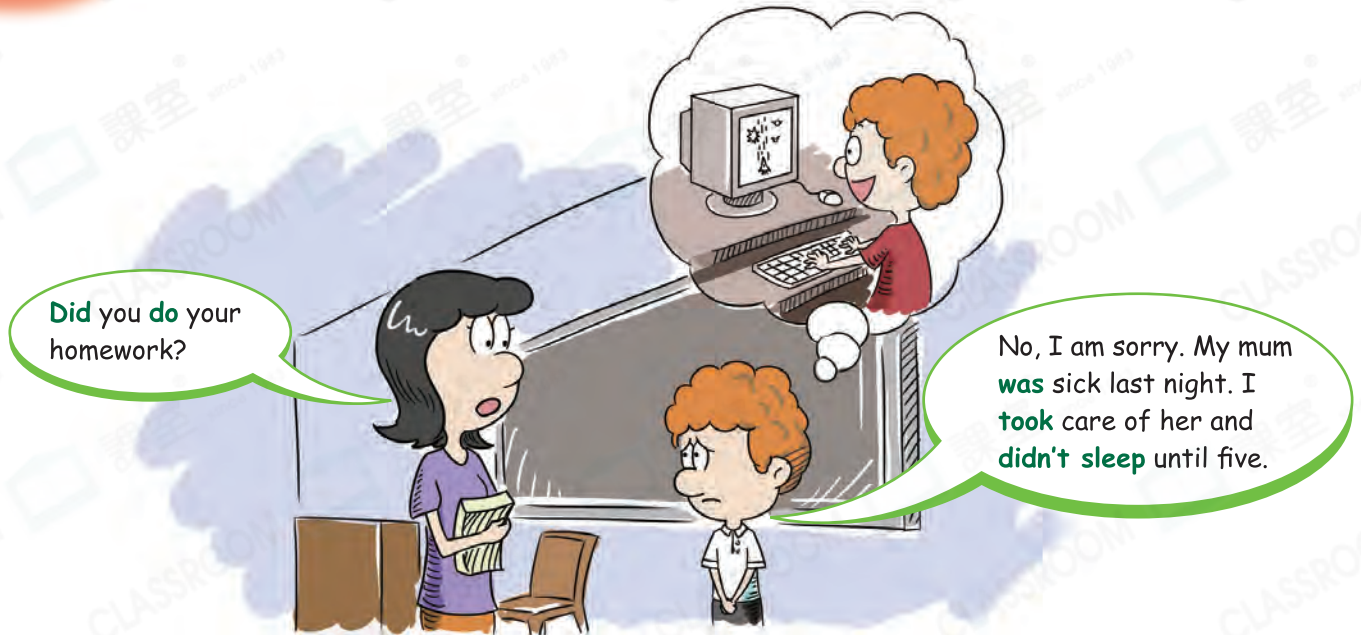


3

The simple past



Usage

We use the simple past tense to talk about things that happened at a **definite** time in the past and are now finished. We often use it with time expressions such as *last month*, *two days ago*, *once upon a time* and *in the past*.



Part 1 Verb to be

We form statements in the simple past tense with the verb *to be* (*was / were*) in the following ways:


Positive statement		
I / He / She / It	was	thirsty.
You / We / They	were	


Negative statement		
I / He / She / It	was not / wasn't	thirsty.
You / We / They	were not / weren't	


Exercise 1.1


Look at the pictures. Fill in the blanks with the correct simple past form of the verb 'to be'.


1.  The money was on the table. It was not / wasn't in the safe.

2.  The flowers I got yesterday _____ roses. They _____ sunflowers.

3.  Nick _____ sick. He _____ present at the meeting.

4.  I _____ hungry. I _____ sleepy.

5.  May and I _____ on the bus. We _____ on the plane.

6.  The staff member _____ lazy. The boss _____ happy.



We form *yes / no*-questions and short answers in the simple past tense with the verb *to be* in the following ways:

Question		
Was	I / he / she / it	friendly?
Were	you / we / they	

Short answer		
Yes,	I / he / she / it	was.
	you / we / they	were.
No,	I / he / she / it	was not / wasn't.
	you / we / they	were not / weren't.

Exercise 1.2

Put the words in the correct order to form questions in the simple past tense. Change the verb 'to be' into the correct form.

1. you / this morning / **be** / late for school

Were you late for school this morning?

2. William / in the school swimming team / **be** / last year

3. just now / the roller coaster ride / you / scared of / **be**

4. under / yesterday / the cockroaches / **be** / the desk

5. the cinema / six years ago / King Street / **be** / at the end of



Part 2 Regular Verbs

We form statements in the simple past tense with regular verbs in the following ways:

Positive statement		
I / He / She / It	enjoyed	the film yesterday.
You / We / They		

Negative statement		
I / He / She / It	did not enjoy / didn't enjoy	the film yesterday.
You / We / They		

When we form the simple past form of the verbs, we need to change the spelling of the verbs in the following ways:

Verb	Change	Example
Most verbs	+ ed	ask → asked help → helped
Verbs ending in -e	+ d	like → liked taste → tasted
Verbs ending in a consonant + -y	✓ + ied	carry → carried worry → worried
Verbs ending in a vowel + a consonant (except w and y)	double the consonant + ed	stop → stopped plan → planned

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Underline the time expressions.

1. Last night, I (a) stayed (stay) up late to play video games secretly. Around one o'clock, Mum suddenly (b) _____ (pop) up. Her angry face (c) _____ (scare) me and I (d) _____ (not play) any more.

2. Matt and Lena (a) _____ (visit) a food carnival two days ago. Matt (b) _____ (not try) much food. However, Lena (c) _____ (consume) too much food that she (d) _____ (be) sick.



Part 3 Irregular Verbs

Some verbs do not have a regular *-ed* ending in the simple past tense. We can form the simple past tense with irregular verbs in the following ways:

Change	Example	
no change	cut → cut	cost → cost
change the vowel	sit → sat	blow → blew
change the consonant	make → made	build → built
change the whole word	bring → brought	have → had

Exercise 3.1

Complete the crossword puzzle with the correct simple past form of the verbs given. Then, find out the hidden word.

1.						<p>1. shake</p> <p>2. send</p> <p>3. pay</p> <p>4. hurt</p> <p>5. draw</p>
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						

What is the hidden word? _____

Exercise 3.2

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Underline the time expressions.

- The bad news _____ (spread) quickly this afternoon.
- In the past, many Hong Kong people _____ (catch) fish to earn a living.
- Olivia and I _____ (not swim) last summer.
- The beggar _____ (dream) of winning the lottery three days ago.
- We _____ (burst) out laughing when we watched TV yesterday.



We form *yes / no*-questions and short answers in the simple past tense with verbs other than the verb *to be* in the following ways:

Question		
Did	I / you / we / they	have lunch?
	he / she / it	enjoy the food? eat the pudding?

Short answer		
Yes,	I / you / we / they	did.
	he / she / it	
No,	I / you / we / they	did not / didn't.
	he / she / it	

Exercise 3.3

Complete the conversation with the words in brackets. Use the correct simple past form of the verbs. Add suitable pronouns where necessary.

Roy: (1) _____ *Did you walk* _____ (you / walk) your dog yesterday?

Lynn: Yes, (2) _____. Joe dug up something in my backyard yesterday.

Roy: (3) _____ (Joe / find) a treasure there?

Lynn: Yes, (4) _____! He found my lost watch.

Roy: Wow! (5) _____ (the watch / work)?

Lynn: No, (6) _____, but I was still happy to have found it. It was a present from my parents.

Roy: (7) _____ (your parents / know) that you found it?

Lynn: No, (8) _____. I'm going to tell them tonight.



Educator's Tips

In the simple present and simple past tenses, use the helping verb do in the beginning of a question. **Don't** make the following mistake.

✗ *Was he get high marks in the exam?*

✓ *Did he get high marks in the exam?*

More theme-related vocabulary on P.127 **DSE**

Theme: Crime

Text Type: News report

Unit Recap

Ken wrote a news report about a robbery for the weekly school newspaper, but he made some mistakes about the verbs. Correct the underlined mistakes by writing the correct words in the spaces provided.

Classroom Weekly

4th July, 20XX

Schoolmate Catches Robber

Ken Ho, S.4C

A brave schoolmate, Rick Lam of S.6A, (1) helps to catch a robber who (2) trys to rob a schoolmate's bag last week.

Rick (3) seed a strange man following a schoolmate, Cecilia Wong of S.3B, last Monday. The man suddenly (4) takes her bag with great force and then (5) runs away. Rick chased the man at once, while Cecilia called the police. After running along several streets, Rick (6) catched him. At that moment, the police arrived and (7) arrest the man.

'I (8) go after the robber without thinking much,' Rick said, '(9) Did he carried a **weapon**? I didn't know. Luckily, he (10) isn't armed.'

The Principal, Mr Chan, (11) is praising Rick for his bravery in the interview, but he (12) did not encouraged schoolmates to do so. 'It could be very dangerous,' he remarked. '(13) Were Rick lucky in the incident? Yes. Students should try to call the police instead.'

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____



Vocabulary:

weapon (n.): something we use to fight with others

armed (adj.): carrying a weapon such as a gun