

Timeout
By Susan Gaer

“You will sit on the porch until you apologize.” It was a very hot day and I had done something very wrong. I don’t quite remember what it was, but it was something very serious. This was in the early 1960s and I was probably about 5 years old. I lived in New York and it was in the summer. My sisters and brothers had gone to the public swimming pool and I was stuck on the porch outside. I could not go swimming, I could not leave the porch and I could not even get a drink of water. I just had to sit on that porch until I apologized.

My father came out a few minutes after I was put on the porch and tried to get me to apologize. I was wearing a very fancy dress and was sweating a lot. However, I never apologized. I sweated the whole day and stayed on the porch until dinnertime. This is something that happened to me as a child that I have never forgotten.



In your group, look at the paragraph and underline all the verbs.

How many verbs are there?

What verb tenses are they?

Why is that verb tense used?

