The Past Tense

USE THE PAST TENSE TO DESCRIBE ACTIONS COMPLETED OR CONDITIONS THAT EXISTED IN THE PAST.

There are two kinds of past tense endings.

1. The apostrophe -d ending is a contraction meaning “had” or “would”:

   Bill thought he had flunked.
   Bill thought he’d flunked.

2. The added -d ending is added to a verb (or a word that could be a verb) that does not change its basic meaning; for example:

   **WITHOUT -D ENDING**    **WITH -D ENDING**
   like    liked
   prejudice    prejudiced
   miss    missed

A -d ending cannot be added to all verbs. Only certain verbs, called regular verbs, take a -d ending.

A -d ending may be added to a regular verb for one of two reasons:

a. It may be used to put the verb into the simple past tense:

   The doctor removed a particle of glass.

   The particle of glass has been removed.

b. It may be used to make a modifier (describing word) out of a verb:

   The removed particle of glass is two centimeters long.