

PAST SIMPLE DI BE E PAST SIMPLE Exercises

1 Complete the sentences with the correct answer, A or B.

- 1 Jack and his family on holiday in Mexico last week.
A wasn't B weren't
- 2 They at the cinema last night.
A were B was
- 3 She at school yesterday because she was sick.
A weren't B wasn't
- 4 Where you on Saturday?
A was B were
- 5 When his exam?
A were B was

2 Complete the sentences with *could/couldn't* and the verbs given.

- 1 When I was six I Italian, but I can now. (speak)
- 2 My grandmother emails when she was young because there wasn't the Internet! (send)
- 3 they any cheap souvenirs apart from shortbread? (buy)
- 4 Freddie his tickets online, so we can do the same. (reserve)
- 5 We our passports, so we missed our flight. (find)

3 Complete the sentences with the correct past simple form of *be* or *can*.

- 1 (be) it wet or sunny last May? I can't remember.
- 2 We walked a long way yesterday so we (be) tired when we got home.
- 3 The water was very cold at the swimming pool so we (can) swim.
- 4 How many people (be) on the plane?
- 5 He told me where I (can) buy tickets, but I couldn't find the place.
- 6 I (be) in France for the weekend with my cousins.

4 Re-write these sentences in the negative form.

- 1 The teacher gave us lots of homework yesterday.
.....
- 2 My brother was working for a farmer during the summer holidays.
.....
- 3 They asked the mechanic to fix the car.
.....
- 4 I wanted to be a cook when I was young.
.....
- 5 We were helping in my parents' restaurant over the holidays.
.....

5 Correct the mistakes in the sentences. One sentence is correct.

1 Last morning, I did my homework before lunch.

.....

2 We did see some beautiful buildings in Prague.

.....

3 I couldn't understood the English teacher today.

.....

4 The day before yesterday, we went to London by train.

.....

5 Why was you at home this morning?

.....

6 The excursion to the Pyramids were very interesting.

.....

6 Complete the short dialogues with the correct past simple form of the verbs given.

1 A: You've got a lot of bags!

B: Yes. We (buy) a lot of food for the party at the supermarket this morning.

2 A: Can you come to the cinema this evening?

B: No, sorry. Our teacher (give) us lots of homework so I have to stay at home.

3 A: How was your holiday?

B: Great. I really (like) Spain!

4 A: I (watch) a programme about Mexico on TV last night.

B: Yes. There are some amazing places there.

5 A: The food in Italy is fantastic, isn't it?

B: Yes. I (eat) lots of pizza, pasta and ice cream. I must do some exercise now!

7 Complete the short dialogues with the correct past simple form of the verbs given.

1 A: Did you like travelling in cars when you were a child?

B: No, I (do). I always felt sick.

2 A: Why did Wendy come home early?

B: She (not go) swimming after school because the swimming pool was closed.

3 A: Did you find the book you were looking for yesterday?

B: Yes, but I (not buy) it in the end because it was too expensive.

4 A: How was the film?

B: I (like) it. It was very exciting.

5 A: Where (you/go) yesterday?

B: To the park. We played football all afternoon.

8 Choose the correct alternatives to complete the sentences.

- 1 I **didn't watch / wasn't watching** scary films when I was a child.
- 2 We **arrived / were arriving** at the theatre at 6.30.
- 3 I **tried / was trying** to write a story for our English class when you phoned me last night.
- 4 He **bought / was buying** that new computer game last Saturday. He's playing it now.
- 5 I **read / was reading** a good book before you arrived. It was really interesting.

9 Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

- 1 Where were Helen and her family lived when her parents decided to move to Paris?

.....

- 2 I didn't like the concert, so I was leaving after half an hour.

.....

- 3 Why you decided to study languages?

.....

- 4 Jenny wasn't finishing the book yesterday.

.....

- 5 How long did you waiting for the bus this morning?

.....

- 6 She didn't wanted to work in a hospital. She preferred a small clinic.

.....

10 Put the words in order to make questions.

- 1 playing / professor / was / actor / that / the / the / ?

.....

- 2 she / want / did / to become / actress / an / ?

.....

- 3 you / get / a / factory / job / in / the / did / ?

.....

- 4 your / father / work / in a / did / busy office / ?

.....

- 5 the / chef / make / today / all this food / did / ?

.....

- 6 were / the / waiting / mechanic / you / for / ?

.....

11 ENGLISH IN USE Choose the best answers (A, B, or C) to complete the text.

My favourite holiday

My favourite holiday was when I was five years old. My mum and dad (1) me and my brother, James, to Sweden for a winter holiday. We went (2) ship. It took two days and I (3) very ill, but it (4) very exciting!

When we arrived in Sweden, it was very cold and we (5) a lot of snow. We (6) for a long time, and then we came to a small house. It was beautiful. There were five houses and a shop near our house. There wasn't a TV so we (7) watch films, but we played games with Mum and Dad. One day, we (8) skiing. It was the best holiday of my life!

- 1 A gave B took C made
- 2 A on B in C by
- 3 A felt B went C did
- 4 A was B is C were
- 5 A looked B watched C saw
- 6 A held B ran C drove
- 7 A weren't B couldn't C mustn't
- 8 A were B went C stopped

12 ENGLISH IN USE Complete the email with one word or a contraction in each gap.

Hi Beth,
How are you? I started my holiday job last week. I (1) at the farm shop for three mornings. It was good fun. Then I went shopping! I bought lots of DVDs, but I (2) buy the new Keira Knightley DVD because I borrowed it from Jason. He was (3) at the farm last week too, but outdoors.
(4) you get the summer job you wanted? I phoned you this morning, but there was no answer. Maybe you (5) sleeping. Last weekend, I (6) to a concert with Susanna. We bought the tickets a long time ago. It (7) amazing!
(8) did you go last weekend? I phoned you then as well, but you weren't at home.
Call me soon!
Amanda