

17th January
OET Writing – Review of Past Tenses

Starter:

Look at this paragraph from the ‘timeline’ section of an OET letter:

On 1st August 2018, Mr White **was** admitted to our hospital for a colonoscopy after the results of his bowel cancer screen tests were positive. After his doctor had decided that Mr White would undergo the procedure, the pre-procedure assessment and management **were** explained to him and the pathology tests **were** ordered. Following this, his vital signs **were** recorded and were within normal range except his blood pressure, which was 145/95. The doctor **was** notified about this.

There are five verbs missing from this paragraph – What are they?

On 1st August 2018, Mr White **was** admitted to our hospital for a colonoscopy after the results of his bowel cancer screen tests were positive. After his doctor had decided that Mr White would undergo the procedure, the pre-procedure assessment and management **were** explained to him and the pathology tests **were** ordered. Following this, his vital signs **were** recorded and were within normal range except his blood pressure, which was 145/95. The doctor **was** notified about this.

Why did we add ‘was’ and ‘were’ in these places?

Practice:

How could we write about Mr Simons' appointment?

Condition history:

31 May 2019

Presentation: Hurt back lifting heavy box off floor at work
4 days since initial strain
No rest, pain worsening

X-ray: No disc problems

Diagnosis: Lower back strain – severe

Treatment: Exercise: walking daily – gradual ↑time/distance
Referral to physio
Prescription: naproxen and carisoprodol
30 days off work and certificate to give to employer
To review in 30 days

We could write...

On 31st May 2019, Mr Simons presented and reported that he **had hurt** his back while lifting a box off the floor four days before. He **had not been** resting and the pain **had worsened/got worse/was worsening/worsened/became worse**. An X-ray revealed no disc problems and severe lower back strain **was diagnosed**. Mr Simons **was advised/recommended** to walk every day and gradually increase the time and distance each time. He was also referred to a physiotherapist and prescribed naproxen and carisoprodol. A 30-day break from work was recommended and Mr Simons **was given/provided with** a certificate to give to his employer. A review was arranged after 30 days.

Practice:

How could we write about Mrs Hall's appointment?

18 Jun 2018 Presenting complaint: dysphagia (solids), onset 2 weeks ago post-viral (?) URTI
URTIs self-medicated with OTC (over-the-counter) Chinese herbal product - contents unknown
No relapse/remittent course
No sensation of lump No obvious anxiety
Concomitant epigastric pain radiating to back, level T12 Weight loss: 1-2kg
Recent increase in coffee consumption
Takes aspirin occasionally (2-3 times/month); no other NSAIDs
Provisional diagnosis: gastro-oesophageal reflux +/- stricture

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We could write...

On 18th June 2018, Ms Hall stated that she had been experiencing dysphagia with solid foods for two weeks, potentially resulting from a URTI which she had been self-treating with an over-the-counter Chinese herbal product. On examination, no relapse or remittent course was observed along with no sensation of a lump or obvious anxiety. Concomitant epigastric pain radiating to the back at level T12 was observed and Mrs Hall reported that she had lost 1-2kg in weight and recently increased her coffee consumption. She mentioned that she took aspirin 2 or 3 times a month but no other NSAIDs. As a result, a provisional diagnosis of gastro-oesophageal reflux with potential stricture was made.