

UNIT 19 Past simple

Usage

The past simple is used to:

A

- talk about completed actions and situations in the past, often with adverbs or expressions of time like those in the table. These expressions are generally placed at the beginning or end of a sentence.

yesterday	two hours ago
the day before	three months ago
yesterday	in 1492
last week	in May 2004
last year	in the 20th century

Yesterday, I stayed at home and worked all day.
Last summer, we went on a cruise in the Mediterranean.
The French Revolution started on 14th July 1789.

B

- ask or say when something happened

'When did the accident happen?' 'It happened early this morning.'
'What time did she get up?' 'She got up at nine.'

C

- talk about actions and events that have clearly ended and that took place at a specific time in the past, even if the speaker doesn't actually mention the specific time.

I bought this computer in Hong Kong. (I don't say when, but it's obvious that the action is completed and that it happened in a period of time that is now over: when I was in Hong Kong)

D

- tell a story or a fairytale, often with words that indicate the sequence of events like:

first
then
after that
next
finally

First, the wolf went to Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother's house and ate her up. Then he put on her nightdress and got into her bed...

E

- talk about actions and situations that happened with a certain frequency in the past, with adverbs like **always**, **sometimes**, **never**.

When I was little, my mother always helped me with my homework.
I sometimes went to the cinema with my dad.

Student's notes

EXERCISES

Past simple – Usage **UNIT 19**

NAME: student code DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR L TIME: –

19.1 Choose the correct alternative

- 1 I saw Melanie and her sister the day **ago / before** yesterday.
- 2 Did your mum and dad meet **at / in** the 1990s?
- 3 They had a great holiday **las / next** year.
- 4 We went to the south of France **in / on** July.
- 5 The taxi picked me up an hour **ago / last**.
- 6 Helen's boyfriend dropped her off at the station **at / in** ten o'clock.
- 7 Where did you go **before / last** summer?
- 8 Just think – four hours **ago / then** we were in Spain!

19.2 Match the two parts of the sentence.

1 2 3 4 5 6

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Why did you complain about the accommodation? | a I went to Oxford. |
| 2 Where did you go last week? | b No, I didn't. |
| 3 Did your friend enjoy their city break? | c Because we didn't have a sea view. |
| 4 What did the holiday rep charge you for the excursion? | d About two months ago. |
| 5 Did you do a lot of water sports in the Caribbean? | e Yes, they did. |
| 6 When did you book the package deal? | f About 50 euros. |

19.3 Number the sentences in the correct order to describe the Jones's first day of their holiday.

- After that, we wandered into the town to look for somewhere to have lunch.
- Finally, we had a shower and went out for the evening.
- First, we unpacked our suitcases at the hotel.
- Next, we decided to go back to the hotel for rest.
- Then we went for a walk to the nearest beach and sat there for a while.

19.4 Complete the dialogue with the words in the box.

gave lost swam booked ~~landed on time~~ They went didn't have are swim Did you go

Grace: So, tell me about your holidays. How was the journey?

Andrea: It was great. The flight ⁽¹⁾..... and we ⁽²⁾..... any problems at all on the way to the hotel.

Grace: What was the hotel like?

Andrea: Well, it was small but very nice. We ⁽³⁾..... half board, so we ⁽⁴⁾..... our breakfast and evening meals there every day. They ⁽⁵⁾..... us amazing breakfast!

Grace: Did you ⁽⁶⁾..... everyday?

Andrea: Yes, we did. The hotel had a pool, but we were near the sea, so we ⁽⁷⁾..... all the time!

Grace: ⁽⁸⁾..... on any organised tours?

Andrea: I didn't, but some of the others did. ⁽⁹⁾..... to a local wine factory.

Grace: It all sounds great!

Andrea: Yes – the only problem was the airline ⁽¹⁰⁾..... my luggage on the way home. So I haven't got any summer clothes at the moment!

Teacher's observations