

GRAMMAR

More irregular verbs in the past simple

LEVEL

Elementary (A2)

NUMBER

EN_A2_1093G

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can give the past simple forms of some common irregular verbs.
- I can form negatives and questions in the past simple.





Past simple review quiz

Match the verb (1-5) with its past simple form (a-e).



1 eat

2 go

3 see

4 say

5 be

a saw

b said

c was / were

d went

e ate

Bonus question: Do you remember when we use the past simple?



New irregular past simple forms

- Irregular past simple forms do **not** end in **-ed** or **-d**.

Verb	Past simple
draw	Last week, I drew a picture of the beach.
throw	Sophie threw the ball to Mary.
wake up	We woke up early yesterday.
take	They took the train to the airport.
swim	Tom swam in the sea lots on holiday.



More irregular past simple forms

- Here are some more irregular past simple forms. They all have a silent **-gh** sound.

Verb	Past simple
catch	I caught the bus to work yesterday.
bring	Tom brought me a gift from Hong Kong.
fight	My sister and I fought a lot as children.
think	Sarah thought it was 9 pm, not 8.
teach	We taught English in China for 10 years.



Sadly, you have to learn the irregular forms by heart. There aren't many rules!



Give the past simple form

catch

take

throw

fight

swim

think

bring

wake up

draw

teach

Fill in the gaps with the past simple form

1. Last week, when we played against the other school, our team _____ by ten points.
2. I'm sorry I'm so tired. I _____ very early this morning.
3. They _____ Thai food last night.
4. We _____ to Australia last year.
5. She _____ across the lake to win the race.
6. He _____ part in a marathon last month.



go

take

eat

wake up

swim

win



Make a past simple sentence

1 I / swim / ocean ➤ I **swam** in the Pacific Ocean last week.

2 Ahmed / win / competition ➤ _____

3 We / eat / fancy restaurant ➤ _____

4 The kids / draw / animals ➤ _____

5 I / bring / my husband ➤ _____

6 My friend / teach / French ➤ _____

7 We / throw / party ➤ _____

8 They / take / the car ➤ _____

Choose a photo

Write the rest of the story based on the box.

First, the little boy went to play outside and then he...



The man sat down in the café and looked at the menu....



Negatives

- For **negatives** in the past simple, we use **didn't** + **bare infinitive** of the main verb.

Affirmative	Negative
I ate dinner last night.	I didn't eat dinner last night.
I saw Ellen yesterday.	I didn't see Ellen yesterday.
I drew two pictures last week.	I didn't draw two pictures last week.
I woke up late this morning.	I didn't wake up late this morning.



Yes/no questions

- For **yes/no questions** in the past simple, we use **did** + subject + **bare infinitive** of the main verb.

Affirmative	Yes/no question
I ate dinner last night.	Did you eat dinner last night?
I saw Ellen yesterday.	Did you see Ellen yesterday?
I drew two pictures last week.	Did you draw two pictures last week?
I woke up late this morning.	Did you wake up late this morning?



Wh- questions


- For **wh- questions** in the past simple, we use the same structure.
- Just **add** the **wh- question** to the beginning of the question.

Affirmative	Wh- question
I ate at a pizzeria last night.	Where did you eat last night?
I saw Ellen yesterday.	Who did you see yesterday?
I drew two pictures last week.	How many pictures did you draw last week?
I woke up at 7 a.m. this morning.	When did you wake up this morning?

Avoid this common mistake.



Where did you eat last night?



Make the sentence negative

1 The team won first prize.



The team **didn't** win first prize.

2 We swam in the lake last weekend.



3 Mohammed took part in the meeting.



4 Susie ate spicy food last night.



5 You taught Spanish in Chile last year.



6 They woke up on time for work.



7 I brought food to the office today.



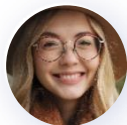
8 Paula drew a circle in the sand.





Write the question for each answer

Use the question words below.



1.

I saw Marta and Carlos at the party.

We woke up early to catch a flight this morning.



2.



3.

Audrey taught Chemistry and Physics.

I won \$10,000 on the lottery. I can't believe it!



4.

1. (who)

2. (why)

3. (what)

4. (how much)



Fill in the gaps

- 1 What did you _____ for breakfast yesterday?
- 2 When did you last _____ a really long train ride?
- 3 What time did you _____ last Sunday?
- 4 What _____ your favourite subjects at school?
- 5 What was the last film you _____ at the cinema?
- 6 Where did you _____ on holiday last year?

go
have
were
take
saw
wake up



Choose three questions

Ask a classmate in **breakout rooms** or **together as a class**.

1

What did you **have** for breakfast yesterday?

2

When did you last **take** a really long train ride?

3

What time did you **wake up** last Saturday?

4

What **were** your favourite subjects at school?

5

What was the last film you **saw** at the cinema?

6

Where did you **go** on holiday last year?

Take turns asking and answering questions.



Past simple of *to be*

- For **negatives** with the verb *to be* in the past simple, add **not** after **was** or **were**.

Affirmative	Negative
I was a big fan of rock music.	I wasn't a big fan of rock music.
Paul was a good student.	Paul wasn't a good student.
We were on the school football team.	We weren't on the school football team.
There were a lot of people at the match.	There weren't a lot of people at the match.



We often shorten **was/were not**
to **wasn't/weren't**



Past simple of *to be*

- For questions, simply **invert** the **verb** and the subject.

Affirmative	Question
I was a big fan of rock music.	Were you a big fan of rock music?
Paul was a good student.	Was Paul a good student?
We were on the school football team.	Were you on the school football team?
There were a lot of people at the match.	Were there a lot of people at the match?



Rewrite the sentence

Make the sentence about the past.

1 My mother is a businessperson.



My mother **was** a businessperson.

2 Sam and Sindy aren't friends.



3 It is a rainy day.



4 Is your grandmother rich?



5 There are 40 people in my team.



6 I'm not tired at all.



7 Are you happy working there?



8 Rebecca isn't at the office.

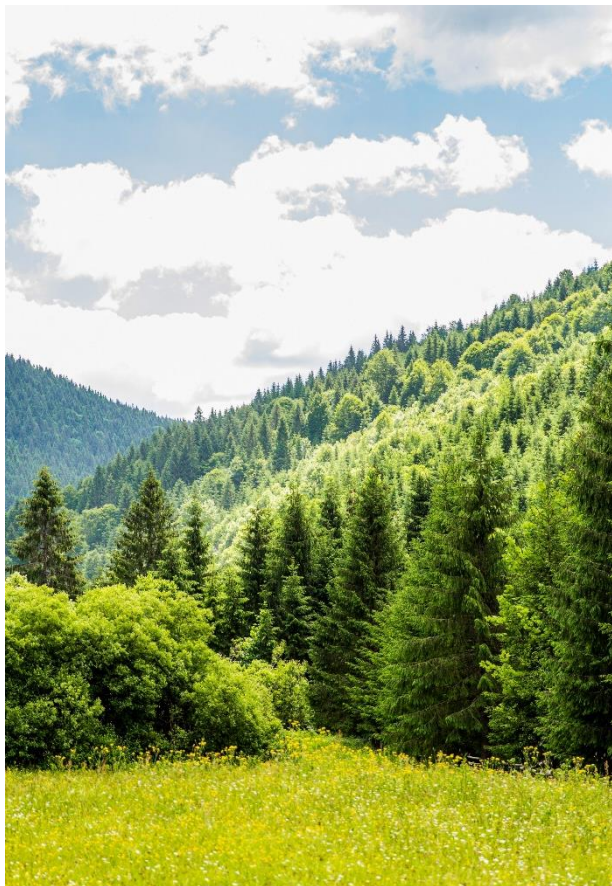






Choose two cards

1. **Form** two questions about the past using the verb *to be*.
2. **Ask** and **answer** with a classmate.



As a child, were you shy or talkative?

I was definitely quite shy!

Fan of music or films?

Shy or talkative?

Good or bad student?

Indoors or outdoors?



Guessing game

Choose three time phrases. **Write** a sentence about what you did at each time.

in the year
2000

when I was 16

last week

last month

in January

yesterday

Share your sentences **without** saying the time. Can anyone guess when it was?



End of the lesson

Idiom

to throw in the towel

Meaning: to admit defeat and stop trying

Example: We **threw in the towel** after we lost all of our matches.



Additional practice



Categorise the verbs

Regular past simple form	Irregular past simple form
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

to be

to take

to say

to walk

to win

to swim

to see

to climb

to catch

to cook





When was the last time you...?

Ask and **answer** questions using the phrases.

swim in the sea?

take a photo?

win a competition?

go abroad?

Ex.

When was the last time
you **swam** in the sea?



Find the 3 mistakes

Write the correct form.

When I were little, I went to a lot of
baseball games. I play on a team with my
younger brother. During our first game, he
hit the ball very hard. It goes over the heads
of all the other players!





Look at the picture

Write a short story about it. **Aim** to write 50-70 words.

A white sheet of paper with horizontal lines, designed for writing a story. The top-left corner is folded over, and the paper is set against a light blue background.



Answer key

P. 3 1. e, 2. d, 3. a, 4. b, 5. c;

Past simple = used for actions, events or states that **finished** in the past.

P. 6 catch = caught; take = took; throw = threw; fight = fought; swim = swam; think = thought; bring = brought; wake up = woke up; drew = drew; teach = taught

P. 7: 1. won; 2. woke up; 3. ate; 4. went; 5. swam; 6. took

P. 14: 2. We didn't swim in the lake last weekend.
3. Mohammed didn't take part in the meeting.
4. Susie didn't eat spicy food last night.
5. You didn't teach Spanish in Chile last year.
6. They didn't wake up on time for work.
7. I didn't bring food to the office today.
8. Paul didn't draw a circle in the sand.

P. 15: 1. Who did you see at the party?
2. Why did you wake up early this morning?
3. What did Audrey teach?
4. How much did you win on the lottery?



Answer key

P. 16: 1. have; 2. take; 3. wake up; 4. were; 5. saw; 6. go

P. 20: 2. Sam and Sindy weren't friends.
3. It was a rainy day.
4. Was your grandmother rich?
5. There were 40 people in my team.
6. I wasn't tired at all.
7. Were you happy working there?
8. Rebecca wasn't at the office.

P. 26: **Regular:** walked, climbed, cooked

Irregular: was/were, took, said, won, swam, saw, caught

P. 28: When I was little, I went to a lot of baseball games. I played on a team with my younger brother. During our first game, he hit the ball very hard. It went over the heads of all the other players!



Summary

Irregular verbs in the past simple

- draw > **drew**; throw > **threw**; take > **took**;
- wake up > **woke up**; swim > **swam**
- catch > **caught**; bring > **brought**;
- fight > **fought**; think > **thought**; teach > **taught**

Negatives in the past simple

- For **negatives**, use **didn't** + **bare infinitive**.
- *They brought a gift. → They **didn't** bring a gift.*

Questions in the past simple

- **Yes/no questions**: use **did** + subject + **bare infinitive**: → **Did** they bring a gift?
- **Wh- questions**: use **wh- question** + **did** + subject + **bare infinitive**: → **Why did** they bring a gift?

Negatives and questions with *to be* in the past simple

- For negatives, add **not** after **was** or **were**: *I was happy. → I **wasn't** happy.*
- For questions, **invert** the verb and the subject: e.g. *You were happy. → **Were** you happy?*



Vocabulary

drew

threw

woke up

took

swam

caught

brought

fought

thought

taught



Notes

