Past Simple Exercises: 4-Page PDF Pack

Four pages of past simple (simple past tense) exercises in one free PDF: was / were, regular and irregular verbs, negatives and questions with did, and a mixed test. The four A1 worksheets each have an answer key printed at the bottom.

ENGLISH GRAMMAR · A1

Past Simple

1. Past simple: was / were
2. Past simple: regular and irregular
3. Past simple: negatives and questions
4. Past simple: mixed test

4 printable worksheets · answer keys included

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GRAMMAR · PAST SIMPLE · A1 Name: _____ Date: _____

Past simple: was / were

Focus: Past simple of be: was / were, wasn't / weren't, questions and short answers.

GRAMMAR

+ I / he / she / it **was** · you / we / they **were**: I **was** tired. We **were** at a concert.
- **wasn't** / **weren't**: It **wasn't** late. They **weren't** at school. (wasn't = was not, weren't = were not)
? **Was** she at home? Yes, she **was**. / No, she **wasn't**. Where **were** you?

1 Choose the correct word.

Example: Anna _____ on holiday last week. (was / were) → was

1. The concert _____ very good last night. (was / were)
2. Lena and I _____ at a party on Friday. (was / were)
3. Tom _____ at the gym yesterday. (wasn't / weren't)
4. _____ you late for the film last night? (Was / Were)
5. The shops _____ open last Sunday. (wasn't / weren't)
6. My brother _____ in Rome in 2020. (was / were)

2 Complete with was, were, wasn't or weren't.

Example: The film _____ boring. It was really good. → wasn't

1. My pizza _____ cold and the chips were cold too.
2. It _____ sunny on Saturday. It was grey and wet.
3. Our neighbours _____ at home last night. They were at the theatre.
4. We _____ both very tired, so we were in bed at nine.
5. Was Omar at the meeting yesterday? No, he _____.
6. Were the tickets expensive? Yes, they _____.

3 Monday morning at work — Complete the dialogue with was, were, wasn't or weren't.

Ken: Morning, Maria. How _____ your weekend?
Maria: Great, thanks. I was at my sister's house by the sea.
Ken: Nice! Were your children there too?
Maria: No, they _____. They _____ with my parents. Where _____ you on Saturday?
Ken: At work! I _____ here in the office all day.
Maria: Oh no! So it _____ a good weekend for you.

ANSWER KEY

1 1 was, 2 were, 3 wasn't, 4 Were, 5 weren't, 6 was **2** 1 was, 2 wasn't, 3 weren't, 4 were, 5 wasn't, 6 were **3** 1 was, 2 weren't, 3 were, 4 were, 5 was, 6 wasn't

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GRAMMAR · PAST SIMPLE · A1 Name: _____ Date: _____

Past simple: regular and irregular

Focus: Affirmative sentences: regular verbs + -ed (spelling rules), six irregular verbs, yesterday / last / ago.

GRAMMAR

Regular: work → work**ed** · live → live**d** · stop → sto**pped** (short verb, 1 vowel + 1 consonant)
Consonant + y: study → stud**ied** · vowel + y: play → play**ed**
Irregular: go → **went** · have → **had** · see → **saw** · buy → **bought** · come → **came** · take → **took**
Time words: **yesterday** · **last** night / week / Sunday · two days / an hour **ago**

1 Write the past simple of the verbs in the correct column.

Example: help → helped (+ -ed)

carry watch plan like shop arrive clean try

+ -ed (worked)	+ -d (lived)	y → -ied (studied)	double + -ed (stopped)

2 Complete with the past simple of the regular verbs.

Example: We _____ (work) in the garden three days ago. → worked

1. Maria _____ (cook) dinner for six people last Saturday.
2. I _____ (wash) all the windows two days ago.
3. We _____ (tidy) the living room yesterday morning.
4. Ali _____ (phone) his sister an hour ago.
5. They _____ (stay) at home last weekend.
6. Lena _____ (walk) to the supermarket yesterday afternoon.

3 Complete with the past simple of the irregular verbs.

1. Our friends _____ (come) to our flat last Friday.
2. I _____ (buy) some bread and cheese yesterday.
3. We _____ (have) a big breakfast last Sunday.
4. David _____ (take) his dog to the park an hour ago.
5. She _____ (see) her neighbours in the garden two days ago.
6. Tom and Sara _____ (go) to bed early last night.

ANSWER KEY

1 + -ed (worked): watched, cleaned | + -d (lived): liked, arrived | y → -ied (studied): carried, tried | double + -ed (stopped): planned, shopped **2** 1 cooked, 2 washed, 3 tidied, 4 phoned, 5 stayed, 6 walked **3** 1 came, 2 bought, 3 had, 4 took, 5 saw, 6 went

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GRAMMAR · PAST SIMPLE · A1 Name: _____ Date: _____

Past simple: negatives and questions

Focus: didn't + verb; Did + subject + verb?; short answers (Yes, I did. / No, I didn't.); Wh- questions with did.

GRAMMAR

- **didn't** (did not) + verb: She **didn't go**. (not: didn't went) We **didn't see** the castle.
? **Did** + subject + verb: **Did** you **swim**? Yes, I **did**. / No, I **didn't**.
Wh-: Where **did** he **stay**? What **did** they **eat**?

1 Complete with did or didn't and the verb in brackets.

Example: We _____ (not / stay) in a hotel. → didn't stay · _____ she _____ (like) it? → Did / like

1. I _____ (not / visit) the museum yesterday. It's closed on Mondays.
2. Elena _____ (not / swim) in the sea last week. She doesn't like cold water.
3. They _____ (not / buy) any souvenirs at the airport.
4. _____ you _____ (enjoy) the boat trip? Yes, I _____.
5. _____ Omar _____ (take) many photos? No, he _____.
6. What _____ they _____ (see) in the old town?
7. When _____ Ken _____ (go) to Italy?

2 Put the words in order to make questions.

Example: go / did / to the beach / she / ? → Did she go to the beach?

1. by plane / you / travel / did / ?

_____

2. the castle / did / when / visit / they / ?

_____

3. buy / what / at the market / did / Anna / ?

_____

3 Match the questions and the answers.

1. Where did you stay in Greece?	a. A lot of fish and fresh fruit.
2. How did you get there?	b. Late on Sunday evening.
3. What did you eat?	c. My brother and his wife.
4. Did you like the food?	d. In a small flat near the beach.
5. Who did you go with?	e. By train. It took six hours.
6. When did you get home?	f. Yes, I did. It was very good.

ANSWER KEY

1 1 didn't visit, 2 didn't swim, 3 didn't buy, 4 Did / enjoy / did, 5 Did / take / didn't, 6 did / see, 7 did / go **2** 1 Did you travel by plane? | 2 When did they visit the castle? | 3 What did Anna buy at the market? **3** 1 d, 2 e, 3 a, 4 f, 5 c, 6 b

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GRAMMAR · PAST SIMPLE · A1 Name: _____ Date: _____

Past simple: mixed test

Focus: Mixed test: was / were, regular and irregular verbs, negatives and questions. Score: __ / 20.

Lena's diary: my first day

Last Monday was my first day at a new job. I took the bus at seven and arrived early. My manager, Sara, showed me my desk. My colleagues were very friendly. My computer didn't work, so I used Tom's laptop. We had lunch in a café near the office. I went home at five, tired but happy.

1 Read the text. Tick true (T) or false (F). (5 points)

1. Lena went to work by bus. ☐ T ☐ F
2. Lena was late on the first day. ☐ T ☐ F
3. Lena's colleagues were friendly. ☐ T ☐ F
4. Lena's computer worked well. ☐ T ☐ F
5. Lena had lunch in the office. ☐ T ☐ F

2 Complete with the past simple. Write negatives with n't. (7 points)

Example: I _____ (not / have) time for a break. → didn't have · _____ (he / be) busy? → Was he

1. My train _____ (be) twenty minutes late yesterday.
2. Omar _____ (buy) a sandwich at the station last Friday.
3. David _____ (not / come) to work last week.
4. _____ (you / be) at your desk an hour ago?
5. Maria _____ (plan) the meeting two days ago.
6. Where _____ she _____ (work) last year?
7. Our managers _____ (not / be) in the office yesterday.

3 Correct the sentences. One word is wrong. Change that word. (2 points each)

Example: I goed to the bank yesterday. → I went to the bank yesterday.

1. We didn't went out for lunch yesterday.

2. Was Tom and Anna both late for work last Tuesday?

3. Ali studyed English after work last year.

4. Did she liked her new colleagues?

ANSWER KEY

1 1 T, 2 F, 3 T, 4 F, 5 F **2** 1 was, 2 bought, 3 didn't come, 4 Were you, 5 planned, 6 did / work, 7 weren't **3** 1 We didn't go out for lunch yesterday. | 2 Were Tom and Anna both late for work last Tuesday? | 3 Ali studied English after work last year. | 4 Did she like her new colleagues?

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