

B. GRAMMAR: PAST SIMPLE

Exercise 1: Read the information. Then complete the sentences with the past simple of the verbs in brackets.

Be careful with the spelling of the past simple form of regular verbs.

- Verb ends in **'e'** (e.g. *hope* → *hoped*)
- Verb ends in **vowel + 'y'** (e.g. *play* → *played*)
- Verb ends in **consonant + 'y'** (e.g. *try* → *tried*)
- One-syllable verb ends in **one vowel + one consonant** (e.g. *rob* → *robbed*)
- Longer verb ends in **one vowel + one consonant, stressed final syllable** (e.g. *regret* → *regretted*)
- Longer verb ends in **one vowel + one consonant, unstressed final syllable** (e.g. *happen* → *happened*)

1. It was a beautiful evening, so we _____ (walk) along the beach.
2. I was born in Spain, but my parents _____ (move) to Switzerland when I was a baby.
3. Last week, we _____ (visit) the History Museum. It was really interesting.
4. We _____ (plan) to spend our holiday in the countryside, but we spent almost all the time on the beach.
5. There isn't a university in my town, so I _____ (study) in a big city.
6. I _____ (enjoy) my trip to London, but there were a lot of tourists everywhere.
7. When we lived in the city center, we went to the theatre every week, but we _____ (stop) going after we moved to the suburbs.
8. I _____ (try) to contact you, but we were in a very remote house and our phones didn't work.
9. We _____ (stay) in a lovely guest house by the seaside – it was smaller than a hotel, but it had everything we needed.
10. We moved to the countryside when I was a teenager. My parents loved it, but I _____ (prefer) living in the city.

Exercise 2: Correct the sentences. Change the irregular verbs from the present simple to the past simple. The number of changes you need to make is in brackets.

1. My parents buy their house 20 years ago. (1)
2. It is quite expensive, but the bank lends them half the money so they can afford to buy it. (3)
3. It is a small house, but it feels OK when my brother and I are children. (3)
4. But as we grow older, the house becomes too small. (2)
5. After about ten years, my parents build a new room at the back of the house. (1)
6. But then my brother leaves home and the house is too big again! (2)
7. House prices then rise very quickly. (1)
8. So when my parents sell their house last year, they make a lot of money. (2)

Exercise 3: Complete the sentences with the past simple negative form of the verbs in brackets. Use contractions (e.g. *wasn't*) where possible. The first one has been done for you.

1. We couldn't (can) find their house for hours. It was in the middle of nowhere.
2. I _____ (like) living in the city center – it was too crowded.
3. Our old flat _____ (have) a balcony, but our new flat's got one.
4. There _____ (be) many other children in the part of town where I grew up.
5. I _____ (see) my grandparents often when I was young because they lived a long way away.
6. We _____ (need) a car when we lived in the city, but now we're in the suburbs, we have two!
7. It _____ (be) a very fashionable neighborhood, but I liked living there.

Exercise 4: Put the words in the correct order to complete the questions.

1. were a child? did you you where young live when

1. _____

2. what your was like? house

2. _____

3. living enjoy you did there?

3. _____

4. you didn't it? what about like

4. _____

5. could from your you walk house? to school

5. _____

6. to up? place grow it was a good

6. _____

7. home? you how you old left were when

7. _____

8. you why did leave home?

8. _____

Exercise 5: Match the answers with the questions.

I left home because I went to study at university. *I lived in a small mountain village.*
I was 18. *No, I couldn't. It was too far away.*

*There weren't many other children, so sometimes I felt quite lonely.
Yes, I did. It was a lovely place to live. Yes, it was. It was very safe.*

1. Where did you live when you were a child?

2. Did you enjoy living there?

3. What didn't you like about it?

4. Could you walk to school from your house?

5. Was it a good place to grow up?

6. How old were you when you left home?

7. Why did you leave home?
