

## LEARNING ENGLISH....IT'S NOT SO EASY!

Listen to Ana's story and try to imitate the pronunciation. After, look at the activity below to practice the past tense verbs in the story.

My name is Ana and I am 38 years old. I live in a small town called Kennett Square now, and it is about a 45 minute-drive from the city of Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania. Two and a half years ago, my family and I **moved** here from our native country, Brazil. We **lived** in Curitiba, a beautiful city in Southern Brazil. We **came** to the United States by plane. We **took** a flight from Rio de Janeiro to London and then finally **landed** in Philadelphia. The whole flight **lasted** a very long 15 hours and 30 minutes! We **were** exhausted! After the flight, we **rented** a car and **drove** from Philadelphia to our home in Kennett Square.

My husband, Paolo, and I **brought** our two children with us. We **wanted** to give them more opportunities to study and to work in the United States. Our daughter, Marisa, **was** 11 and our son, Antonio, **was** 9 when we arrived. They both **attended** elementary school then, but now they are in middle school.

Of course, because they **went** to school every day, Marisa and Antonio **learned** to speak English very quickly, but my husband and I **struggled**. We **took** evening English as a Second Language classes and also **studied** independently. We **used** the computer, we **watched** videos and television programs in English, and we **listened** to the radio. We **practiced** every day and we **learned** a lot, but it's not so easy! English is very different from our native language of Portuguese. When I first **started**, I **had** trouble with the pronunciation of some words, and spelling is still difficult at times, but I don't give up easily. I want to improve my English and speak well and understand better, so I will keep practicing. My goal right now is to speak English as well as my children! 😊

### Review of some past tense verbs:

Did you notice as we were reading the story that the words in bold are all past tense verbs? There are regular verbs which just have -ed attached to the present tense to form the past, and then there are irregular verbs which don't follow that rule at all.

#### regular verbs

| present  | past      |
|----------|-----------|
| move     | moved     |
| live     | lived     |
| land     | landed    |
| last     | lasted    |
| rent     | rented    |
| want     | wanted    |
| attend   | attended  |
| learn    | learned   |
| struggle | struggled |
| study    | studied   |
| use      | used      |
| watch    | watched   |
| listen   | listened  |
| practice | practiced |
| start    | started   |

#### irregular verbs

| present | past    |
|---------|---------|
| come    | came    |
| take    | took    |
| be      | were    |
| drive   | drove   |
| bring   | brought |
| be      | was     |
| go      | went    |
| have    | had     |

In the past tense, the pronunciation can be tricky, too! There are verbs that have just a **“d”** sound at the end, like **moved** or **lived**, and then there are verbs that have a **“ded”** or **“ted”** sound at the end, like **landed** and **wanted**.

The rule is that if there is a **“t”** or **“d”** sound at the end of the present tense verb, when we add the **“-ed”** to form the past tense, we must voice the **“-ded”** or **“-ted”** as another syllable with the **“t”** or **“d”** pronounced.

Here is an activity for you to practice along with me:

**“d”** sound at the end

moved

lived

arrived

learned

struggled

practiced

used

watched

listened

**“ded”** sound at the end

landed

attended

studied

**“ted”** sound at the end

lasted

rented

wanted

started

**CAN YOU PRONOUNCE THE FOLLOWING VERBS CORRECTLY? (Try them, then listen to the recording to check yourself)**

called

cried

visited

intended

pushed

pulled

graduated

coated

ended

printed

arrived

lied

counted

enjoyed

expanded

pretended

defended

invited

collected

missed

opened

closed

decided

painting