

UNIT ONE LESSONS

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UNIT ONE

LESSON 1

A FIRE AT MARIEM'S

I LEARN HOW TO TALK AND ASK ABOUT PAST ACTIONS AND EVENTS

1. I READ THE DIALOGUE.

Moctar, Abdoul and Mariem are having a conversation at the office.

- Moctar:** What's new, Mariem?
Mariem: Well, guess what happened last night?
Abdoul: Please, tell us what happened.
Mariem: There was a fire in my building.
Moctar: A fire! Oh my God! How did it happen?
Mariem: Some old stuff in the basement burned up.
Moctar: Was there any serious damage?
Mariem: No. Luckily the firemen intervened quickly.
Abdoul: Lucky you! Who called them?
Mariem: I did. First, I smelt the odour of something burning while I was coming close to the building. Then I saw some smoke as I was getting in.
Moctar: What did the firemen do when they arrived?
Mariem: They asked everybody to go out of the building and started putting out the fire.

New words

To guess

Stuff

To burn

Basement

To put out

Damage

To smell

2. I KNOW MY VOCABULARY

Exercise 1 :

Match the words in column **A** to the words in column **B**

A	B
1. Guess	a. Bottom part of a building
2. Go off	b. Be on fire
3. Stuff	c. Extinguish
4. Basement	d. Accumulation of objects.
5. Put out	e. Stop functioning
6. Burn	f. imagine

Exercise 2:

Build sentences using: guess, put out, go off, stuff and basement.

3. I UNDERSTAND THE DIALOGUE.

Exercise 1:

Read the dialogue silently and answer the questions:

1. What did Mariem tell Moctar and Abdoul?
2. When did it happen?
3. Did Mariem see the fire?
4. Where did the fire start?
5. What did the firemen do?

Exercise 2 :

Say if these statements are True or False the text:

1. Electricity went off in Mariem's building. _____
2. The fire started in an old apartment. _____
3. Moctar didn't know about the fire. _____
4. Mariem called the firemen. _____
5. The firemen put on the fire. _____

4. I CAN INTERACT

You have seen or heard about a fire in a house, a market or in the bush.

In groups, discuss about it and take notes.

5. I CAN WRITE

Use the notes you have taken from your group work then write about this experience in a short paragraph.

6. I KNOW HOW TO USE

A. Forming the regular past tense:

Spelling	Root verb	Past tense
For most verbs: Add <i>-ed</i>	call play wash	called played washed
For verbs that end in a consonant plus y: change the "y" to "i" and add "ed"	carry study worry	carried studied worried
For verbs that end in "e": add "d" only	move like hate	moved liked hated

B. Common irregular verbs:

<u>Base form</u>	<u>Past tense</u>	<u>gBase form</u>	<u>Past tense</u>
Break	broke	put	put
Get	got	run	ran
Go	went	see	saw

7. I DO MY HOMEWORK

Give the correct past tense of the verbs:

1. The old woman (to carry) her cat. (*Affirmative form*)
2. People (to go) in the building. (*Negative form*)
3. The firemen (to break) the windows. (*Interrogative form*)
4. Mariem (to get) home early. (*Affirmative form*)
5. Some old stuff (to burn) out. (*Negative form*)
6. They (to move) to Atar. (*Interrogative form*)

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UNIT ONE
LESSON 2

THE CLERK

**I LEARN HOW TO TALK AND ASK ABOUT PAST
ACTIONS AND EVENTS**

1. I READ THE TEXT

It was 10 o'clock. Mohamed was standing in front of Mr Brahim's office, the company Manager.

He was late as usual. He was tense and afraid of the meeting with his boss. He rang the bell from time to time and finally the door opened. Mohamed was face to face with his boss, who was sitting at his desk, writing on a piece of paper. When Mohamed got in, the boss raised his eyes, stared at him and then asked him why he was always late. "I was looking for you for an urgent matter, but you were nowhere" he said. The clerk was very embarrassed. He looked down and said "In fact I was here at eight o'clock, I prepared the letters for the customers and then I went out to have tea at the café before your arrival. The customers are certainly waiting for your proposal concerning the goods.

"It's alright." The boss replied, "nevertheless, I used to tell you and everybody else in this office, that when you want to go out you should always inform the secretary."

New words and expressions

Boss
As usual
To be tense
To raise
To stare at
Matter
Goods

2. IKNOW MY VOCABULARY

Match each word in column A to its opposite in column B.

A	B
1. To be nowhere	a. To look down
2. In front of	b. To get out
3. To get in	c. To answer
4. To ask	d. Behind
5. To raise one's eyes	e. To be everywhere

3. I UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

Exercise 1

Read the text silently and answer the questions:

1. At what time was Mohamed waiting at the door?
2. Who was the man sitting at the desk?
3. Why was Mohamed tense?
4. Why did the boss stare at Mohamed?
5. Choose another title to the text.

Exercise 2

Say if these statements are True or false:

1. At 10 o'clock Mohamed wasn't standing in front of Mr Brahim's office. _____
2. When the door opened Mohamed wasn't face to face with his boss. _____
3. The clerk said that he was preparing letters for his boss. _____
4. The boss replied that they can go out without telling the secretary. _____

4. I CAN INTERACT

Why coming late at school or at work is a bad habit?

5. I CAN WRITE

Sum up the text in two or three lines.

6. I KNOW HOW TO USE

The past continuous tense

Subject + to be (in the past) + verb + ing

Examples:

I **was learning** English in a private centre.

My brother **was studying** at the university.

The school boys **were singing** the national hymn.

7. I DO MY HOMEWORK

Exercise 1:

Underline the past continuous of three verbs from the text.

Exercise 2:

Write four meaningful sentences using the past continuous with the following verbs:
to leave, to learn, to explain and to teach.

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UNIT ONE

LESSON 3

A JOB INTERVIEW

I LEARN HOW TO TALK AND ASK ABOUT PAST ACTIONS AND EVENTS

1. I READ THE DIALOGUE.

An applicant is looking for a job as a TV reporter. Now he is having an interview with the TV manager.

TV manager: Good morning, sir.

Applicant: Good morning.

TV manager: Have a sit, please.

Applicant: Thank you, sir.

TV manager: Well, you've come here for the interview, haven't you?

Applicant: Yes, sir.

TV manager: I've examined your diplomas and looked at your resumé and I've found it quite interesting. However, I need to get more detailed information about you and your experience.

Applicant: I will be very pleased to answer your questions.

TV manager: Who have you worked for, before?

Applicant: I've worked for Mauritania National Radio as an announcer.

TV manager:	And for how long have you worked there?
Applicant:	For six years.
TV manager:	Oh, I see. Have you got any other experience in the area of journalism?
Applicant:	Sure, I have. I've worked for an international radio corporation recently, and I've also done many radio reports on political events for a few private international radio stations such as BBC, DW and Radio Monte Carlo.
TV manager:	Have you ever travelled abroad?
Applicant:	Yes, I have visited several countries on many occasions.
TV manager:	Just one more question. Are you married?
Applicant:	(<i>with a smile</i>) I haven't got married yet. It's too early for me and I need to get more experience and especially make a lot of money.
TV manager:	Okay, sir, that's all. Thank you for your time. We will contact you in about a week from now. Good luck.
Applicant:	Thank you very much indeed, sir.

New words and expressions

Applicant	To make money
Resumé	
Corporation	
Recently	
Abroad	
Such as	
Area of	

2. I KNOW MY VOCABULARY

Choose from the box and complete each sentence below

recently	resumé	corporation	abroad
area of	private	early	

1. BBC is an international.....
2. Moussa has never travelled.....
3. My brother has found a good job.....
4. Bring a.....to complete your file.
5. Mouna works for the World Health Organisation in the.....
aids
6. Does Aichetou work in a public or.....company?
7. I usually wake up.....in the morning to pray.

3. I UNDERSTAND THE DIALOGUE.

Read again the dialogue and then answer the following questions:

1. Who has the applicant worked for before?
2. Has the applicant worked as a TV reporter?
3. Has the applicant got married yet?
4. How long has the applicant worked for Mauritania National
Radio?
5. Has the applicant ever been out of his country?
6. When will the applicant get the result of his interview?

4. ICAN INTERACT

Take turns and ask each other questions about past experiences. A asks the questions and B answers and vice-versa.

Begin your questions with did you or have you ever.

Example: live in Nouakchott

S1: Have you ever lived in a foreign country?

S2: Yes, I have.

S1: How long have you lived there?

S2: I've lived there for 10 years.

Now do it as in the example above.

Drink tea	Play football	Study English	Rain in the south
Wait for the bus	Sleep well	Work for a private company	Smoke cigarettes

5. I CAN WRITE

Talk about your experiences using meaningful sentences in the present perfect. Be sure to include: (already, yet, recently, for, never, once, twice, many times ...) in your sentences.

6. I KNOW HOW TO USE

- Present perfect at the affirmative, negative and interrogative forms.
- Present perfect is used to talk about recent past actions when the time of the action is not specified.

Example:

I've received a call from France recently.

- Present perfect is used with time adverbs such as: already, recently, lately, never, yet, just, ever, twice, once, many times, how long, for, since.

Example:

I've visited Chinguitty several times .

7. I DO MY HOMEWORK

Re-write each sentence using the verb in the present perfect.

1. You (**to be**) ever to Montreal? (*Interrogative form*)
2. He (**to play**) golf for several years. (*Affirmative form*)
3. She (**to go**) to London twice. (*Negative form*)
4. They (**to have**) just breakfast. (*Affirmative form*)
5. I (**to live**) in Ksar since 2001. (*Negative form*)

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UNIT ONE
LESSON 4

BRAHIM'S
HOMETOWN

I LEARN HOW TO DESCRIBE PEOPLE AND ACTIONS

1. I READ THE TEXT

My name's Brahim. I live in Nouakchott. When I was young, I used to live in Chinguetti- an ancient Islamic town located in northern Mauritania.

It was a pretty town. The streets were clean because people were always meticulously sweeping inside and outside their houses. There were beautiful old houses. There were also many old and famous libraries and a splendid mosque built of stone bricks and mud. People were coming from very remote places to visit and pray in this mosque.

People in Chinguetti were very friendly and open-minded. There were many lovely small inns for the tourist season.

But there were problems in Chinguetti too. Because it is located in the desert, most of the houses in the ancient section of the town were almost buried under dunes. People were always tirelessly pushing back the dunes while the sand storms were continuously blowing and desperately covering the town.

New words and expressions

Pretty	Stone
Clean	Mud
Famous	
Splendid	
Open-minded	
Sand	
Desperately	

2. I KNOW MY VOCABULARY

Exercise:

Find the opposite of the following words in the text:

Dirty
Unknown
Ugly
Narrow-minded
New

3. I UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

Read the text silently and answer the questions:

1. What is the name of Brahim’s hometown?
2. Where is it located?
3. How was it?
4. How were the people?
5. What were the people doing permanently?

4. I CAN INTERACT

In pairs, discuss this statement:

Would you like to live in a town like Chinguitty? Why or Why not?

5. I CAN WRITE

Now, write a story about your town or neighbourhood like the one of Brahim. Try to answer these questionst:

1. What is your town or neighbourhood like?
2. Does it have any problems?
3. Do you like to live there? Why / Why not?

6. I KNOW HOW TO USE

The past progressive affirmative

Subject	Predicate	
	Past form of Be	Base verb + ing
I	was	speeding
You	were	
He/She/It	was	
We	were	
You They		

The past progressive negative

Subject	Predicate	
	Past form of Be+not	Base verb + ing
I	Was not	speeding
You	Were not	
He/She/It	Was	
We	Were not	
You They		

The past progressive: Yes / No questions

Question: Were you speeding?

Answer: Yes, I was - or – No, I wasn't.

Question: Was Aly talking on the phone?

Answer: Yes, he was - or – No, he wasn't.

Question: Were the men waiting?

Answer: Yes, they were – or- No, they weren't.

7. DO MY HOMEWORK

Give the correct past progressive (continuous) of the verbs.

1. Mohamed (**to go**) slowly. (Negative form)
2. The police (**to chase**) him. (Affirmative form)
3. The girls (**to stand**) next to the traffic light. (Interrogative form)
4. They (**to look**) for a bus. (Affirmative form)
5. The woman (**to write**) a check. (Negative form)
6. The bell (**to ring**). (Interrogative form)

UNIT ONE

LESSON 5

THE TWO FRIENDS

I LEARN HOW TO DESCRIBE PEOPLE AND ACTIONS

1. I READ THE TEXT

Mohamed and Ali are from Nouakchott. They are neighbours, and classmates. Both are the same age, about 17 years old. They speak English fluently and are constantly together. Mohamed is tall whereas Ali is rather short. Mohamed has long black hair whereas Ali has curly bushy hair. Like most of the youngsters of their age, they wear blue jeans, chew chewing gum and play football. However, these two boys have different characters. Mohamed is rather shy, speaks slowly, and moves carefully. He used to bend down his head while speaking to people of a certain age and seldom gets angry. But at the same time, he has a strong character. It is almost impossible to get him accept something unless he is convinced of it. He recited the Koran at the age of ten. He is kind and generous. He helps poor people and gives secretly money to beggars. He used to pray at the mosque. He is obedient to his parents.

As for Ali, he is a good looking young man, always smiling, very daring, and rather stubborn. He has a very strong character too,

that is why it is difficult to make him change his mind about something he intends to do. He also went to a Mahadra at an early age, and recited the Koran too. He is aggressive and sometimes bully. However, he is kind and obedient to his mom. His father died along time ago.

The two youngsters love each other and are inseparable both at home and at school.

New words and expressions

Fluently

To be convinced

Beggar

Obedient

To be daring

Stubborn

Bully

Mahadra

2. I KNOW MY VOCABULARY

Choose and fill in the blanks with:

Fluently – obedient – daring - stubborn - beggars.

1. The hunter didn't run away in front of the lion because he was very_____.
2. He speaks Spanish very_____.
3. Fatou is very_____. She never obeys orders.
4. We can find a lot of _____ in front of mosques on Fridays.
5. Nowadays youngsters are not as _____ as they used to be in the past.

3. I UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

Read the text silently and answer the questions:

1. What is the relationship between Mohamed and Ali?
2. Are they of the same age?
3. How old are they exactly?
4. How do they dress?
5. Is there a big difference between the two boys?

4. I CAN INTERACT

Which one of the two boys is more sympathetic to you? Why?

5. I CAN WRITE

In a few lines, compare two friends, relatives or people that you know. (Refer to the text)

6. I KNOW HOW TO USE

-Adverbs of manner

Adjective + ly:

Examples:

Fluent + **ly** = fluently: Aichetou speaks Hassania fluently.

Beautiful + **ly** = beautifully: this young woman sings very beautifully.

7. I DO MY HOMEWORK

Form adverbs of manner with these adjectives:

Careful, exact, proper, shy and quick.

UNIT ONE LESSON 6

VISITING NOUAKCHOTT

I LEARN HOW TO DESCRIBE PEOPLE AND ACTIONS

1. I READ THE DIALOGUE.

One day, Meima visited her cousin Aissata in Nouakchott. She wanted to see and know everything about Nouakchott. So, every evening they went to visit a place in Nouakchott. One afternoon, the two girls decided to visit the beach. They passed by the National Hospital and the tuberculosis and HIV centres. As the car was rolling slowly, Aissata was showing her cousin a few important places on their way.

Aissata: This is the National Hospital.

Meima: It's so big compared to the dispensary of our village.

Aissata: And this is the tuberculosis centre and there you have the HIV centre.

Meima: HIV? How is it possible? I've never thought that there is HIV in our country. Do you think that all these people are HIV infected? They seem to be in good health!

Aissata: I think they are. Anyway, being infected doesn't necessarily mean being sick.

Meima: What do you mean?

Aissata: I mean that you can be with a person infected by the HIV virus without knowing it. They are just like you

and me. In some cases one can live all his life with the HIV virus without showing any symptoms. In general, HIV positive people have to take regularly their medicines in order to slow down the process of the disease, and usually, AIDS treatment is free of charge.

Meima: Tell me, can they transmit the virus to other people?

Aissata: Of course, they can! And this contamination occurs through blood transfusion or sexual intercourse.

Meima: How can we avoid catching the virus?

Aissata: First of all, it is important to underline that our religion forbids sexual intercourse out of marriage. And on the other hand, there are methods of prevention advised by doctors and AIDS specialists. There are radio and TV programmes tackling this issue too.

Meima: From now on, I'll pay more attention to radio and TV programmes dealing with it.



New words and expressions

Beach
HIV positive
Symptom
Free of charge
Prevention

To occur
First of all

2. I KNOW MY VOCABULARY

Use the following words in meaningful sentences:

Beach, symptom, prevention, free of charge and to occur.

3. I UNDERSTAND THE DIALOGUE.

Read the dialogue silently and answer the questions:

1. Who is Meima?
2. What did she want to do?
3. Where is the HIV centre located?
4. Are there many visitors at the HIV centre?
5. What people infected by the HIV virus have to do?
6. Have they to pay for their treatment?
- 7.

4. I CAN INTERACT

“HIV has spread rapidly through the world.”

In groups, discuss the reasons why it spreads so rapidly.

5. I CAN WRITE

In a short paragraph, write about the best methods of prevention.

6. I KNOW HOW TO USE

- Adjectives of description: big, good, beautiful, intelligent etc.

Example:

The National Hospital is so big!

- Adverbs of manner: carefully, nicely, happily etc.

Example:

He has to follow carefully the prescriptions of his doctor.

7. I DO MY HOMEWORK

Give meaningful sentences with:

Happy, big, intelligent, carefully, happily, sadly.

about your town or neighbourhood

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INTEGRATION LESSON

HASSEN'S MISFORTUNE

1. I READ THE TEXT

Hacen is a young man who works for an NGO. He's got a car and rented a nice and small apartment. One day, something terrible happened to him. One Friday night, he decided to go out to attend a concert at the Olympic stadium. He left his apartment around 10 PM. Before going out and, as usual, he locked all the doors and windows. He drove away to the stadium where he arrived half an hour later.

During the concert some people were singing, dancing, others were shouting and clapping their hands. While he was having fun, he remembered that he forgot to lock the kitchen window. Then he decided to go back home. After getting off the car, he was surprised to see that the front door was opened. He rushed into the apartment but it was too late. The burglars had already left. They took with them everything they could. He checked and found out that the TV, the receiver, the computer and a few fancy clothes and shoes were missing. He called the police and told them that he was robbed. They came to his apartment to investigate but there was nothing they could do.

A week later he decided to move out and live in a more secure neighbourhood. He chose carefully an apartment near a police station.

New words and expressions

Rent

To attend

To have fun

Burglar

To check

Fancy

To be robbed

To move out

2. I KNOW MY VOCABULARY

Exercise 1

Choose the correct answer:

1. To clap one's hands:
 - a. to break one's hands
 - b. to applaud
 - c. to wash one's hands
2. To attend a meeting:
 - a. to participate in a meeting
 - b. to miss a meeting
 - c. to boycott a meeting
3. To be robbed:
 - a. to be locked
 - b. to be rubbed
 - c. to be stolen

Exercise 2

Use the following words in meaningful sentences:

NGO, secure, to attend, to have fun, to move out -fancy.

3. I UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

Read the text silently and answer the questions:

1. Does Hacen work for the government?
2. What did Hacen plan to do one Friday night?
3. When did he leave his apartment?
4. What did he do before leaving the apartment?
5. What was the atmosphere like at the concert?
6. What did Hacen remember?
7. What happened when he returned home?
8. What did the burglars take from the house?
9. Who did Hacen call?
10. What did Hacen do a week later?

4. I CAN INTERACT

Tell your neighbour a funny story, a misfortune that happened to you or to someone you know. Allow him/her to react by asking short questions for clarification.

5. I CAN WRITE

Write a short paragraph in which you talk about a past event or story (an incident, a problem an accident, or a misfortune).

6. I KNOW HOW TO USE

- **The simple past at all the forms.**
 - The simple past is used to talk about past when the time of the action is specified. Example: He slept very late last night.
- **The present perfect at all the forms.**
 - The present perfect is used to talk about recent past actions when the time of the action is unspecified. Example: I've lived in Nouakchott for many years.
- **The past continuous at all the forms.**
 - The past continuous is used to talk about simultaneous past actions with while and interrupted actions with when.

Examples: a. while I was watching TV, my sister was fixing some tea.
b. When it began raining I was walking along the street.
- **Time adverbs such as** : already, ago, last, ever etc...

7. I DO MY HOMEWORK

Exercise 1

Rewrite each sentence and use the verb in parenthesis in the correct past tense. (simple past or past continuous)

1. While I (**walk**) in the street, my cell phone rang.
2. The big plane just (**take**) off.
3. We (**see**) this movie recently.
4. In fact, we (**see**) the film 3 days ago.
5. You ever (**eat**) a hamburger?
6. I (**know**) this young man in 2005 while I (**study**) at the University of Nouakchott.

Exercise 2

*Use appropriately these time adverbs in meaningful sentences:
Ago, yet, last year, recently, already, many times, 2005.*

UNIT ONE

EVALUATION EXERCISES

Exercise 1:

Use the verb in the simple past tense with the given form.

1. He (**to turn**) off the light. (*Affirmative form*)
2. Ali (**to watch**) T.V every night (*Negative form*)
3. She (**to study**) abroad (*Interrogative form*)
4. The boy (**to hurry**) out of the classroom (*Affirmative form*)
5. Fatou (**to like**) rice and fish (*Negative form*)
6. We (**decide**) to work during the holidays (*Interrogative form*)
7. They (**to put**) the books on the table (*Affirmative form*)
8. You (**to be**) late today (*Negative form*)
9. I (**to have**) a headache (*Affirmative form*)
10. They (**to go**) to the beach (*Interrogative form*)

Exercise 2:

Use the verb in the past continuous tense with the given form.

1. He (**to drive**) his car (*Affirmative form*)
2. The explorer (**to climb**) up the mountain (*Negative form*)
3. He (**to draw**) a map (*Interrogative form*)
4. We (**to listen**) to the speech (*Negative form*)
5. The engineers (**to build**) barriers (*Affirmative form*)
6. The friend (**to run**) away (*Interrogative form*)
7. The teacher (**to explain**) the lesson (*Affirmative form*)
8. They (**to meet**) the Prime Minister (*Interrogative form*)
9. He (**to speak**) in his telephone (*Negative form*)
10. She (**to travel**) to the south (*Affirmative form*)

Exercise 3:

Use the verb in the present perfect tense with the given form.

1. I (**to cut**) my hair recently (*Affirmative form*)
2. The scientist (**to write**) an article for years (*Interrogative form*)
3. He (**to work**) for this agency since 2006 (*Affirmative form*)
4. She (**to live**) in this neighbourhood for years (*Negative form*)
5. They (**to have**) dinner (*Negative form*)
6. I (**to buy**) just papers to write my letters (*Affirmative form*)
7. The boy (**to watch**) this T.V programme for months (*Interrogative form*)

Exercise 4:

Make up adverbs of manner with the following adjectives:

Correct, steady, regular, slow, loud, careful.