

Sundar in Thailand

A. Reading

Sundar visited Thailand when he was 10. He flew there with his parents and his brother. They spent six days in Bangkok. Sundar's father is an architect. He wanted the family to visit Wat Traimit temple. They took off their shoes before they entered the temple and then admired the large gold statue of Buddha inside.

After Bangkok, they went to Phuket Island. They stayed in a nice hotel near Karon Beach. Sundar and his brother went snorkelling and swam in the sea. They saw many colourful fish. Sundar loved his trip to Thailand.



Sundar in Thailand cont.

B. Questions

1. When did Sundar visit Thailand?

2. How much time did Sundar and his family spend in Bangkok?

3. Who wanted the family to visit Wat Traimit temple?

4. What did they do before they entered the temple?

5. What did they do inside the temple?

6. Where did they go after Bangkok?

7. Where was their hotel?

8. What did Sundar and his brother do?

Dana in Europe

A. Reading

Dana travelled to Europe when she was 20. She gave up her flat in Chicago and sold her car. Then she bought a plane ticket. A month later, she packed all her things in a big backpack. She said goodbye to her parents.

Dana landed in England. She slept on her friend's sofa in Liverpool. After that, she visited other countries. In France, she baked pastries. In Spain, she danced the flamenco. In Portugal, she went fishing. Her trip lasted seven months. She picked fruit to earn money. She also worked in youth hostels. It was the best time of her life!



Dana in Europe cont.

B. Questions

1. When did Dana travel to Europe?

2. What did Dana sell?

3. What did Dana buy?

4. Who did Dana say goodbye to?

5. Where did Dana sleep in England?

6. What did Dana do in France?

7. What did Dana do in Portugal?

8. What did she do to earn money?

Marcello in the United States

A. Reading

Six years ago, Marcello went to the United States. He dreamed of becoming a fluent English speaker. He took beginner classes in San Francisco. Reading was easy, but he struggled with grammar. None of his classmates spoke Italian.

After a month, Marcello's classes got easier. His English improved and soon he could have long conversations. He only spoke English with his classmates. They watched Hollywood films after class. His dream of speaking fluently came true!



Marcello in the United States cont.

B. Questions

1. When did Marcello go to the United States?

2. What did Marcello dream of?

3. What kind of classes did he take?

4. What was easy for Marcello?

5. What did he struggle with in class?

6. When did Marcello's classes get easier?

7. What did he speak with his classmates?

8. What did he and his classmates do after class?

Michael in Kenya

A. Reading

Last month, Michael went to visit his uncle Chilemba in Kenya. Chilemba lives in Nairobi with his wife. When Michael arrived at the airport, he saw Chilemba with a large sign. The sign had Michael's name on it in big, red letters.

Chilemba took Michael on a safari. They rode in a jeep and saw zebras, lions, and giraffes. The lions scared Michael, but he still had a good time. After the safari, Chilemba's wife cooked ugali. Ugali is a traditional corn dish. She served it with fish. Michael ate all of it! It was delicious.



Michael in Kenya cont.

B. Questions

1. Who did Michael visit in Kenya?

2. What did Michael see at the airport?

3. Where did Chilemba take Michael?

4. What did they see?

5. What scared Michael?

6. What did Chilemba's wife cook?

7. What did she serve with the dish?

8. How much of the food did Michael eat?

My Time in Venezuela

A. Reading

My name is Elizabeth. When I was 18, I moved to Venezuela for a year. I lived with a host family. During the day, I studied at a theatre school. I acted in plays in Spanish. It was difficult. My classmates helped me learn my lines.

My host family took me on many adventures. We drove to the beach and swam. We also hiked to the top of a mountain called El Avila. One night, I even sang in a concert with my host brother's band. I became very close with my host family. We still keep in touch.



My Time in Venezuela cont.

B. Questions

1. When did Elizabeth move to Venezuela?

2. Who did she live with?

3. What did she do during the day?

4. What was difficult for her?

5. What did her classmates help her with?

6. Where did she and her host family hike?

7. Who did Elizabeth sing with?

8. Who did she become close with?

About Your Trip

A. Questions

Think about a trip you took in the past.

Answer the following questions using simple past verbs.

1. Where did you go?

2. When did you go?

3. Who did you go with?

4. What did you do?

5. Who did you meet?

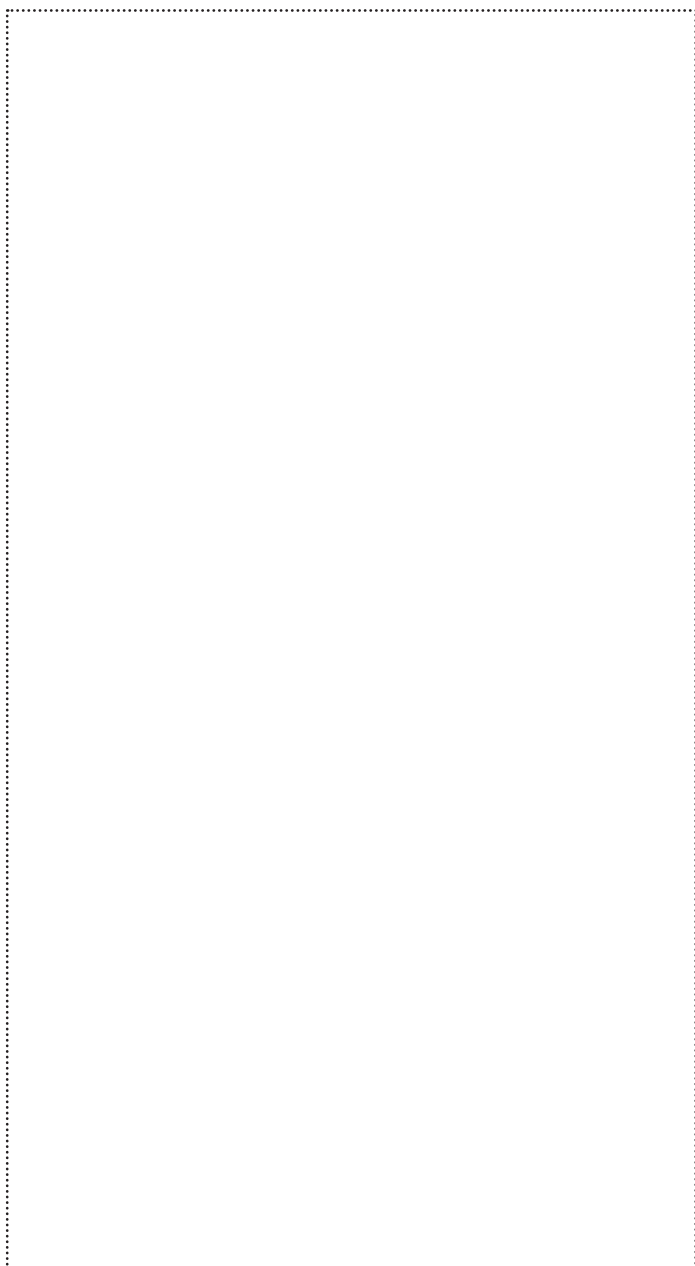
6. Where did you sleep?

7. What did you eat?

About Your Trip cont.

B. Drawing

Draw a picture of your trip in the box, or paste in a photograph.



C. Writing

Now use the questions and answers on page 11 to write a short paragraph about your trip.

Your Own Story

A. Drawing

Draw a picture in the box, or paste in a photograph.



B. Writing

Using the simple past, write a short paragraph about the picture in the box. Use your notebook if you don't have enough space below.

Your Own Story cont.

C. Questions

Write five questions about your paragraph.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

D. Answers

Give your story and questions to a classmate.

Have them read your story and answer your questions below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read five stories that use the simple past in context. They answer comprehension questions and write two paragraphs of their own using the simple past.

LEVEL: Beg

TIME: 1.5 – 2 hours

TAGS: verbs, verb tenses, simple past, past, trips, holidays

Sundar in Thailand

1. He visited Thailand when he was 10.
2. They spent six days in Bangkok.
3. His father wanted the family to visit the temple.
4. Before they entered the temple, they took off their shoes.
5. They admired a large gold statue of Buddha.
6. After Bangkok, they went to Phuket Island.
7. Their hotel was near Karon Beach.
8. They went snorkelling and swam in the sea. They saw many colourful fish.

Dana in Europe

1. She travelled to Europe when she was 20.
2. She sold her car.
3. She bought a plane ticket.
4. She said goodbye to her parents.
5. She slept on her friend's sofa in Liverpool.
6. She baked pastries in France.
7. She went fishing in Portugal.
8. She picked fruit and worked in youth hostels.

Marcello in the United States

1. He went to the United States six years ago.
2. He dreamed of becoming a fluent English speaker.
3. He took beginner classes.
4. Reading was easy for him.
5. He struggled with grammar.
6. His classes got easier after a month.
7. He only spoke English with his classmates.
8. They watched Hollywood films after class.

Michael in Kenya

1. He visited his uncle Chilemba.
2. He saw his uncle with a large sign.
3. His uncle took him on a safari.
4. They saw zebras, lions, and giraffes.
5. The lions scared Michael.
6. Chilemba's wife cooked ugali.
7. She served fish with the dish.
8. Michael ate all of it.

My Time in Venezuela

1. Elizabeth moved to Venezuela when she was 18.
2. She lived with a host family.
3. She went to a theatre school during the day.
4. Acting in plays in Spanish was difficult for her.
5. Her classmates helped her learn her lines.
6. She hiked to the top of a mountain called El Avila with her host family.
7. Elizabeth sang with her host brother's band.
8. She became close with her host family.

About Your Trip

Individual answers.

Your Own Story

Individual answers.