

Grammar

Past simple, past continuous or past perfect? The World's worst tourist

The least successful tourist the world **has ever seen** (ever / see) is Mr Nicholas Scotti of San Francisco. In 1877 he **decided** (decide) to visit his relatives who **lived** (live) in his native Italy.



While the plane **was taking** (take) him to Rome, it **stopped** (stop) for fuel at New York. Because he **had not visited** (not visit) Italy since he **was** (be) a small child and he **had never gone** (go) to New York, he **got** (get) out of plane, believing he **had already arrived** (arrive) in Rome. When he **saw** (see) that his nephews **were not** (be) there to meet him he **thought** (think) the heavy Roman traffic **had delayed** (delay) them. While he **was looking** (look) for their address he **noticed** (notice) that modernisation **had got** (get) rid of the ancient city's most famous sights. He also **noticed** (notice) that many people **spoke / (were speaking)** (speak) English with an American accent, but he **thought** (think) that Americans **travelled** (travel) a great deal. What's more, he **saw** (see) that all the signs **were**

(be) in English, probably for the benefit of the tourists. Mr Scotti **spoke** (speak) very little English himself so when he **needed** (need) to find out the way to the bus station he **asked** (ask) a policeman, in Italian. By chance, the policeman **came** (come) from Naples and **replied** (reply) fluently in Italian. But a second policeman **spoke** (speak) to him in English, and Mr Scotti **got** (get) rather angry that the Rome police force **had employed** (employ) someone who **did not know** (not know) any Italian. Even after the police **had explained** (explain) to him what **had happened** (happen), he **refused** (refuse) to believe them. While they **were taking** (take) him to the airport in a police-car, with its sirens screaming, he **said** (say) 'Look! I know I'm in Italy. That's how they drive.'

Vocabulary

False Friends – Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

professor / teacher

A The **teacher** at my young daughter's school only graduated from university last year.

B Tolkien became a **professor** of English at Oxford in 1945.

eventually / possibly

A We'll **possibly** get married next year, or perhaps the year after.

B After working all night, he **eventually** finished all his work.

legend / key

A The dangerous ring in Mordor, the land of darkness and evil, is a **legend** created by Tolkien in The Lord of the Rings.

B The **key** at the bottom of the map shows what the little symbols mean.

success / event

A The Academy Awards are an annual **event**.

B The difference between **success** and failure is often very small.

sympathetic / sensible / sensitive

My cousin's so easily hurt... she's so **sensitive** I think we should feel more **sympathetic** towards her. It's the most **sensible** thing for us to do.

build / complexion

Marta is a woman of slender **build**, but she never goes sunbathing. Look at her pale **complexion**!