

Exercises on Simple Past

Put the verbs into the correct form (simple past).

1. Last year I (spend) my holiday in Ireland.
2. It (be) great.
3. I (travel) around by car with two friends and we (visit) lots of interesting places.
4. In the evenings we usually (go) to a pub.
5. One night we even (learn) some Irish dances.
6. We (be) very lucky with the weather.
7. It (not / rain) a lot.
8. But we (see) some beautiful rainbows.
9. Where (spend / you) your last holiday?
10. 1. Yesterday my father (go) to work by car.
11. This morning I (have) a shower.
12. My sister (not clean) her room on Saturday.
13. The birds (fly) over our heads.
14. Last week my family (not buy) a new table for the dining room.
15. he other day, I (lose) my math's book.
16. I (tell) my mother a lie.
17. We (hear) a terrible sound outside last night.
18. (you see) football match Tuesday night?
19. Pau (drink) a litre of Coke for lunch yesterday.

Change each sentence into a negative and interrogative sentence.

20. They collected postcards. →
21. You jumped high. →
22. Albert played squash. →
23. The teacher tested our English. →
24. Fiona visited her grandma. →
25. He washed the car. →
26. You were thirsty. →
27. He had a computer. →
28. I bought bread. →
29. You saw the house. →

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare (be) born in Stratford-on-Avon on April 23, 1564. He..... (go) to the local Stratford Grammar School. Lessons began at six o'clock in the morning in the summer in order to make the most of daylight.

His father (be) John Shakespeare a Stratford upon Avon glove-maker. He (send) William to the local grammar school in 1571, but when William (be) only 14 years old his fortunes fell so low that William (have) to leave school. Some historians say he (work) in his father's shop.

At the age of 19 William (to marry) Anne Hathaway the daughter of a rich farmer near Stratford. Three years later Shakespeare (go) to London. How he (live) there we do not know.

In about 1587 he (become) a member of one of the few theatrical companies which (exist) in those days. Around 1590 he (begin) to try his hand at writing plays. There (be) no female actors in those days, all the female parts (be) (play) by boys. It is thought that he (write) his first major play, Henry VI., Part One, in 1592.

His most famous play, Hamlet, (be) probably first seen in 1601 at the Globe Theatre. Shakespeare(continue) to write about 2 plays a year.

He (return) to Stratford in 1612, where he (live) the life of a country gentleman. He(die) of a fever on his birthday in 1616.

Chicago

The third largest city in the United States (after New York and Los Angeles) lies on the shores of Lake Michigan. The Potawatomi once lived in this area and the city's name derives from the Potawatomi word Checagou (meaning "wild onions"). The name was used because the place used to smell like onions.

The Sears Tower (on the left) was built between 1970 and 1973 and is the highest building in the United States. It is 442 meters from bottom to the top floor, and reaches a total height of 527 meters (including its television antennas).

Write the verbs in simple past.

1. The first settlers (be) the Potawatomi.
2. They (call) this place Checagou (wild onion) because it (smell) like onions.
3. Constructions on the Sears Tower (begin) in 1970.
4. Until 1997, the Sears Tower (be) the highest building in the world.

Oxford

Oxford is a beautiful university town that is famous all over the world. The University of Oxford is the oldest university in Great Britain; it already existed in the 12th century. In the town centre there are many old buildings. There is also a museum where you can learn more about Oxford's history.

Write the verbs in simple past.

1. The University of Oxford (be) the first British university.
2. The lecturers of the colleges (speak) a very clear English.
3. That's why Oxford English (become) known as the English of educated people.
4. In the 19th century, Lewis Carroll (write) 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' in Oxford.
5. Rowan Atkinson (Mr Bean) (study) electrical engineering at Oxford.