

16<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## OET Writing – Perfect Tenses with Reported Speech

**Starter:**

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

During his appointment today, Mr Linklater reported that he **had** had tiredness and depression over the previous twelve months. In addition, he stated that he **had** been experiencing nausea and had sore eyes. He mentioned that he **had** often been dizzy in the previous three weeks.

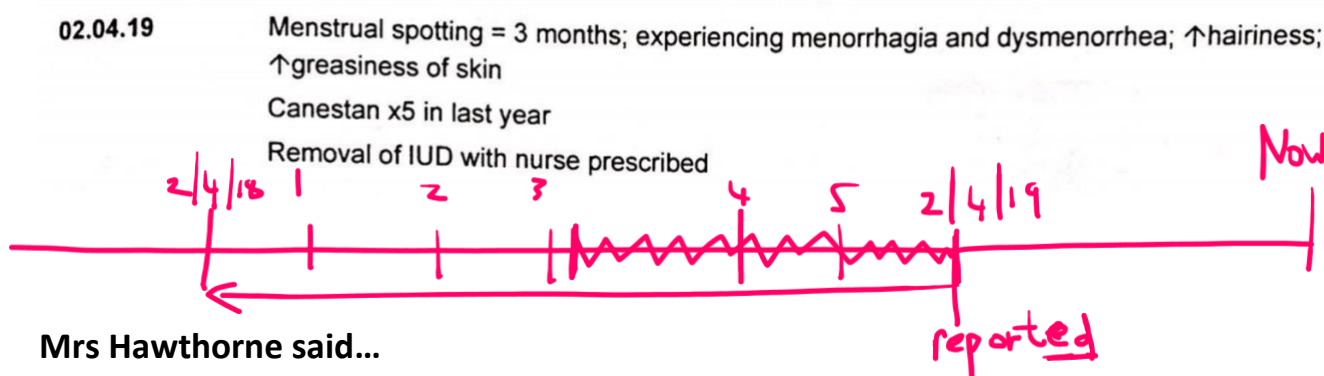
**There are three times when the verb ‘had’ should be added – Where?**

During his appointment today, Mr Linklater reported that he **had** had tiredness and depression over the previous twelve months. In addition, he stated that he **had** been experiencing nausea and had sore eyes. He mentioned that he **had** often been dizzy in the previous three weeks.

**Why are we using the word ‘had’ in these places?**

## Practice:

How could we report the information that Mrs Hawthorne provided at this appointment?



“I’ve had menstrual spotting for three months”

“I’ve been experiencing menorrhagia and dysmenorrhea”

“I’ve noticed that I’m hairier and my skin is greasy”

“I’ve used Canestan five times in the last year”

## We could write...

On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019, Mrs Hawthorne reported that she **had had** menstrual spotting for the previous three months.

She stated that she **had been experiencing** menorrhagia and dysmenorrhea.

She reported that she **had noticed** increased hairiness and skin greasiness.

She mentioned that she **had used** Canestan five times over the previous year.

How could we report the information that Mr Knowles provided at this appointment?

**30 Aug 2019**    No improvement in reflux symptoms  
Pt's main concern is now back pain  
New symptoms: diarrhoea, pale stools, abdominal pain on eating, fatigue  
Wt ↓2kg since last appointment (now 92kg)  
Abdomen tender on palpation, slightly swollen  
Yellow discolouration skin and eyes

### Mr Knowles said...

"I've seen no improvement in my reflux symptoms"

On 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019, Mr Knowles said that he had seen no improvement in his reflux symptoms. / ...he had not seen any improvement in his reflux symptoms.

"I've been really worried about my back pain"

Mr Knowles told us that he had been really worried about his back pain.

"I've noticed new symptoms"

Mr Knowles reported that he had noticed new symptoms.

"I've been experiencing diarrhoea, pale stools, abdominal pain on eating and fatigue"

He mentioned that he had been experiencing...

"I've lost 2kg in weight since my last appointment"

He stated that he had lost 2kg in weight since his last appointment.

## Extension:

How could we report the information that Ms Bennet provided at this appointment?

### Presenting complaint:

**15 May 2021** Side effects of captopril – dizziness and light-headedness, headaches, episodes of diarrhoea  
Pt reports ↑stress from side effects  
Pt requests captopril discontinuation (side effects) – reluctant to start new meds

**Plan:** Referral to cardiologist re review of meds and ways to encourage lifestyle changes

On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Ms Bennett indicated that she had been experiencing dizziness and light headedness, episodes of diarrhoea and she had noticed increased stress due to the side effects.