

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!