

# Past simple

Read and complete the Halloween stories with the correct form of the verb in the brackets. Use the past simple.

\*Remember:

Regular verbs < don't change

Visit → visited

Study → studied

Irregular verbs < change

eat → ate

run → ran

## The yellow ribbon



A long time ago there was a girl named Jane. Jane \_\_\_\_\_ (wear) a yellow ribbon around her neck every day, rain, or shine, whether it matched her outfit or not. It annoyed her best friend Johnny after a while. He was her next-door neighbor and \_\_\_\_\_ (know) Jane since she was three.

"Why do you wear that yellow ribbon around your neck, Jane?" he \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) her every day. But she wouldn't tell him.

Still, Johnny \_\_\_\_\_ (think) she was cute. He \_\_\_\_\_ (invite) her to the mall for an ice cream sundae. Then he asked her to watch him play in the football game. And come the spring, he \_\_\_\_\_ (take) her to the school dance.

It finally occurred to Johnny that he and Jane \_\_\_\_\_ (be) going steady, and he still didn't know why she \_\_\_\_\_ (wear) the yellow ribbon around her neck. So, he asked her about it yet again, and yet again she did not tell him. "Maybe someday I'll tell you about it," she'd reply.

Well, one day Johnny \_\_\_\_\_ (propose) to Jane and she \_\_\_\_\_ (accept). They \_\_\_\_\_ (plan) a big wedding, and Jane hinted that she might tell him about the yellow ribbon on their wedding day. But somehow, Johnny never \_\_\_\_\_ (get) around to asking Jane about it. And when he did remember, she got a bit teary-eyed, and said: "We are so happy together, what difference does it make?" And Johnny \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) she was right.

Johnny and Jane raised a family of four, with the usual ups and downs, laughter, and tears. When their golden anniversary rolled around, Johnny once again asked Jane about the yellow ribbon. Jane \_\_\_\_\_ (give) Johnny a sad look and said: "Johnny, you've waited this long. You can wait awhile longer."

And Johnny \_\_\_\_\_ (agree). It was not until Jane was on her death bed a year later that Johnny, seeing his last chance slip away, **asked** Jane one final time about the yellow ribbon she **wore** around her neck. She \_\_\_\_\_ (shake) her head a bit at his persistence, and then \_\_\_\_\_ (say) with a sad smile: "Okay Johnny, you can go ahead and untie it."

With shaking hands, Johnny fumbled for the knot and \_\_\_\_\_ (untie) the yellow ribbon around his wife's neck.

And Jane's head \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) off.

## My daughter learned to count



My daughter \_\_\_\_\_ (wake) me around 11:50 last night. My wife and I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) picked her up from her friend Sally's birthday party, \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) her home and **put** her to bed. My wife \_\_\_\_\_ (go) into the bedroom to read while I **fell** asleep watching the Braves game. "Daddy," she \_\_\_\_\_ (whisper), tugging my shirt sleeve. "Guess how old I'm going to be next month. "I don't know, beauty," I \_\_\_\_\_ (say) as I slipped on my glasses. "How old? "She \_\_\_\_\_ (smile) and held up four fingers. It is 7:30 now. My wife and I have been up with her for almost 8 hours. She still refuses to tell us where she **got** them.



**Have a spooky Halloween!**