

Simple Past Exercises

Level: A1, A2

How the simple past works

The simple past describes finished actions and situations 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 memorise: 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 enjoy the film?

Signal words: yesterday, last night/week/year, ago, in 1999, when I was a child

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, so I couldn't open the door.
a) lost b) losed c) loose
3. ___ you ___ the new film at the cinema?
a) Did / saw b) Did / see c) Do / saw
4. She ___ come to the meeting because she was ill.
a) didn't b) doesn't c) don't
5. We ___ at a small hotel near the station.
a) stay b) stayed c) staid

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences

Type the simple past form of the verb in brackets.

6. Yesterday I ___ up at 6 a.m. (wake)
7. She ___ me a long e-mail last week. (write)
8. The children ___ football in the park all afternoon. (play)
9. We ___ dinner at nine and went to bed early. (have)
10. The bus ___ at every single stop this morning. (stop)

Exercise 3: Put the words in order

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

11. Put the words in the correct order: **last night / we / a movie / watched**

12. Put the words in the correct order: **did / arrive / when / you / ?**

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

14. 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.

15. "I didn't went to school yesterday" is correct. True / False

16. Regular verbs form the simple past by adding -ed. True / False

17. The past of 'be' is 'was' for I/he/she/it and 'were' for you/we/they. True / False

18. We use the simple past with 'since yesterday'. 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

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences

6. woke
7. wrote
8. played
9. had
10. stopped

Exercise 3: Put the words in order

11. we watched a movie last night
12. when did you arrive ?
13. the train didn't leave on time
14. they moved to Canada two years ago

Exercise 4: True or false?

15. False
16. True
17. True
18. False