

USING VARIOUS TENSES TO TELL A STORY AND/OR DESCRIBE A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xvby6Z0vWmA>

NOT OKAY | Official Trailer | Searchlight Pictures

1) Video-Comprehension: watch the trailer to the film 'Not Okay'.



2) Reading: now look at this summary of the plot.

GET FAMOUS OR LIE TRYING

Danni Sanders **was working** as a Photo Editor at a digital media company called 'Depravity'. She **wanted** to become a writer but her boss **found** her articles 'tone deaf' and 'offensive' and **refused** to publish them. At the age of 27, Danni **had** no friends, no romantic prospects and — worst of all — no followers on Instagram. One day, she **decided** to use her advanced Photoshop skills to make people think she **was attending** a writers' retreat in France because she **wanted** to impress Colin, a guy she **had met** at work, and boost her social media profile. While she **was pretending** to be living in Paris, however, a terrorist attack **rocked** the city, killing dozens of people. Her apparent return to the USA, miraculously unscathed, **provoked** intense media interest, making her 'the girl of the moment'. She **started** telling all sorts of stories to cover up the original lie she **had told**, striking up an unlikely friendship with Rowan, a genuine trauma survivor dedicated to societal change. So, what **should** she **do** now? On the plus side, Danni's new-found fame **has captivated** the man of her dreams, Colin, and, as an influencer and an advocate, Danni **has attained** the kind of lifestyle and audience she **has** always **wanted**. When the truth **comes out**, however, she **learns** the hard way that the Internet **loves** to take down the stars it **creates**, turning victims into villains. As she **says** at the end of the film, "Be careful what you **wish** for..." because you **will** probably **get** it.

3) Grammar

Look at the way the writer uses a variety of tenses to tell the story.

a)

----- PAST CONTINUOUS -----

Danni Sanders **was working** as a Photo Editor at a digital media company called 'Depravity'



SIMPLE PAST

She **wanted** to become a writer
her boss **found** her articles 'tone deaf' and 'offensive'
and **refused** to publish them

b)

----- PAST CONTINUOUS -----

While she **was pretending** to be living in Paris



SIMPLE PAST

a terrorist attack **rocked** the city

c)

PAST PERFECT

a guy she **had met** at work



SIMPLE PAST

she **wanted** to impress Colin

d)

PAST PERFECT

to cover up the original lie she **had told**



SIMPLE PAST

she **started** telling all sorts of stories

e)

RESULT IN THE PRESENT

Danni's new-found fame **has captivated** the man of her dreams

Danni **has attained** the kind of lifestyle and audience

she **has** always **wanted**

f)

PRESENT

the truth **comes out**,

she **learns** the hard way

the Internet **loves** to take down the stars it **creates**

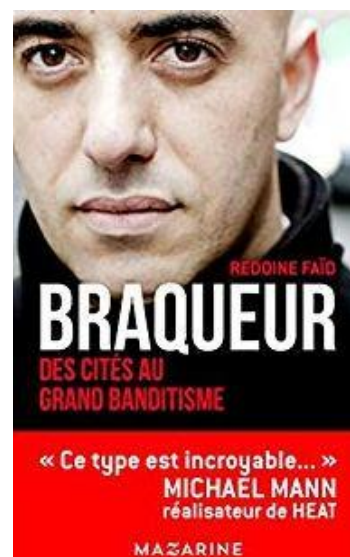
Be careful what you **wish** for...

→

FUTURE

because you **will** probably **get** it.

4) Read the text carefully and put the words in brackets into the correct form

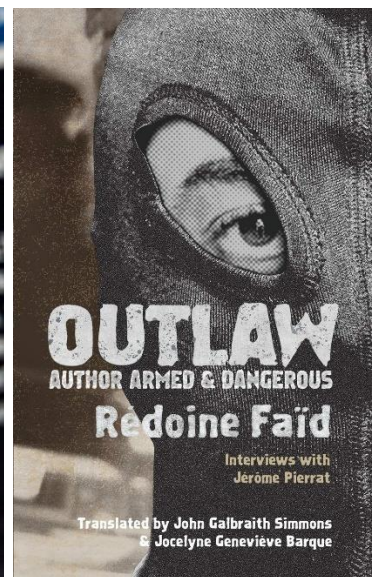


Since he (escape) from a maximum security prison in July 2018, Redoine Faïd (be) France's 'Public Enemy Number One.' He (bear) to Algerian parents on a sad, grey housing estate north of Paris in 1972. He (start) stealing at the age of eight and (deal) drugs continuously throughout his time at secondary school.

Inspired by the film 'Point Break', his career progressed to bank (rob) during which he and friends would wear masks with the faces of former French presidents and leave the scene of the crime with the words: "Thank you for (vote) for me."

The police (be) not amused and, following a short trial, the judge (send) him to jail from 1998 to 2009. After his release, Faïd wrote a book called 'Braqueur' about his life as a professional (crime) and appeared on TV chat shows to promote it. Charming, handsome and well-dressed, he (become) a minor celebrity but all the time he (plan) a series of raids on banks and security vans. The police soon (catch) Faïd and his accomplices, then (arrest) and (incarcerate) them.

In 2013, armed with a pistol and plastic explosives, he (break) out of prison but the police (recapture) him six weeks later and the judge (sentence) him to an extra ten years in jail. This time, he was considered a high-risk (prison), which (mean) that a guard (accompany) him at all times. On July 1st 2018, while his brother (visit) him in the visitors' room, a helicopter (land) in the prison courtyard, two men (arm) with machine-guns (get) out, (go) straight to the visitors' room and (take) Faïd away. It all (happen) so quickly that the guards (can) do nothing to stop it.



Later, detectives (discover) the abandoned helicopter, which his friends (hijack), and a burnt-out getaway car but Faïd and his rescuers (disappear).

Interpol already (issue) a Red Notice for Faïd following his previous escape attempt in 2013 and (redouble) its efforts to find him.

In 2018, the French police somehow (manage) to track him down even though he (live) as a Muslim woman in a burqa. Now back in prison, he (stay) there for a very long time. In the meantime, he (publish) another book about his life of crime: 'Outlaw: Author Armed & Dangerous' (New York, 2020).

Now watch this news report about Redoine Faïd's escape and recapture:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrV4tyeQLc8>

5) THE ANNECY SHOOTINGS: A FRENCH MURDER MYSTERY

TIMELINE OF A MASSACRE

1 Monday, Sep 3: The family arrive in Saint-Jorioz, intending to stay in their caravan at Le Solitaire du Lac campsite until the end of the week

2 Wednesday, Sep 5: During the morning Ikbal Al-Hilli, her mother and her two young daughters are seen picking apples near the campsite

3 Around 1pm: The family drive away from the campsite along a tourist route towards the village of Chevaline

4 An RAF veteran is cycling on the same heavily forested road south of Chevaline and is overtaken by a French cyclist, father-of-three Sylvain Mollier

5 Minutes later he pulls into a forest car park. He sees Mr Mollier lying dead beside the family's bullet-riddled BMW car that still has its engine running.

Slumped over the wheel is the body of Saad Al-Hilli, and in the back seat, those of his wife and mother-in-law.

6 He spots seven-year-old Zainab walking towards him before collapsing. He places her in the recovery position and calls for help.

7 4.20pm: Police arrive but do not disturb the crime scene and leave the car with windows and doors shut as they wait for forensic experts travelling from Paris. Zainab is taken to hospital in Grenoble. Unknown to them, four-year-old Zeena is cowering inside.

8 11pm: The family who had been camping next to the Al-Hillis tell police the family had two children. A helicopter and search dogs scrambled to find Zeena. The helicopter equipped with thermal cameras flies over BMW but fails to detect her hiding inside.

9 Sep 6, midnight: Officers finally open doors of the car and find Zeena hiding beneath her dead mother's legs

- What was the crime?
- Who were the victims?
- When and where did the crime take place?
- Who were the witnesses?

WEBQUEST

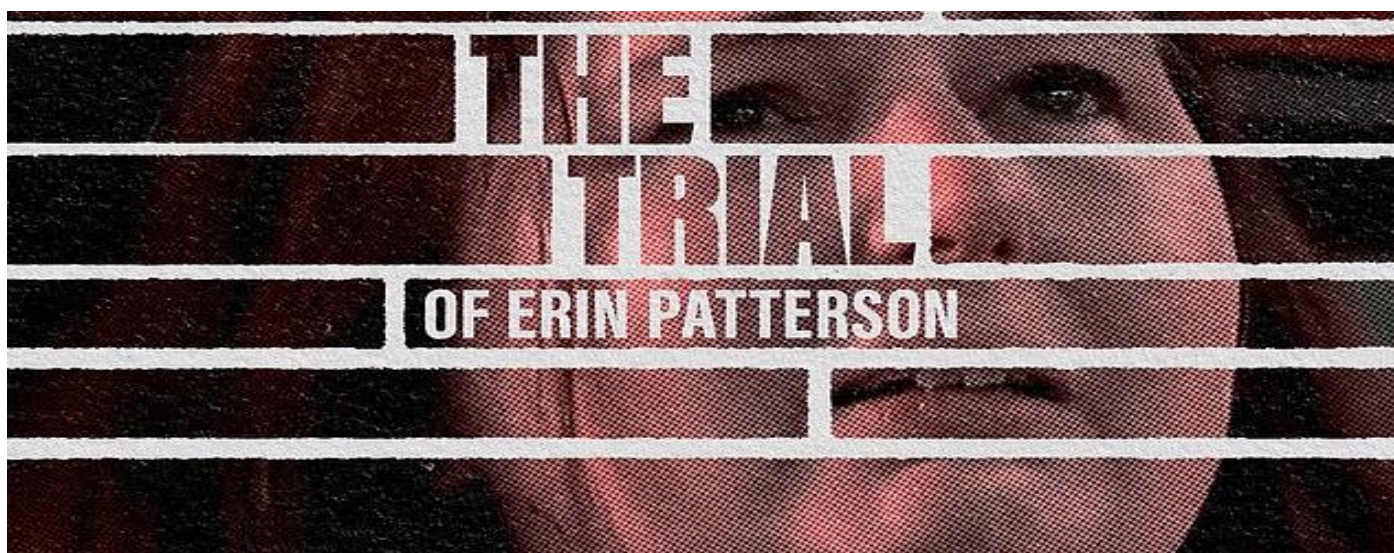
Now search the Internet to discover (i) who the suspects are; (ii) their motives; (iii) their alibis.

Suspect 1. Zaid al-Hilli

Suspect 2. Nordahl Lelandais

Suspect 3. Patrice Menegaldo

THE BEEF WELLINGTON MURDERS



1) Read the text below and put the words in brackets into the correct form

An Australian woman, Erin Patterson, has pleaded (no guilt) to murdering and attempting to murder several members of her husband's family with a poisoned lunch at her home in Leongatha, Victoria.

Gail Patterson, Don Patterson and Heather Wilkinson (kill), while Ian Wilkinson survived after spending a total of seven weeks in hospital. Meanwhile, the alleged target of the assassination attempt — Erin Patterson's former husband — escaped unharmed.

Erin and Simon Patterson (marry) for some years and had two children together but separated in 2015. They apparently had a good relationship but this (deteriorate) in the 12 months before the lunch because of a dispute over child support, and because Erin (move) the children to other schools without telling Simon.

In July 2023, Erin Patterson invited her ex-husband, his parents, his aunt and his uncle, the local church pastor, to lunch at her house (discuss) her recent cancer diagnosis, and how to tell the children. Her medical records show that she (not diagnose) with cancer at all.

In fact, she (prepare) Beef Wellington containing poisonous Death Cap mushrooms. The guests all had large grey plates, which she filled for them with individual portions, while she had a smaller, orange plate, and served herself. The situation changed unexpectedly, however, when Simon Patterson (phone) his ex-wife at the last moment to tell her that he (not come) to lunch, after all.

Erin Patterson continued serving the meal as planned. That night, Mr Wilkinson (be) unwell with vomiting and stomach trouble. Simon Patterson visited his aunt and uncle after discovering that his parents (be) ill the whole night as well. He insisted on calling an ambulance. But the wait for an ambulance was too long, so Simon (drive) them to the nearest hospital himself.



BEEF WELLINGTON

At first, the doctors (treat) them as food poisoning cases with "suspicion falling on the meat". But the next morning, a doctor (tell) them that they had mushroom poisoning and(send) them to a larger hospital in an ambulance where, sadly, three of them died. Strangely enough, Erin Patterson..... (display) no symptoms at all.

When the trial opened, Erin's lawyer claimed that the deaths were the result of a tragic accident and his client had no intention of hurting anyone. It is clear, though, that she (lie) several times to police. For example, although she claimed that she (buy) some of the mushrooms at a "Chinese shop", she (can) not recall which one and the GPS unit on her car revealed that she (visit) an area notorious for its Death Cap fungi, recently.

The jury then (hear) from members of a True Crime Facebook group that included Erin Patterson. One of the witnesses (testify) that Erin (plan) to buy a food dehydrator for her kitchen, and the jury (show) several images, later shared with the group, of mushrooms drying in her new appliance. Later, in a text message, Erin Patterson(say) "I've been hiding powdered mushrooms in everything" — including recipes such as brownies so her children (not know) they were eating them.

The trial continues. If Erin Patterson (find) (guilt) of murdering three people and attempting to murder two more, she (receive) a life sentence.

2) WEBQUEST



Use the Internet to gather information about:

- i) The victims
- ii) The defendant
- iii) The crime
- iv) The evidence
- v) The prosecution case
- vi) The defence case
- vii) The verdict
- viii) The sentence
- ix) The present situation

6) WEBQUEST

Use the Internet to gather information about a case that interests you, concerning:

i) The victim(s)

ii) The defendant(s)

iii) The crime(s)

iv) The evidence

v) The prosecution case

vi) The defence case

vii) The verdict

viii) The sentence

ix) The present situation

Crimes and Criminals

CRIME	CRIMINAL	VERB
Abduction <i>sequestro</i>	Abductor <i>sequestratore</i>	To abduct <i>sequestrare</i>
Arson <i>incendio doloso</i>	Arsonist <i>incendario / piromane</i>	To commit arson / set fire to sth. <i>appiccare un incendio</i>
Assault <i>aggressione</i>	Assailant <i>aggressore</i>	To assault s.o. <i>aggreire q.uno</i>
Blackmail <i>ricatto</i>	Blackmailer <i>ricattatore</i>	To blackmail <i>ricattare</i>
Burglary <i>furto con scasso</i>	Burglar <i>scassinatore</i>	To burgle <i>scassinare / svaligiare</i>
Embezzlement <i>peculato / appropriazione indebita</i>	Embezzler <i>malversatore</i>	To embezzle <i>appropriarsi indebitamente</i>
Espionage <i>spionaggio</i>	Spy <i>spia</i>	To spy <i>spiare</i>
Evasion (of service of sentence) <i>latitanza</i>	Fugitive from justice <i>latitante</i>	To flee from custody / evade justice <i>latitare / essere latitante</i>
Extortion <i>estorsione</i>	Extortioner <i>estorsore</i>	To extort <i>estorcere</i>
Forgery <i>falsificazione</i> <i>contraffazione</i>	Forger Counterfeiter <i>falsario / contraffattore</i>	To forge To counterfeit <i>falsificare / contraffare</i>
Fraud <i>frode / truffa</i>	Fraudster / Swindler <i>truffatore / imbroglione</i> <i>frodatore</i>	To defraud To swindle <i>frodare / truffare</i>
Hijacking <i>dirottamento</i>	Hijacker <i>dirottatore</i>	To hijack <i>dirottare</i>
Kidnapping <i>sequestro</i>	Kidnapper <i>sequestratore</i>	To kidnap <i>sequestrare</i>
Money laundering <i>riciclaggio di denaro sporco</i>	Money launderer <i>riciclatore di denaro</i>	To launder money <i>riciclare denaro</i>
Murder / homicide = <i>omicidio / assassinio</i> Manslaughter = <i>omicidio colposo</i>	Murderer <i>omicida / assassino</i>	To murder <i>uccidere / assassinare</i>
Pickpocketing <i>borseggio</i>	Pickpocket <i>borsaiolo/a</i> <i>borseggiatore/trice</i>	To pick people's pockets <i>borseggiare</i>
Robbery <i>rapina</i>	Robber <i>rapinatore</i>	To rob <i>rapinare</i>
Shoplifting <i>taccheggio</i>	Shoplifter <i>taccheggiatore</i>	To shoplift <i>taccheggiare / rubare</i>
Smuggling <i>contrabbando</i>	Smuggler <i>contrabbandiere</i>	To smuggle <i>contrabbandare</i>
Stalking <i>stalking</i>	Stalker <i>stalker</i>	To stalk s.o. <i>fare stalking a q.uno</i> <i>stalkerare</i>
Tax evasion <i>evasione delle tasse</i>	Tax evader <i>Evasore fiscale</i>	To evade taxes <i>evadere le tasse / frodare il fisco</i>
Theft <i>furto</i>	Thief <i>ladro</i>	To steal <i>rubare</i>
Trafficking / drug trafficking / people trafficking / organ trafficking <i>traffico / di droga / di persone / di organi</i>	Trafficker <i>trafficante</i>	To traffick <i>trafficare</i>
Treason / High Treason / Treachery <i>alto tradimento</i>	Traitor <i>traditore</i>	To betray <i>tradire</i>
Vandalism / criminal damage <i>vandalismo / atti vandalici</i>	Vandal <i>vandalo</i>	To vandalize sth. <i>vandalizzare qualcosa</i> <i>commettere atti vandalici</i>

iii) Adverbial Expressions of Place Introduced by a Preposition. An adverbial expression of place introduced by a preposition may be put in **Position I** for emphasis and/or dramatic effect. This adverbial should be followed by the verb and then the subject.

In the dock, stood the accused.

Next to the defence lawyer, sat his client.

In his pocket, were the stolen watches.

At the end of the trial, came the verdict.

EXERCISES

1. Adverbs and Adverbials in Position 1. Form sentences by putting these phrases in the correct order.

- a) arrived in court / I / as the jury / fortunately / gave their verdict
- b) and money-laundering is rare / in fact / tax evasion is common
- c) manslaughter / is / basically / unintentional homicide
- d) thought / to be honest / I / treason / was no longer a crime
- e) the contradictory evidence / notwithstanding / the jury / still / guilty / the accused / found

2. Negative or Restrictive Adverbials in Position 1. Now complete these sentences in a logical way.

- a) Under no circumstances
- b) Not only but also.
- c) No sooner than
- d) So that
- e) Only in this way

5) DISCUSSION

Think about

- (i) Stalking
- (ii) Extortion
- (iii) Vandalism
- (iv) Hijacking

Explain, (a) what does the criminal usually do

- (b) what the victim should do
- (c) what the police will probably do
- (d) what the police probably won't do

6) PRACTICE ACTIVITY

Now put the words and phrases in brackets in the correct place in each sentence.

- 1) He is a habitual criminal. He commits (frequently / burglary).
- 2) He can (also / pick people's pockets / very well).
- 3) The drug-dealers didn't (have the chance / often / to launder their money).
- 4) He worked (for many years / in Indonesia / as a smuggler).
- 5) The thieves parked (carelessly / outside the airport / their getaway car).
- 6) The bank robbery began (at the Lugano branch / unexpectedly / at 10 a.m.).
- 7) Jurors should be (at eight thirty / at the main entrance / ready and waiting).
- 8) The clients (rarely / for their appointments / late / were).
- 9) I have (about the verdict / informed / already / the victim's family).
- 10) I shall (my first case / forget / of arson / never).
- 11) She (remember / always / will / the victims' names).
- 12) You ought (about / told / never / to have / the police / your previous conviction).
- 13) The police officers (very efficient / all / and polite / were).
- 14) My neighbours (to tidy up / after the burglary / all / lent a hand).
- 15) I (hate / really / reading / about violent crime / newspaper stories).
- 16) Not only (the victim robbed / was / also / she was assaulted / but).
- 17) "I don't want to do jury service." "....." (I / do / neither).
- 18) No sooner (than / had I entered the bank / the robbery started).
- 19) The hijackers will (blow up / probably / the plane).
- 20) The police (save the hostages / won't / in time / probably).