

Simple Past Biographies

Exercise A: Say the simple past form of the verbs and verb phrases below.

be born	build	take pictures	have children	graduate
write a book	die	get a job	invent	live
get married	win	fight	discover	go
grow up	fall in love	meet	become famous	give

Exercise B: Complete the questions about Isabel Allende. Then listen and match them to the answers a-j.

- 1 When was she born _____? (When/born) a) In 1962.
- 2 _____? (Where/born) b) In 2003.
- 3 _____? (Where/grow up) c) In 1982.
- 4 _____? (When/graduate from school) d) In 1963.
- 5 _____? (When/move to Venezuela) e) In 1965.
- 6 _____? (When/get married) f) In 1942.
- 7 _____? (When/have her first child) g) In 1958.
- 8 _____? (When/have her second child) h) In 1975.
- 9 _____? (When/publish her first novel) i) In Chile
- 10 _____? (When/become a U.S. citizen) j) In Lima, Peru

Exercise C: Complete the questions with the missing part. Then, complete the answers according to the text.

1. _____ was Martin Luther King born?

Martin Luther King was born on _____ (date)

2. _____ was he born?

King was born in _____. (place)

3. _____ is his most memorable speech?

His most memorable speech is _____. (name of the speech)

4. When _____ he awarded with a Nobel Prize?

He was awarded with a Nobel Prize in _____. (year)

5. _____ children did he have?

He had _____ children. (number of children)

Martin Luther King Jr.



Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. He was a civil rights activist in the 1950s and 1960s. He was worried about how African American people were treated. He wanted segregation to stop in America. In 1948 he graduated from Morehouse. He obtained his degree in sociology. In 1955 he received a doctorate in Systematic Theology from Boston University. His speeches are considered inspiring for many, and his most memorable speech was "*I Have a Dream*", which was delivered in 1963 in the "March on Washington". In 1953 he married Coretta Scott. Later, they had four children. In 1964 he was awarded with the Nobel Prize.

On April 4th, 1968, Martin Luther King was assassinated while he was standing on the balcony of his hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. On the third Monday of January Martin Luther King's day is celebrated each year in The United States of America.

Exercise B: Rewrite the sentences with direct, or/and indirect object pronouns. Remember the correct use of capital letters and periods.



1. Frida Kahlo married Diego Rivera in 1929.

She _____

2. The Swedish Academy gave Marie and Pierre Curie a Nobel Prize in 1903.

It _____

3. Gabriel García Márquez wrote One Hundred Years of Solitude in 1967 in Mexico City.

He _____

4. Napoleon Bonaparte fought the Waterloo Battle in 1815.

He _____

5. Rosa Parks refused to give her seat to a white passenger on a bus.

She _____

6. Rosa Parks met Martin Luther King Jr when she was arrested.

She _____

7. The rose gave the little prince some advice.

It _____

8. The fox told the little prince wise words.

He _____



Song!

Hotel California

By The Eagles

have(x2), think, call,
say(x2), hear, get(x2),
grow, be (x3), see, stand,
light, show, gather.

Exercise: Listen to the song and fill in the blanks with simple past form of the verbs in the box.

On a dark desert highway

Cool wind in my hair

Warm smell of colitas

Rising up through the air

Up ahead in the distance

I _____ a shimmering light

My head _____ heavy and my sight grew dim

I _____ to stop for the night

There she _____ in the doorway

I _____ the mission bell

And I _____ thinkin' to myself

'This could be heaven or this could be hell

Then she _____ up a candle

And she _____ me the way

There _____ voices down the corridor

I _____ I heard them say

Welcome to the Hotel California

Such a lovely place (such a lovely place)

Such a lovely face

Plenty of room at the Hotel California

Any time of year (any time of year)

You can find it here

Her mind is Tiffany-twisted

She _____ the Mercedes Benz, uh

She _____ a lot of pretty, pretty boys

That she calls friends

How they dance in the courtyard

Sweet summer sweat

Some dance to remember

Some dance to forget

So I _____ up the Captain

"Please bring me my wine"

He _____, "We haven't had that spirit here since 1969"

And still those voices are calling from far away

Wake you up in the middle of the night

Just to hear them say

Welcome to the Hotel California

Such a lovely place (such a lovely place)

Such a lovely face

They livin' it up at the Hotel California

What a nice surprise (what a nice surprise)

Bring your alibis

Mirrors on the ceiling

The pink champagne on ice

And she _____, "We are all just prisoners here of
our own device"

And in the master's chambers

They _____ for the feast

They stab it with their steely knives

But they just can't kill the beast

Last thing I remember

I _____ running for the door

I _____ to find the passage back

To the place I was before

"Relax", said the night man

"We are programmed to receive

You can check out any time you like

But you can never leave