worked, stopped, passed, finished*
- /d/ after all the other sounds: *tried, planned, lived, listened*

🔊 Pronunciation ➤ 1.11

2 Past simple for past actions and situations

We use the past simple for

- a single completed action in the past: *He died in 1539. Did you see the film last night?*
- repeated actions in the past: *He learned several native American languages. Caroline phoned her family every day when she was on holiday.*
- a series of actions (when one thing happens after another) in the past: *We arrived in Rome at eleven o'clock and took a taxi to Franco's apartment. Then we went to the square and looked round the shops, but we didn't buy anything.*
- situations that finished in the past: *He lived from 1500 to 1539. Children didn't have so many electronic toys when I was young.*

3 Past simple + adverbs of time; *when, after*

We often use adverbs of time to say when a past action happened, for example

- *ago*: *We arrived at the airport ten minutes ago.* (ten minutes before now)
- *for* (with periods of time): *The economic crisis lasted for two years.*
- *last week/month/year*: *Mariela started college last month. We had a general election last year.*

We can also use *when/after* + past simple:

When they arrived, they explored Texas and New Mexico ...
After Rory left home that morning, he went to work as usual ...

Practice Use the list on page 348 to help you complete these exercises.

1 Write the past forms of these irregular verbs.

- | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|--------|-------|----------|-------|
| 0 be | <u>was/were</u> | 3 go | | 6 sell | |
| 1 become | | 4 hear | | 7 take | |
| 2 give | | 5 meet | | 8 travel | |

2 GRAMMAR IN USE Read more about Estevanico and put the verbs in brackets into the past simple. **2.59** Listen and check.

Estevanico (0) was (be) born in North Africa over 500 years ago, in 1490. He first (1) (become) a slave at the age of twenty-three after being captured by some Portuguese explorers, who later (2) (sell) him to Andres Dorantes de Carranza, a captain in the Spanish army. Dorantes (3) (hear) stories about the New World and in 1527, he and Estevanico (4) (join) an expedition to cross the Atlantic. Things (5) (not go) quite as planned and they (6) (go) first to Hispaniola, then Cuba, then Trinidad, and finally to what is now Florida and into Texas. For eight years Dorantes and Estevanico (7) (explore) the new land and (8) (trade) with the native Americans, then they (9) (travel) to New Spain (Mexico), where Dorantes finally (10) (give) Estevanico his freedom in 1536. Sadly, he (11) (not enjoy) it for long as he (12) (die) in 1539.

3 Write sentences in the past simple, using the words below. **2.60** Listen and check.

- 0 when / be / last major festival / your country?
When was the last major festival in your country?
- 00 when / Kate / finish / race / feel / exhausted
When Kate finished the race, she felt exhausted.
- 1 slave trade / stop / over 200 years ago
.....
- 2 who / you / like most / your last school?
.....
- 3 we / not understand / lecture / last week
.....
- 4 when / you / take / your last exam?
.....
- 5 when / Jack / arrive / tell / us the news
.....
- 6 why / you / start / learning English?
.....

4 Now answer questions 0, 2, 4 and 6 from Exercise 3 about yourself.

- 0 (0) The last major festival in my country was New Year's Eve.
- 1 (0)
- 2 (2)
- 3 (4)
- 4 (6)

Answers

UNIT 30

- 1** 1 became 2 gave 3 went 4 heard 5 met
6 sold 7 took 8 travelled
- 2** 1 became 2 sold 3 heard 4 joined 5 did
not/didn't go 6 went 7 explored 8 traded
9 travelled 10 gave 11 didn't enjoy 12 died
- 3** 1 The slave trade stopped over 200 years ago.
2 Who did you like most at your last school?
3 We didn't understand the lecture last week.
4 When did you take your last exam?
5 When Jack arrived, he told us the news.
6 Why did you start learning English?
- 4 Model answers**
 - 1 *The last major festival in my country was last summer.*
 - 2 *I liked the history teacher most at my last school.*
 - 3 *I took my last exam just over a year ago.*
 - 4 *I started learning English because I had to study it at school.*