

Activity Type

Grammar, Reading and Writing Exercises: changing verb forms, gap-fill, rewriting sentences

Focus

Past simple affirmative and negative

Regular and irregular past simple verbs

Aim

To practice using common regular and irregular verbs in the past simple by writing past forms, completing a story, and correcting past simple statements.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

This past simple worksheet helps students practice affirmative and negative sentences with common regular and irregular verbs.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

First, students write the past simple form of the verbs shown.

Exercise A - Answer key

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. apologised | 14. put |
| 2. were | 15. walked |
| 3. chewed | 16. remembered |
| 4. came | 17. replied |
| 5. fell | 18. ran |
| 6. went | 19. said |
| 7. was | 20. saw |
| 8. left | 21. set |
| 9. let | 22. stepped |
| 10. lifted | 23. told |
| 11. liked | 24. thought |
| 12. opened | 25. tied |
| 13. wanted | 26. woke |

Students then complete a story in three parts with verbs from boxes in their past simple form.

Exercise B - Answer key

Part 1:

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. fell | 6. thought |
| 2. wanted | 7. opened |
| 3. ran | 8. was |
| 4. woke | 9. apologised |
| 5. put | 10. told |

Part 2:

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. liked | 5. stepped |
| 2. lifted | 6. came |
| 3. let | 7. tied |
| 4. set | 8. went |

(continued on the next page)

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Procedure continued

Exercise B - Answer key

Part 3:

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. left | 6. was |
| 2. walked | 7. was |
| 3. saw | 8. said |
| 4. remembered | 9. replied |
| 5. chewed | 10. were |

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

After that, students write two past simple sentences about each incorrect detail, writing one negative sentence about the mistake and one affirmative sentence with the correct information.

Exercise C - Answer key (order may vary)

1. The lion wasn't asleep in the forest. He was asleep in the jungle.
2. The mouse didn't walk up and down the lion. She ran up and down the lion.
3. The lion didn't put his huge nose on the mouse. He put his huge paw on the mouse.
4. The mouse didn't sing to the lion. The mouse apologised to the lion.
5. The lion didn't eat the mouse. He let the mouse go.
6. Two farmers didn't set a trap. Two hunters set a trap.
7. The hunters didn't go to find a car. They went to find a truck.
8. The mouse didn't run by. She walked by.
9. The lion wasn't asleep again. The lion was free again.
10. The lion and the mouse weren't hungry. They were friends.

Finally, ask the students to think of a moral for the story, e.g. 'A kindness is never wasted' or 'Even the smallest kindness brings its reward.'

As an extension, students retell the story to a partner, changing some details, and the other student tries to identify the changes.

A. Write the past simple form of the verbs.

Present simple	Past simple	Present simple	Past simple
1. apologise		14. put	
2. are		15. walk	
3. chew		16. remember	
4. come		17. reply	
5. fall		18. run	
6. go		19. say	
7. am/is		20. see	
8. leave		21. set	
9. let		22. step	
10. lift		23. tell	
11. like		24. think	
12. open		25. tie	
13. want		26. wake	

B. Read the story "The Lion and the Mouse" and complete it with the verbs from the boxes in their past simple form.

Part 1	apologise is fall open put run tell think wake want
---------------	--

A long time ago, a lion (1) asleep in the jungle. A mouse (2) to play, so she (3) up and down the lion. The lion (4) up and (5) his huge paw on the mouse. 'Breakfast!' he (6) He (7) his mouth to eat the mouse. The mouse (8) very afraid, and she (9) to the lion. She (10) the lion that maybe she could help him someday.



Part 2	come go let lift like set step tie
---------------	---

The lion (1) the idea that the mouse could help him in the future. He (2) his paw and (3) the mouse go. A few weeks later, two hunters (4) a trap, and the lion accidentally (5) into it. The hunters (6) back to the trap and (7) the lion to the tree with ropes while they (8) to find a truck to carry the lion in.



The Lion and the Mouse

Part 3	are chew is am leave remember reply say see walk
---------------	---

After the hunters (1), the mouse (2) by and
 (3) the lion. She (4) her promise to help him, so she
 (5) through the ropes connecting the lion to the tree. Soon the lion
 (6) free again. "See, I (7) right," (8)
 the mouse. The lion (9), "Thank you!" After that, the lion and the mouse
 (10) friends.

C. Now, read another version of the story that contains mistakes. Write two past simple sentences about each incorrect detail. Write one negative sentence about the mistake and one affirmative sentence with the correct information.

A long time ago, a lion was asleep in the forest. A mouse wanted to play, so she walked up and down the lion. The lion woke up and put his huge nose on the mouse. 'Breakfast!' he thought. He opened his mouth to eat the mouse.

The mouse was very afraid, and she sang to the lion. She told the lion that maybe she could help him someday. The lion liked the idea that the mouse could help him in the future. He lifted his paw and ate the mouse.

A few weeks later, two farmers set a trap, and the lion accidentally stepped into it. The hunters came back and tied the lion to the tree with ropes while they went to find a car to carry the lion in.

After the hunters left, the mouse ran by and saw the lion. She remembered her promise to help him. So, she chewed through the ropes connecting the lion to the tree. Soon the lion was asleep again.

"See, I was right", said the mouse. The lion replied, "Thank you!" After that, the lion and the mouse were hungry.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.