

# Past simple/ preterit

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| Type of document |  |
| Taken from       |  |
| Written by       |  |
| subject          |  |
| illustration     |  |

**NOW NEWS**  
Article by Louanne Piccolo

**Do fairies really exist?**



In summer 1917, Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths took photos of fairies by a river in West Yorkshire. Elsie's mother didn't want the girls to play by the river, so Elsie told her that they were playing with fairies. The girls took photos of the fairies to show Elsie's mother. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of *SHERLOCK HOLMES*, used the photos in an article he wrote about supernatural phenomena. The house in Cottingley became famous, and the fairies were called the Cottingley Fairies. Many people thought the photos were *fake* but others believed that the fairies were real. Finally, 66 years later, in 1983, Elsie and Frances admitted that the photos were fake, and that the fairies were made from paper. Once the photos became famous in 1917, both girls were too afraid to tell the *truth*. In 2019, Frances's daughter will *auction* the photos for the public to see.



a fairy (pl. faeries)    une fée  
fake    faux  
the truth    la vérité  
to auction    vendre aux enchères

## 1 – Read the text attentively

a) pick out 2 passive voice sentences :

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.....

b) pick out 5 past simple sentences with irregular verbs

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c) pick out 3 past simple sentences with regular verbs

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.....

d) pick out dates connected with the past : .....

## 2/ - « ed » ending pronunciation

| [ t ] | [ d ] | [ id ] |
|-------|-------|--------|
|       |       |        |

## 3/ Conclusion :

je remarque que le « past simple » ( ou : « préterit ») sert à parler : .....  
 qu'au préterit il y a des verbes ..... ou .....  
 qu'il faut ..... les verbes irréguliers  
 que la terminaison des verbes réguliers au préterit est : .....  
 que cette terminaison peut se prononcer de ..... façons différentes selon les verbes.

We use past simple tense to talk about a past event.

We have regular and irregular verb forms

We must learn the irregular verb past forms !

Regular verbs end in « ed ».

There are 3 ways to pronounce this « ed » ending, depending on the verb.