

MATHS HSC PAST PAPERS Tutorial

maths hsc past papers are an essential resource for students preparing for the Higher School Certificate (HSC) examinations. These papers provide invaluable practice opportunities, helping students familiarize themselves with the exam format, question styles, and marking schemes. By systematically working through past papers, students can identify their strengths and weaknesses, improve their problem-solving skills, and boost their confidence ahead of the actual exam. This article explores the importance of Maths HSC past papers, how to effectively use them in your study routine, and tips to maximize your exam preparation.

Understanding the Importance of Maths HSC Past Papers

Why Use Past Papers?

Past papers serve as a mirror of the actual exam, offering students a real-world simulation of what to expect. Here's why they are crucial:

- **Familiarization with Exam Format:** Understanding the structure, question types, and time constraints.
- **Practice Under Exam Conditions:** Building stamina and managing time effectively during the test.
- **Identify Common Topics and Question Trends:** Recognizing frequently tested concepts and question styles.
- **Self-Assessment and Progress Tracking:** Evaluating your knowledge and tracking improvements over time.

Benefits of Consistent Practice

Regularly practicing with past papers can lead to:

- Enhanced problem-solving speed and accuracy
- Better understanding of complex concepts
- Reduced exam anxiety
- Increased confidence in handling diverse questions

Where to Find Quality Maths HSC Past Papers

Official Resources

The New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) provides free access to a comprehensive collection of past HSC exam papers and marking guidelines. These are the most reliable and accurate resources for students.

Additional Resources

Apart from official sources, several educational platforms and tutoring centers compile and analyze past papers to help students:

- Practice effectively with categorized questions
- Access detailed solutions and step-by-step explanations
- Engage with mock exams modeled on past papers

Effective Strategies for Using Maths HSC Past Papers

Develop a Study Plan

To maximize the benefits, create a structured timetable that incorporates past paper practice:

- Set specific goals for each session (e.g., mastering calculus questions).
- Allocate regular weekly sessions dedicated to past paper practice.
- Mix practice with review sessions to reinforce learning.

Simulate Exam Conditions

Practice under timed conditions to mimic the real exam environment:

- Set a timer matching the actual exam duration.
- Work in a quiet environment free from distractions.
- Avoid using notes or textbooks unless specified by the exam conditions.

Analyze Your Performance

After completing a past paper:

- Review incorrect answers to understand mistakes.
- Identify recurring errors or weak topics.
- Focus future study sessions on these areas.

Utilize Marking Guidelines and Solutions

Studying solutions helps you:

- Understand the expected approach and reasoning.
- Learn alternative methods to solve problems.
- Improve your answer presentation and clarity.

Key Topics Covered in Maths HSC Past Papers

Algebra

Includes equations, inequalities, sequences, and algebraic expressions.

Calculus

Covers differentiation, integration, and applications of calculus.

Geometry and Trigonometry

Focuses on coordinate geometry, circle theorems, and trigonometric functions.

Statistics and Probability

Involves data analysis, probability calculations, and interpretations.

Functions and Graphs

Understanding different types of functions and their graphical representations.

Tips for Maximizing Your Study Efficiency

- **Prioritize Weak Areas:** Focus more on topics where you struggle.
- **Combine Practice with Theory:** Use past papers to reinforce theoretical concepts learned in class.

- **Seek Feedback:** Have teachers or tutors review your solutions for constructive feedback.
- **Join Study Groups:** Collaborative practice can offer new insights and motivation.
- **Regular Review:** Revisit previous papers periodically to track progress and reinforce retention.

Conclusion

Mastering Maths for the HSC requires consistent practice, strategic study, and familiarity with exam patterns. **Maths HSC past papers** are undoubtedly one of the most effective tools in this journey. By systematically working through past papers, analyzing mistakes, and refining problem-solving techniques, students can significantly improve their performance and confidence. Remember to leverage official resources, simulate real exam conditions, and adopt a disciplined study routine. With dedication and the right approach, you can achieve excellent results in your HSC Maths exam.

Additional Resources for HSC Maths Preparation:

- Official NESA Past Papers and Marking Guidelines
- Online tutorial videos and step-by-step solutions
- HSC Maths revision guides and textbooks
- Practice questions from reputable educational platforms

Maths HSC Past Papers: An Essential Tool for Success in High School Mathematics

When preparing for the Higher School Certificate (HSC) in New South Wales, Australia, students often find themselves navigating a sea of study resources, exam strategies, and practice materials. Among these, Maths HSC past papers stand out as one of the most effective tools for achieving exam success. These documents serve as a mirror into the actual exam experience, providing invaluable insights into question styles, difficulty levels, and the examiners' expectations. In this comprehensive review, we explore the significance of Maths HSC past papers, their contents, benefits, how to best utilize them, and tips for integrating them into your study plan.

Understanding Maths HSC Past Papers

What Are Maths HSC Past Papers?

Maths HSC past papers are official examination documents from previous years, compiled and made accessible to students preparing for their upcoming assessments. They encompass the full range of exam papers from the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA), covering various mathematics courses like Mathematics Standard 2, Mathematics Advanced, and Mathematics Extension 1 and 2.

These past papers typically include:

- The original exam questions
- Marking guidelines and sample solutions
- Student responses (sometimes)
- Examiner reports and comments

The primary purpose of these papers is to familiarize students with the structure, question formats, and content scope of the actual exams they will face.

Scope and Variability of Past Papers

The breadth of past papers allows students to encounter a wide array of question styles, from multiple-choice and short-answer questions to extended response problems. Over the years, the complexity and emphasis on certain topics may shift, reflecting curriculum updates and examination trends. This variability is beneficial, as it equips students with a well-rounded understanding of potential question types.

The Value of Using Past Papers in Your Study Routine

1. Familiarization with Exam Format and Structure

One of the primary advantages of practicing with past papers is gaining familiarity with the exam's layout. Students learn how questions are ordered, the allocation of marks, and the timing required for each section. This knowledge reduces exam-day anxiety and helps develop effective time management strategies.

2. Exposure to Real Exam Questions

Past papers expose students to questions that have actually appeared in previous exams, providing authentic practice scenarios. This exposure helps students identify recurring themes, common question types, and frequently tested topics, enabling targeted revision.

3. Development of Problem-Solving Skills

Solving past questions hones critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Students learn to interpret what a question asks, select suitable approaches, and efficiently arrive at solutions—all essential skills for high-stakes exams.

4. Self-Assessment and Progress Tracking

Attempting past papers under exam-like conditions allows students to evaluate their current level of understanding and identify areas needing improvement. Regular practice facilitates tracking progress over time, boosting confidence and motivation.

5. Understanding Marking Criteria and Examiner Expectations

Examiner reports and marking guidelines included with past papers shed light on what examiners look for in responses. Understanding these criteria helps students craft answers that meet expectations and maximize marks.

How to Effectively Use Maths HSC Past Papers

1. Create a Structured Practice Schedule

Consistency is key. Students should plan regular practice sessions, ideally integrating past papers into their study timetable. For example, dedicating one or two papers per week, spaced out with review sessions, ensures steady progress.

2. Simulate Exam Conditions

To maximize benefit, students should attempt past papers under timed, exam-like conditions?no distractions, strict timing, and without consulting notes. This approach develops discipline, time management, and stress management skills.

3. Review and Analyze Mistakes Thoroughly

Attempting a paper is only half the process. The real learning occurs during review. Students should compare their solutions with official mark schemes and examiner comments to understand errors, misconceptions, or gaps in knowledge.

4. Focus on Weak Areas

Identify topics or question types where mistakes are frequent. Use targeted revision to strengthen these weak points before attempting more past papers.

5. Gradually Increase Difficulty and Variety

Start with recent, manageable papers, then progress to older ones with varying difficulty levels. Incorporate a mix of standard and extension questions to build comprehensive skills.

6. Use Marking Guidelines and Examiner Reports

These resources provide insights into what examiners prioritize. Pay attention to common pitfalls highlighted in examiner reports and adapt your approach accordingly.

Popular Resources and Platforms for Accessing Past Papers

Students seeking access to Maths HSC past papers have multiple options:

- Official NESA Website: The most reliable source, offering free downloadable past papers and marking guidelines.
- Educational Publishers: Companies like Jacaranda, Cambridge, and Pearson produce practice books that include past papers with solutions.
- Online Platforms: Websites such as Studylt, MathsQuest, and Edrolo offer practice questions, solutions, and exam simulations.
- School Resources: Many schools keep archives of past papers or provide access through study centers.

Tips for Maximizing Your Success with Past Papers

- Start Early: Don't wait until the last minute. Early exposure allows for comprehensive revision.
- Diversify Practice: Cover different years and question styles to prevent surprises.
- Simulate Real Exam Conditions: This prepares you mentally and physically for the actual exam day.
- Seek Feedback: Discuss solutions with teachers or peers to clarify doubts.
- Maintain a Revision Journal: Track errors, tricky questions, and strategies to improve.
- Balance Practice with Conceptual Study: Past papers are most effective when complemented by thorough understanding of concepts.

Conclusion: The Strategic Role of Past Papers in HSC Mathematics Success

In the competitive landscape of HSC Mathematics, past papers are not just practice tools—they are strategic assets. They bridge the gap between classroom learning and exam reality, helping students understand what is expected and how to excel. When integrated thoughtfully into a structured study plan, they empower students to master topics, refine problem-solving skills, and develop confidence.

Ultimately, success in the Maths HSC exam hinges on deliberate practice, understanding examiner expectations, and continuous self-assessment. Past papers encapsulate all these elements, making them an indispensable component of any serious student's preparation arsenal. Embrace them

early, practice diligently, and use their insights to sharpen your skills? your pathway to achieving top marks is paved with well-utilized past papers.

Question Where can I find authentic HSC Maths past papers for practice? You can access authentic HSC Maths past papers on the official New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) website, as well as through school resources, tutoring centers, and educational platforms like MathsGee and Edrolo. **Answer** How can practicing HSC Maths past papers improve my exam performance? Practicing past papers helps familiarize you with the exam format, question types, and time management. It also allows you to identify your strengths and weaknesses, enabling targeted revision to boost your confidence and scores. Are HSC Maths past papers from previous years still relevant for current exams? Yes, they are highly relevant as they cover core topics and question formats that often recur. However, always complement them with recent syllabus updates and marking guidelines to ensure comprehensive preparation. What is the best way to use HSC Maths past papers in my study routine? Use past papers regularly under exam conditions to simulate real test scenarios. Review your solutions critically, note common question patterns, and revise relevant concepts to improve accuracy and efficiency. How do I access solutions or marking guides for HSC Maths past papers? Official solutions and marking guides are often available on the NESA website or through school resources. Additionally, many tutoring platforms and educational forums provide detailed solutions and explanations for past papers. Can practicing HSC Maths past papers help me achieve a top band score? Absolutely. Consistent practice with past papers enhances problem-solving skills, time management, and understanding of marking criteria, all of which are crucial for achieving high band scores. What are some common topics covered in HSC Maths past papers? Common topics include Algebra, Functions, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Probability, and Statistics. Past papers often feature questions across these areas to assess comprehensive understanding. Is it better to start practicing HSC Maths past papers early or closer to the exams? It's beneficial to start practicing early to build familiarity with concepts and question styles gradually. Closer to exams, focus on timed practice and revision of weak areas to consolidate your knowledge. Are there online platforms that offer practice HSC Maths past papers with solutions? Yes, platforms like MathsGee, Edrolo, and StudyMate provide access to past papers along with detailed solutions and tutorials, making them excellent resources for comprehensive preparation.

Related keywords: HSC maths previous questions, HSC maths exam papers, HSC mathematics past papers, HSC math practice tests, HSC maths exam preparation, HSC math revision papers, NSW HSC maths exams, HSC maths sample papers, HSC mathematics study resources, HSC maths exam solutions

Paragraph Using Past Perfect Tense

Introduction: Understanding the Paragraph Using Past Perfect Tense

Paragraph using past perfect tense is an essential element of English grammar that helps writers and speakers convey actions or states that were completed before another point in the past. Mastering how to craft such paragraphs enhances clarity, coherence, and the overall quality of your writing. Whether you're composing academic essays, storytelling, or professional reports, understanding the proper use of past perfect tense within paragraphs enables you to narrate events in a chronological and logical manner.

The past perfect tense is often overlooked by learners but is crucial for expressing sequences of past events, emphasizing the earlier action, and establishing clear timelines. This article provides an in-depth exploration of how to construct effective paragraphs using past perfect tense, including grammatical rules, examples, common mistakes, and practical tips for writing with precision and clarity.

What Is the Past Perfect Tense?

Definition and Usage

The past perfect tense describes an action that was completed before another action or time in the past. It is formed with the auxiliary verb "had" followed by the past participle of the main verb.

Structure:

- Affirmative: Subject + had + past participle (e.g., She had finished her homework.)
- Negative: Subject + had not (hadn't) + past participle (e.g., They hadn't arrived yet.)
- Interrogative: Had + subject + past participle? (e.g., Had you seen that movie?)

Primary uses include:

- Indicating an action completed before a specific point in the past.
- Showing cause-and-effect relationships between different past events.
- Narrating stories or histories with a clear sequence.

Examples of Past Perfect Tense

- She had already left when I arrived.
- They had completed the project before the deadline.

- By the time the meeting started, he had prepared all the documents.
- We had lived in that city for ten years before moving abroad.

Constructing a Paragraph Using Past Perfect Tense

1. Planning Your Narrative or Explanation

Before writing a paragraph in past perfect tense, it is vital to plan the sequence of events. Identify which actions occurred first and which followed. This planning ensures logical flow and clarity.

Steps to plan:

- List the key past events you want to include.
- Arrange them chronologically, noting which happened first.
- Decide where to use past perfect tense to emphasize the earlier actions.

2. Using Past Perfect to Clarify Time Relationships

The past perfect sets the background for a story or explanation, establishing what had happened before another past event. It helps avoid confusion about the sequence.

Example:

After she had finished her work, she went out for a walk.

In this sentence, "had finished" clearly indicates that her work was completed before she went out.

3. Combining Past Perfect with Simple Past

Typically, a paragraph using past perfect tense includes a mixture of past perfect and simple past to depict the sequence of events.

Example:

They had already eaten dinner when we arrived. We decided to wait until they finished.

Here, "had already eaten" is past perfect, happening before "we arrived," which is simple past.

4. Structuring the Paragraph Effectively

To craft a well-organized paragraph using past perfect tense, follow this structure:

- Topic Sentence: Introduce the main idea or event.
- Supporting Sentences: Use past perfect to describe actions completed before the main event.
- Additional Details: Include context or consequences, often using simple past or other tenses.
- Concluding Sentence: Summarize or reflect on the sequence.

Example Paragraph:

Before the company launched its new product, the marketing team had conducted extensive research. They had analyzed customer feedback, studied competitors, and tested various advertisement strategies. By the time the campaign started, they had already identified the target audience and tailored their messaging accordingly. This preparation contributed significantly to the campaign's success.

Common Mistakes in Using Past Perfect in Paragraphs

Understanding common errors can help you avoid pitfalls and improve your writing.

1. Overusing Past Perfect

Using past perfect unnecessarily can clutter your writing. Reserve its use for actions that clearly occurred before other past actions.

Incorrect:

- She had went to the store and bought groceries. (Incorrect form: "had went" should be "had gone.")

Correct:

- She went to the store and bought groceries.

2. Confusing Past Perfect with Past Simple

Mixing these tenses without clarity can confuse the reader about the sequence of events.

Incorrect:

- I had breakfast, then I went to school.

Better:

- I had had breakfast before I went to school. (Use past perfect for the first action.)

3. Omitting the Past Perfect When Needed

Failing to use past perfect when necessary can distort the timeline.

Example:

- She arrived after he had left. (Correct)
- She arrived after he left. (Possible but less clear about the sequence)

Practical Tips for Writing Effective Paragraphs Using Past Perfect Tense

- Identify the timeline: Clearly determine which actions occurred first.
- Use past perfect for earlier actions: Employ it to set the background or sequence.
- Combine with simple past: Use simple past for subsequent actions.
- Maintain consistency: Keep verb tenses consistent to avoid confusion.
- Use time markers: Words like "already," "before," "by the time," "when," help clarify the sequence.

Examples of Effective Paragraphs

Example 1: Narrative of an Event

By the time the guests arrived, she had already prepared all the decorations. She had decorated the entire house, set up the tables, and arranged the flowers. When her friends knocked on the door, everything was ready, and she welcomed them with a smile. Her meticulous planning had paid off, making the celebration memorable.

Example 2: Historical Explanation

The explorers had discovered the island months before the scientific team arrived. They had documented the flora and fauna, set up temporary camps, and collected samples. When the

researchers finally reached the site, they had a wealth of data to analyze, which contributed to groundbreaking ecological studies.

SEO Optimization Tips for Writing About Paragraphs Using Past Perfect Tense

To ensure your article reaches a wider audience, incorporate relevant SEO strategies:

- Use keywords naturally throughout the article, such as "past perfect tense," "how to write a paragraph using past perfect," "grammar tips for past perfect," and "examples of past perfect tense."
- Include descriptive headings with keywords.
- Maintain a clear and logical structure, making it easy for search engines to index your content.
- Use relevant internal and external links to authoritative grammar resources.
- Optimize meta descriptions and image alt texts if applicable.

Conclusion: Mastering Paragraphs Using Past Perfect Tense

Crafting well-structured paragraphs using past perfect tense is a vital skill for effective storytelling, academic writing, and professional communication. By understanding the grammatical rules, recognizing how to sequence events logically, and avoiding common mistakes, writers can produce clear, coherent, and engaging narratives. Remember to plan your narrative carefully, use past perfect to set the background, and combine it seamlessly with other tenses for smooth flow.

Practicing these techniques will enhance your command of English grammar and elevate your writing to a more professional level. Whether you're recounting past experiences, explaining historical events, or narrating stories, mastering the paragraph using past perfect tense will enable you to communicate with precision and clarity.

Start implementing these tips today and see your writing transform into compelling, well-structured narratives that captivate your audience!

Paragraph Using Past Perfect Tense

The past perfect tense, a fundamental aspect of English grammar, has long been an essential tool for writers and speakers aiming to express actions that had been completed before another past event. Its nuanced function allows for clarity and precision in storytelling, historical recounting, and detailed descriptions. This tense provides a way to establish a clear sequence of events, making narratives more coherent and engaging. Over the years, the use of the past perfect tense has evolved, influencing literature, journalism, academic writing, and everyday communication. In this article, we will explore the intricacies of the past perfect tense, its formation, usage, common pitfalls,

and effective strategies for mastering it.

Understanding the Past Perfect Tense

Definition and Basic Structure

The past perfect tense is used to describe an action that had occurred before another action or point in the past. It is formed by combining the auxiliary verb *had* with the past participle of the main verb.

Structure:

- Affirmative: Subject + *had* + past participle (e.g., She had finished her homework.)
- Negative: Subject + *had not* (*hadn't*) + past participle (e.g., They hadn't arrived yet.)
- Interrogative: *Had* + subject + past participle? (e.g., Had you seen that movie?)

Formation Rules and Examples

The formation of the past perfect is straightforward but requires attention to verb forms. Regular verbs form the past participle by adding *-ed*, whereas irregular verbs have unique past participle forms.

Verb Type	Example Sentence	Past Participle
-----	-----	-----
Regular	I had walked to the park before it rained.	walked
Irregular	She had written several letters before noon.	written

Examples:

- They had left the house when I arrived.
- She had already eaten when the guests came.
- We had never seen such a beautiful sunset before that day.

Common Uses of the Past Perfect Tense

Expressing Completed Actions Before a Past Point

The primary use of the past perfect is to specify that an action was completed before another past event.

Example:

- By the time the movie started, we had already bought the tickets.

In Reported Speech and Indirect Statements

The past perfect is often used when reporting speech, especially when the original statement involved a past perfect tense.

Example:

- She said she had finished her project before the deadline.

In Conditional Sentences

Past perfect is common in third conditional sentences, indicating hypothetical situations in the past.

Example:

- If I had known about the traffic, I would have left earlier.

To Show Cause and Effect in Past Narratives

It helps to clarify cause-and-effect relationships in stories.

Example:

- He had forgotten his umbrella, so he got soaked.

Advantages of Using the Past Perfect Tense

Using the past perfect tense effectively enhances communication by adding clarity and depth. Here are some notable advantages:

- Clarifies sequence: It helps differentiate between two past actions, establishing which occurred first.
- Adds depth to storytelling: Creates a layered narrative, giving context to events.
- Improves coherence: Assists in maintaining logical flow in complex sentences and narratives.
- Enables precise reporting: Vital in academic and journalistic contexts for accurate recounting of events.

Challenges and Common Mistakes

Overuse or Misuse of the Past Perfect

One common error is overusing the past perfect where simple past would suffice, leading to clunky sentences.

Example of overuse:

- Incorrect: She had gone to the store, and then she had bought groceries.
- Correct: She went to the store and then bought groceries.

Confusing Past Perfect with Other Tenses

Learners often confuse the past perfect with the simple past or past continuous, leading to grammatical inaccuracies.

Incorrect:

- I had saw him yesterday.
- Correct: I saw him yesterday.

Tip: Remember that "had" + past participle is past perfect; "saw" is simple past.

Misapplication in Conditional Sentences

Using the wrong tense in conditionals can distort meaning.

Incorrect:

- If she had studied, she would pass the exam.

- Correct: If she had studied, she would have passed the exam.

Strategies to Master the Past Perfect Tense

Practice with Timeline Exercises

Creating timelines of events can help visualize the sequence and reinforce correct tense usage.

Tip: Map out events and identify which happened first, then practice forming sentences accordingly.

Engage in Reading and Analysis

Reading literature, news articles, and historical accounts that employ the past perfect can improve understanding and intuition.

Exercise: Highlight sentences with past perfect and analyze their function.

Writing and Revising

Regularly practice writing stories or recounts involving past events. Review and revise to ensure correct tense usage.

Use Grammar Tools and Resources

Leverage online grammar checkers, tutorials, and exercises dedicated to past perfect tense.

Examples in Literature and Media

Many authors and speakers have utilized the past perfect to craft compelling narratives.

Literary Examples:

- In Charles Dickens' works, past perfect often appears to set historical context.
- In memoirs, authors frequently use past perfect to recount prior experiences.

Media and Journalism:

- News reports often employ the past perfect when describing events leading up to a recent incident.

Conclusion

The past perfect tense, though seemingly simple in structure, plays a crucial role in conveying complex sequences of past actions. Its correct application enhances clarity, storytelling depth, and grammatical precision. While it can pose challenges for learners, consistent practice, mindful analysis, and contextual reading can significantly improve mastery. As language users continue to refine their understanding of this tense, their ability to narrate, report, and analyze past events with nuance and accuracy will undoubtedly strengthen. Embracing the past perfect as a vital grammatical tool opens up richer ways to communicate the layered tapestry of human experiences and histories.

In summary, mastering the past perfect tense involves understanding its formation, recognizing its primary functions, avoiding common pitfalls, and applying it effectively in various contexts. Whether in academic writing, storytelling, or everyday conversation, the past perfect remains a powerful means to articulate the sequence and significance of past events with clarity and sophistication.

Question What is the past perfect tense used for in a paragraph? The past perfect tense is used in a paragraph to show that an action was completed before another past action or point in time. **Answer** How can I identify a paragraph that uses the past perfect tense? Look for verbs that are in the form of had + past participle, which indicate actions completed before other past events within the paragraph. Why is it important to use past perfect tense correctly in a paragraph? Using past perfect correctly helps clarify the sequence of events, making the timeline of actions clear and improving the coherence of the paragraph. Can you give an example of a paragraph using the past perfect tense? Sure. 'She had finished her homework before her friends arrived. By the time I called, she had already left the house.' What are common mistakes to avoid when using past perfect tense in a paragraph? Common mistakes include using the past perfect with simple past instead of when it's necessary, or omitting 'had' and just using the past participle. How does the past perfect tense improve storytelling in a paragraph? It provides clarity on the sequence of events, helping the reader understand what happened first and how events are connected chronologically. Is it necessary to use past perfect tense in all past narratives? No, it's only necessary when you want to emphasize that one past action occurred before another past action. How do I change a simple past sentence into a past perfect sentence? Add 'had' before the past participle of the verb. For example, 'She finished her work' becomes 'She had finished her work.' What are some signal words that indicate the use of past perfect in a paragraph? Words like 'before', 'by the time', 'already', and 'when' often signal the need for past perfect tense. Can past perfect tense be used in both formal and informal writing within a paragraph? Yes, past perfect tense can be used in both contexts to clarify the sequence of events, although it is more common in formal writing.

Related keywords: past perfect tense, paragraph writing, grammatical structure, writing tips, tense usage, English grammar, sentence construction, language learning, writing skills, tense consistency

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