

The past simple: to be and to have

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Beginner

NUMBER
EN_BE_1253G

LANGUAGE
English





Goals

- Can recognise and understand how to form the past simple of the verbs to be and to have
- Can form own sentences using the past simple to describe a holiday to a colleague







Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson, you will learn the **past simple** forms of the verbs *to be* and *to have*.



We **were** in Brazil for our holiday this year.



Past simple of *to be*

- Use the **past simple** to talk about **completed** actions in the **past**.

present simple	past simple
I am	I was
You are	You were
He is	He was
She is	She was
It is	It was
We are	We were
They are	They were



Talking about the past



I **was** asleep!

It **was** sunny yesterday!



We **were** in Brazil last year.

She **was** late for work today.





What was the weather like yesterday?



was

were

rainy

sunny



Was or were?

Use **was** or **were** to complete the dialogue



Where _____ you last week?

I _____ on vacation.



Very nice! What _____ the weather like?



Writing

Complete the sentences with either *was* or *were*

1. Our boss _____ in France last week on holiday.
2. They _____ tired at the office yesterday.
3. It _____ cloudy and cold yesterday.
4. We _____ at a conference a few days ago.
5. I _____ so tired after work yesterday.



Past simple of *to have*

- Use the **past simple** to talk about **completed** actions in the **past**.

present simple	past simple
I have	I had
You have	You had
He has	He had
She has	She had
It has	It had
We have	We had
They have	They had



Read the sentences



He **had** a great time on vacation!

We **had** a team dinner at the restaurant last night.





Writing

Complete the sentences with the past simple of *to have*

1. I _____ a meeting with my boss yesterday.
2. You _____ a coffee this morning.
3. She _____ an amazing vacation.
4. We _____ a great time in New York last month.
5. My boss _____ a problem with the report.



Complete the table

	<i>to be</i>	<i>to have</i>
I	was	had
you	_____	_____
he	_____	_____
she	_____	_____
it	was	had
we	_____	_____
they	_____	_____





A trip to Canada

I _____ in Canada last year
with my husband. It _____
amazing to see snow for the first time!
The weather _____ cold, but
we _____ prepared! We
_____ lots of warm clothes.
We _____ a great time! I love
being off work!



was

had

was

were

had

was



Change the sentences

1. It is sunny.

→ It **was** sunny.

2. It is interesting.



3. He has a good time.



4. They have a meeting.



5. I'm on holiday.





Asking questions in the past simple

- Forming questions in the **past simple** is similar to forming questions in the **present simple**.
- The structure **stays the same**. The only difference is the tense of the verb.
- Look at these questions using the verb **to be**:

present simple	past simple
Are you cold?	Were you cold?
What time is it?	What time was it?
Am I married?	Was I married?
Are we happy?	Were we happy?
Where is Simon?	Where was Simon?



Past simple of *to do*



One of the most important verbs for asking questions is the verb ***to do***. It is an **irregular** verb.

present simple	past simple
I do	I did
You do	You did
He, she, it does	He, she, it did
We do	We did
They do	They did



Asking questions in the past simple using *to do*

- The verb ***to do*** is used for lots of questions, especially in the **past simple**.
- The **structure** of the sentence **stays the same** in the past simple.
- Just **change** the tense of the verb ***to do***. The second verb stays in the **infinitive**.

Do you know? → Did you know?

- To ask questions with the verb ***to have***, use: **did** + **infinitive verb** in the **past simple**:
- **Did** you have fun?
- **Did** you have pets when you were young?



Think of a question for each answer

1. I had a great time, thanks!

→ Did you have a good time?

2. I think she was at the beach.

→ _____

3. They had a presentation at work.

→ _____

4. It was okay. Nothing special.

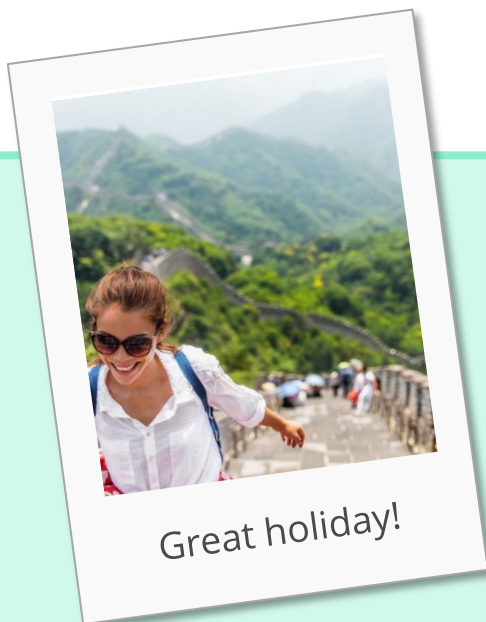
→ _____

5. He had to go to school.

→ _____



Where was Claire?



Your colleague Claire shows you this photo from her latest holiday.

Where was she?

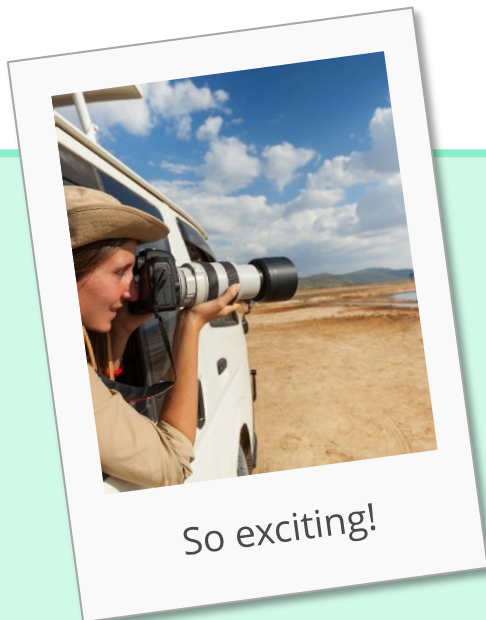
What did she do there?

How did she feel?

She was in...



Where was Claire?



Your colleague Claire shows you this photo from her latest holiday.

Where was she?

What did she do there?

Did she have a good time?

She had...



Where was Claire?



Your colleague Claire shows you this photo from her latest holiday.

Where was she?

What did she do there?

She did...



Lunchtime talks

You are having lunch with your colleagues. Share stories about your last holiday. Use the words below to help you.



I was...

it was...

food

I had...

weather

people



Talk to your classmates

Think of someone
who...

...had a meeting at work last week.

...was on vacation last month.

...had a coffee this morning.

...was at work yesterday.

Tell the class who these people are.



Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Exercise 1, p.6

It (the weather) was rainy.

Exercise 2, p.7

were – was – was

Exercise 3, p.8

1. was – 2. were – 3. was – 4. were – 5. was

Exercise 4, p.11

1. had – 2. had – 3. had – 4. had – 5. had

Exercise 5, p.13

was – was – was – were – had – had

Exercise 6, p.14

was – had – had – I was

Exercise 7, p.17

was – was – were – had – had

Exercise 8, p.18

Where was she? – what did they have at work? – how was it? – where is he?





Complete the table

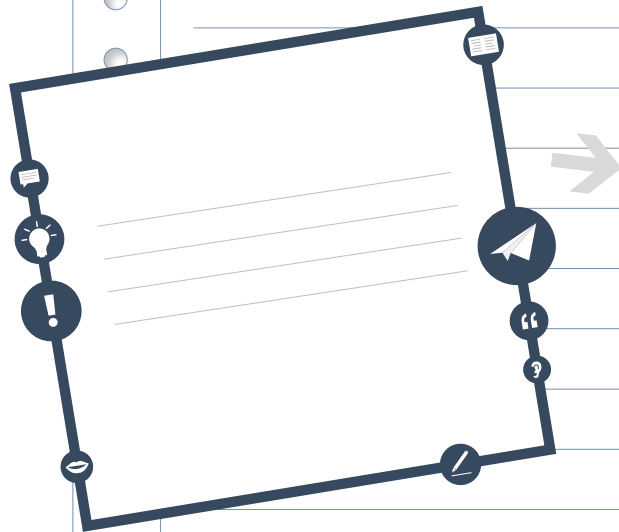
	<i>to be</i>	<i>to have</i>
I	was	had
you	_____	_____
he	_____	_____
she	_____	_____
it	_____	_____
you	_____	_____
we	_____	_____
they	_____	_____





Text at the beginning

**Go back to the text on page 3
and find examples of
the grammar topic of this lesson in it.
Write them down.**





Find the verbs

**Find the verbs in this lesson and write them down.
Which are new? Do you know all of them?
Look these words up.**

Verbs



Sentences in the first person plural

**Choose five sentences from this lesson.
Copy them and write them about you and a friend.**



Examples:

I don't understand

→ My friend Maria and I don't understand.

He has a book

→ We have a book

...



Easy or difficult?

**Is the grammar topic of this lesson...
easy or difficult?**

Write down what is difficult for you and what is easy.





Homework answer key

Exercise p.28

to be: were – was – was – were – were – were – were – were
to have: had – had – had – had – had – had – had – had



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