

Simple Past Exercises

Level: A1, A2

Name: _____ Date: _____

How the simple past works

Use the simple past for finished actions at a finished time: yesterday, last year, in 2010, two hours ago.

Regular verbs: base verb + -ed: work → worked, play → played, stop → stopped

Irregular verbs: special forms to learn: go → went, see → saw, have → had, buy → bought

Negative: didn't + base verb: I didn't see him (not 'didn't saw')

Question: Did + subject + base verb: Did you like the film?

Be: was or were: I was, he was, you were, they were. Negative: wasn't, weren't. Question: Was she at home?

Signal words: yesterday, last night/week/year, two days ago, in 1999

Exercise 1: Choose the correct form

Select the correct option to complete each sentence.

1. They ___ to the beach yesterday.
a) go b) goed c) went
2. I ___ my keys yesterday.
a) lost b) losed c) lose
3. ___ you ___ the new film at the cinema?
a) Did / saw b) Did / see c) Do / saw
4. She ___ come to the party because she was tired.
a) didn't b) doesn't c) don't
5. We ___ at a small hotel last summer.
a) stay b) stayed c) staied
6. What time ___ the film start last night?
a) did b) was c) does
7. My parents ___ at home yesterday.
a) was b) were c) are

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences

Type the simple past form of the verb in parentheses.

8. Yesterday I ___ up at 6 a.m. (get)
9. She ___ me a long letter last week. (write)

10. The children ___ football in the park all afternoon. (play)
11. We ___ dinner at nine and went to bed early. (have)
12. The bus ___ at every stop this morning. (stop)
13. My brother ___ very tired last night. (be)

Exercise 3: Put the words in order

Click the words in the correct order to build the sentence.

14. Put the words in the correct order: **last night. / We / a film / watched**

15. Put the words in the correct order: **did / arrive? / When / you**

16. Put the words in the correct order: **didn't / The train / on time. / leave**

17. Put the words in the correct order: **ago. / moved / They / two years / to Canada**

Exercise 4: True or false?

Decide if each statement about the simple past is true or false.

18. "I didn't went to school yesterday" is correct. True / False
19. Regular verbs form the simple past by adding -ed. True / False
20. The past of 'be' is 'was' for I/he/she/it and 'were' for you/we/they. True / False
21. We use the simple past with 'tomorrow'. True / False

Answer key

Exercise 1: Choose the correct form

1. c) went
2. a) lost
3. b) Did / see
4. a) didn't
5. b) stayed
6. a) did
7. b) were

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences

8. got
9. wrote
10. played
11. had
12. stopped
13. was

Exercise 3: Put the words in order

14. We watched a film last night.
15. When did you arrive?
16. The train didn't leave on time.
17. They moved to Canada two years ago.

Exercise 4: True or false?

18. False
19. True
20. True
21. False