

B13. The old lady and her dog

past simple irregular verbs



Mrs Gibson was 82 years old. Her son owned an airline company. One day, she **went** to the airport to take a plane from Australia to the USA. With her she **had** a flight bag and a pet basket with her little pet dog called 'Spotty' inside. The flight that day was very crowded. Mrs Gibson **sat** down on a window seat and **put** her dog basket down on the seat next to her.

A flight attendant **said** to her, 'I'm very sorry, madam, but this flight is fully booked. I'm afraid I have to take your dog and put it at the back of the plane for the journey.'

The old lady didn't argue and **gave** the basket to the flight attendant.

After an hour in the air, the flight attendant checked on the little dog. She was horrified to see that the dog was dead at the bottom of the basket. She **told** the pilot and the pilot **told** the airport in New York. The company director was furious, because Mrs Gibson was the airline owner's mother. In the end, they decided to buy a different dog to replace the dead one. The flight attendant **took** a photo of the dog with her phone and **sent** it to New York to show them what it looked like. When the plane landed, Mrs Gibson got off the plane and the flight attendant **brought** her the basket with a new dog in it.

Mrs Gibson looked very quickly into the basket and immediately **said**, 'That's not my dog. Where's my dog? What did you do with little Spotty?'

The flight attendant **told** Mrs Gibson, 'Yes, of course it's your dog. It has the same spots, the same size - it's the same dog.'

'No,' **said** Mrs Gibson, 'I know it isn't.'

'But how do you know? You didn't look at it for very long.'

'I know,' **said** Mrs Gibson, 'Because my dog was dead when I **put** him in the basket.'

Grammar: irregular past simple verb forms

Many verbs in English have irregular past simple forms and do not end in *-ed*. For example:

think - **thought**: When I was a child I **thought** the moon was bigger than the sun.

leave - **left**: You **left** your jacket at my house yesterday.

meet - **met**: My husband and I **met** when we were at college.

Write the past simple form of these verbs.

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. go _____ | 2. have _____ | 3. sit _____ | 4. put _____ |
| 5. say _____ | 6. tell _____ | 7. take _____ | 8. get _____ |
| 9. bring _____ | 10. do _____ | 11. give _____ | 12. send _____ |

Choose a verb from the previous exercise to complete these sentences. Change the form of the verb to past simple.

- I _____ something to drink with me because I don't want to get thirsty.
- When they got to the top of the mountain, they _____ a short rest.
- I _____ off the bus and walked to the office.
- His grades weren't very good but he worked hard and he _____ his best
- The woman at the information desk _____ us where to go.
- I _____ you an email yesterday but maybe it went into your junk mail box.
- Sonia's parents _____ her a pet dog for her birthday.
- Kate _____ her coat and hat on and left the building.
- I _____ down in the large armchair and started to read the newspaper.
- We _____ shopping in the new shopping mall last Saturday.
- We started laughing because Jamal _____ something funny.
- Marcus _____ his wallet out of his pocket and counted his money again.

Vocabulary exercises

Match the broken sentences.

1. My cousin works for a large American airline...
2. I dropped my drink but the flight...
3. You can transport your dog but only with a strong pet...
4. Would you like a window...
5. There is going to be a meeting of all the company...

- A. ...basket with lots of room for the animal to move.
- B. ...seat or do you prefer one in the aisle?
- C. ...directors next week.
- D. ...company in the sales department.
- E. ...attendant brought me another one.

Choose the correct word or phrase to complete the sentences.

6. I wanted to fly to Paris but the plane was _____.
A. complete booked B. fully booked C. full book D. completely taken
7. My flight bag was lost but the company _____ it for me.
A. reported B. replied C. refilled D. replaces
8. Do you know what time the plane _____?
A. lands B. grounds C. comes down D. gets off
9. Our taxi to the airport was late but _____ we caught our flight in plenty of time.
A. to the end B. for the end C. at the ending D. in the end
10. All our luggage went to the wrong airport and we were _____ with the airline company.
A. crowded B. furious C. immediate D. replaces
11. I'm afraid you can only take one small _____ on board the plane with you, sir.
A. handy baggage B. flying luggage C. flight bag D. plane case
12. I was _____ to see that the flight was five hours late.
A. horrified B. crowded C. booked D. landed