

## “THE GIFT OF THE MAGI” BY O. HENRY: LISTENING EXERCISE

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Listen to the following information while you follow along with the text below.

Underline any words that you hear that are different from what you see.

Jim was never late.

Della holded the watch chain in her hand and sitted near the door where he always entered. Then she heared his step in the hall and her face losed color for a moment. She often sayed little prayers quietly about simple everyday things.

And now she sayed: “Please God, make him think I’m still pretty.”

The door opened and Jim stepped in.

Listen again and write the correct forms of the words you underlined.

held  
sat  
heard  
lost  
said  
said

**What do you notice about the words you underlined? What do they have in common?**

They are all incorrect forms of irregular past tense verbs (simple past tense); the underlined verbs in the text were incorrectly formed as regular past tense verbs.

Text and audio excerpts from “Gift of the Magi” from *The Gift of the Magi and Other Stories* by O. Henry; published by the Office of English Language Programs, U.S. Department of State

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