

Activity Type

Interactive reading and writing exercises

Language Focus

Past simple affirmative and negative

Regular and irregular past tense verbs

Aim

To practice past simple affirmative and negative sentences as well as a variety of regular and irregular past tense verbs.

Preparation

Send each student a copy of the interactive worksheet.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

This past simple interactive worksheet helps students to practice affirmative and negative sentences as well as a variety of regular and irregular past tense verbs.

This worksheet contains a highlighting exercise. To be able to highlight text, please view the PDF worksheet in Adobe Reader.

Procedure

Students begin with a word search exercise where they find and highlight the past tense form of verbs, relating to a story they are going to read.

When the students have finished, go through the answers with the class.

Exercise A - Answer key

t	o	l	d			w	a	n	t	e	d				
	s	t	e	p	p	e	d	l	i	f	t	e	d		
t	h	o	u	g	h	t		s	a	i	d		l	e	t
	s	a	w	l	e	f	t	c	h	e	w	e	d		
c	a	m	e	w	o	k	e	w	e	n	t		w	a	s
a	p	o	l	o	g	i	s	e	d		r	a	n		
	r	e	m	e	m	b	e	r	e	d		f	e	l	l
t	i	e	d	s	e	t	p	u	t	w	e	r	e		
	w	a	l	k	e	d	r	e	p	l	i	e	d		
l	i	k	e	d			o	p	e	n	e	d			

Across: told (tell), wanted (want), stepped (step), lifted (lift), thought (think), said (say), let (let), saw (see), left (leave), chewed (chew), came (come), woke (wake), went (go), was (is), apologised (apologise), ran (run), remembered (remember), fell (fall), tied (tie), set (set), put (put), were (are), walked (walk), replied (reply), liked (like), opened (open)

Next, students read the story in three parts and fill in the gaps with suitable verbs from the boxes in the past simple. Afterwards, check the answers together as a class.

(continued on the next page)

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Procedure (continued)

Exercise B - Answer key

Part 1: fell, wanted, ran, woke, put, thought, opened, was, apologised, told

Part 2: liked, lifted, let, set, stepped, came, tied, went

Part 3: left, walked, saw, remembered, chewed, was, was, said, replied, were

After that, students read another version of the story that contains mistakes.

The students then write past simple affirmative and negative sentences about the details that are incorrect.

Go through the first one as an example and then have the students find the other incorrect details.

Exercise C - Answer key

The mouse didn't walk up and down the lion. She ran up and down the lion.

The lion didn't put his huge nose on the mouse. He put his huge paw on the mouse.

The mouse didn't sing to the lion. The mouse apologized to the lion.

The lion didn't eat the mouse. He let the mouse go.

Two farmers didn't set a trap. Two hunters set a trap.

The hunters didn't go to find a car. They went to find a truck.

The mouse didn't run by. She walked by.

The lion wasn't asleep again. The lion was free again.

The lion and the mouse weren't hungry. They were friends.

Finish the activity with a discussion about the story. Some students might recognise it as a version of one of Aesop's Fables. Explain that Aesop's Fables are old stories and that each one illustrates a moral.

Ask the students to think of a moral for this story. According to some sources, the moral is 'A kindness is never wasted' or 'Even the smallest kindness brings its reward'.