10 Present Simple vs Past Simple



Quiz Time

In pairs, complete the sentences and answer the quiz. Compare your answers with the rest of the class.

1 ☐ He ..... **(star)** in the Harry Potter films.
2 ☐ He ..... **(discover)** penicillin.
3 ☐ Leonardo Da Vinci ..... **(paint)** this famous painting.
4 ☐ They ..... **(design)** the Parthenon.
5 ☐ He ..... **(write)** *Romeo & Juliet*.
6 ☐ She ..... **(be)** the daughter of King Henry VIII.
7 ☐ This country ..... **(win)** the World Cup in 2006.
8 ☐ She ..... **(invent)** the Barbie doll.

a Queen Elizabeth I
b Ruth Handler
c Italy
d Shakespeare
e The *Mona Lisa*
f Iktinos and Kallikrates
g Alexander Fleming
h Daniel Radcliffe

Present Simple vs Past Simple

We use the present simple for permanent states and repeated or habitual actions.	We use the past simple for actions which finished at a stated time in the past.
Tom **is** a student. He **goes** to school every day. He usually **goes** to school by bus.	He **bought** a new car last week.
Time expressions used with the present simple:	**Time expressions used with the past simple:**
every day / week / month / year, usually, often, always, rarely, never, sometimes, in the morning / evening / afternoon, at night, etc.	yesterday, then, when, last night / week / month / year, a week / month / year ago, two days ago, in 2003, etc.

8 Circle the correct item.

1 Dad **doesn't buy** / **didn't buy** a new car last week.
2 Mum always **cooks** / **cooked** chicken on Mondays.
3 Do you **like** / **liked** chips?
4 Mary **leaves** / **left** for Italy last month.
5 Do you **brush** / **brushed** your teeth every night?
6 The boys **don't play** / **didn't play** football last Sunday.
7 Did Emily **come** / **came** to the party?
8 I **don't watch** / **didn't watch** TV last night.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Present Simple vs Past Simple

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9 **Write what Edward usually *does* and what he *did* yesterday.**



1 *Edward usually finishes work at 3:30 pm, but yesterday, he ..... finished work at 2:00 pm.*

2 .....

.....

3 .....

.....

4 .....

.....

10 **Put the verbs in brackets into the *present simple* or the *past simple*.**

1 We *.....went.....* **(go)** to the beach last weekend.

2 ..... **(your mum/make)** a chocolate cake yesterday?

3 Dad ..... **(not/work)** on Sundays.

4 He ..... **(not/come)** to the party last Saturday.

5 My cousins ..... **(not/visit)** us every weekend.

6 ..... **(Julia/wear)** jeans to school yesterday?

7 The children always ..... **(do)** their homework in their rooms.

8 I ..... **(send)** Claire an email yesterday afternoon.

11 **Complete the sentences with the time expressions from the list.**

at the moment	always	yesterday	~~last night~~	every week	last summer

1 We watched a really good film at the cinema *....last night.....*.

2 I went to a beautiful exotic island ..... . The weather was very hot.

3 My mother does the shopping .....

4 I am working ..... . I can't come with you.

5 She ..... brushes her teeth before she goes to bed at night.

6 He is upset because he failed his driving test .....

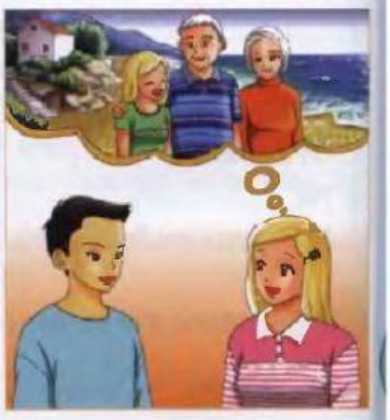
LIVEWORKSHEETS

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12 **Put the verbs in brackets into the *present simple* or the *past simple*.**

1 A: ....Did you enjoy.... **(you / enjoy)** the film last night?
B: No, I .....didn't..... It .....was..... **(be)** a horror film.
2 A: ..... **(you/go)** to work yesterday?
B: No, I ..... I ..... **(never/work)** on Saturdays.
3 A: ..... **(you/see)** Charles yesterday?
B: Yes. We ..... **(have)** lunch together.
4 A: ..... **(Colin/work)** at a bank?
B: No, he ..... He ..... **(work)** at a post office.
5 A: What time ..... **(you start)** school every day?
B: Eight o'clock. But yesterday we ..... **(start)** at eight thirty.
6 A: What ..... **(you/do)** at weekends?
B: We usually ..... **(go)** to the beach.
7 A: ..... **(you/do)** anything exciting last Saturday?
B: No, not really. I ..... **(watch)** TV and ..... **(read)** a book. It was a boring weekend.

13 **Read the conversation between Ling and Amy. Then put the verbs in brackets into the *present simple* or the *past simple*.**



Ling: Hi Amy. 1) ....Were you..... **(you/be)** at home last weekend?
Amy: No, I 2) ..... **(not/be)**. My family and I 3) ..... **(go)** to the beach. We often 4) ..... **(go)** to the beach at weekends.
Ling: You're lucky. 5) ..... **(you/have)** a nice time?
Amy: Oh, yes! I 6) ..... **(have)** a great time!
Ling: Where 7) ..... **(you/stay)**?
Amy: We 8) ..... **(stay)** at my grandparents' house.
Ling: Oh. 9) ..... **(they/live)** near the beach?
Amy: Yes, they do. Their house 10) ..... **(be)** right by the beach.
Ling: Wow! That's cool. And what did you do there?
Amy: We 11) ..... **(walk)** along the beach and 12) ..... **(swim)** in the sea.
Ling: That sounds like a lot of fun.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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14 **Put the verbs in brackets into the *present simple* or the *past simple*.**

Tommy Brown 1) ...likes... **(like)** making up stories. No one 2) ..... **(believe)** what he 3) ..... **(say)** because he always 4) ..... **(tell)** lies. He 5) ..... **(live)** in a small village and 6) ..... **(work)** on a farm just outside the village. One night last week, Tommy 7) ..... **(finish)** work late. It 8) ..... **(be)** dark and cold. Suddenly, he 9) ..... **(hear)** a strange noise, so he 10) ..... **(look)** up. It 11) ..... **(be)** a UFO with bright flashing lights. The UFO 12) ..... **(come down)** towards him and he 13) ..... **(see)** two green men looking at him from inside. He 14) ..... **(scream)**, 15) ..... **(drop)** his bag and 16) ..... **(run away)**. When he 17) ..... **(arrive)** in the village, he 18) ..... **(run)** into some villagers and 19) ..... **(start)** telling them about the aliens but they all 20) ..... **(laugh)** at him. No one 21) ..... **(believe)** Tommy.





Speaking Activity

Look at the pictures and the list of verbs. In pairs, tell the story.

~~decide~~	~~drive~~	take	arrive	pack	run	be
~~get into~~	find	start	tell	begin	can	go



Student A: Last Sunday the Smiths **decided** to go on a picnic.
Student B: They all **got into** the car and **drove** to the country.



Writing Activity

You are the young girl from the Speaking Activity above. Write an email to your English speaking friend telling him/her what happened to you yesterday.

Dear .....,

Guess what happened to me yesterday! My family and I decided to go on a picnic. Everything was great in the beginning. .....

.....

.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS