

# 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!**