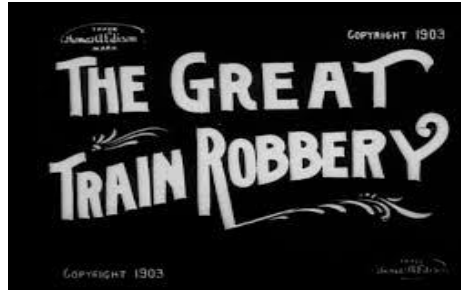




Selecting Verb Tenses and Building Sentences

The Great Train Robbery: The First American Silent "Movie"



Part A. Review section 1.2 (Verbs) of the *Building Sentences* card. Then complete the sentences below with the **simple past** or **present perfect tense** of the verbs in parentheses.

In 1903, the Edison Company (advertise) _____ a new "moving picture" that promised to thrill audiences. Their film, *The Great Train Robbery*, was the first American "movie." It (tell) _____ a story in a sequence of shots. This early film (be) _____ important for two main reasons. First, this movie (establish) _____ a common pattern of events for stories like this: criminals commit a terrible act, the criminals run, and law men bring them to justice in the end.

Since then, many American Western films (copy) _____ this pattern. Second, the film (use) _____ many new techniques for connecting with an audience. For example, the director, Edwin S. Porter, (take)



_____ his crew to ten different locations instead of staying on one set. Using this and other methods, Porter (develop) _____ a new way to tell a story with moving pictures. As a result, thousands of people (go) _____ to see the film in 1903, making it the first American "film event." From then until now, this movie (hold) _____ an important place in film history.

Part B. Watch the film with your class (https://archive.org/details/TheGreatTrainRobbery_555) Then, review sections 1.2 (Verbs) and 1.3 (Combining Sentences...) in the *Building Sentences* card and complete the sentences below about the film. Write a different sentence for each item. Use a dictionary or work with a partner as needed.

1. When the robbers left the train, they escaped into the woods .
simple past tense *simple past tense*

2. _____ when _____ .
simple past tense *simple past tense*

3. When _____ , _____ .
simple past tense *past continuous tense*

4. _____ when _____ .
past continuous tense *simple past tense*

5. While _____ , _____ .
past continuous tense *simple past tense*

6. _____ while _____ .
past continuous tense *past continuous tense*

Hot Tip When you describe the actions in a film or in literature, you can use the past tenses (simple past, past continuous, past perfect, past perfect continuous) or the present tenses (simple present, present continuous, present perfect, present perfect continuous).

Example:

Past:

When the robbers **left** the train, they **escaped** into the woods.

Present:

When the robbers **leave** the train, they **escape** into the woods.

Part C. Rewrite your sentences from Part B using the present tenses.

