

**The English past simple tense - activity 2 (structure)**

**Change the following present tense sentences into the past simple. Replace the underlined words with the word or words in brackets.**

- 1) The flight leaves Birmingham airport every morning at 9.45am. (yesterday)
- 2) I study my English verb tables every Wednesday. (last Wednesday)
- 3) We love going on holiday to the beach in summer. (last summer)
- 4) John goes to see Mary at weekends. (last weekend)

**Make the necessary changes to these affirmative sentences to change them into questions, eg. "They ate fish" = "Did they... etc?"**

- 5) The Town Hall sold all their official cars last week.
- 6) The children played football in the street on Saturday afternoon.
- 7) They went to see the new film by Almodovar last night.
- 8) The hypermarket was open every Sunday during December.

**Change the following sentences into the negative form of the past simple. The verbs to be adapted are underlined.**

- 9) The world was a better place a hundred years ago. People enjoyed life more.
- 10) The computer worked perfectly this week. We were very happy with it.
- 11) I caught the bus to work today. It was wet and cold again.
- 12) I had a lovely shower in the hotel this morning. The water came out hot.

### Teacher's notes.

(Time for both activities: 45 mins approx. Level: lower intermediate.)

### Answers to activity 2.

- 1) The flight left Birmingham airport yesterday at 9.45am.
- 2) I studied my English verb tables last Wednesday.
- 3) We loved going on holiday to the beach last summer.
- 4) John went to see Mary last weekend.
- 5) Did the Town Hall sell all their official cars last week?
- 6) Did the children play football in the street on Saturday afternoon?
- 7) Did they go to see the new film by Almodovar last night?
- 8) Was the hypermarket open every Sunday during December?
- 9) The world wasn't a better place a hundred years ago. People didn't enjoy life more.
- 10) The computer didn't work perfectly this week. We weren't very happy with it.
- 11) I didn't catch the bus to work today. It wasn't wet and cold again.
- 12) I didn't have a lovely shower in the hotel this morning. The water didn't come out hot.

After the exercise, clear up any problems with structure knowledge. Ensure that students are aware that the verb "to be" doesn't use the auxiliary "did". Ask students if auxiliary "did" has a meaning. Explain that auxiliary "did" doesn't have a dictionary meaning and that it's used to indicate interrogative and negative forms of the verb. Try to do this by questioning rather than by direct telling.

### Follow up.

Write up the following list of time phrases and activities. (Tip – Have them written on the board before the class come in or make a handout of these phrases for each student.)

<p><u>Activities:</u>            Where – you – go?            Who – you – go – with?            What – you – do?            What – clothes – you – like to wear?            What – music – you – listen – to?            What – food – you – eat?            What – be – your – hobbies?            Where – you – live?            What – be – different – in your life?</p>	<p><u>Time phrases:</u>            - yesterday morning / afternoon / evening            - last Saturday / weekend / summer            - last week / month / year            - 2 weeks ago / a year ago / 10 years ago            - when / you were a child / you were 16</p>
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Give the students an example sentence, which is made from combining phrases from both boxes, eg. "Where did you go last Saturday evening?"

Put students into groups of three or four and ask each group to interrogate one student with phrases only from the boxes. Students should make notes on what was said. After a couple of minutes another student is interrogated. Change after 2 minutes. When all students have been interrogated, ask each group to tell the rest of the class the most interesting or the funniest answers.

Enjoy the class!

[\(Open activity 1 in pdf on the past simple \(do preferably first\)...\)](#)

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