

GRAMMAR: past simple – affirmative statements

A LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT Read the tour evaluation below. Answer the questions.

- 1 Is Julie and Max's evaluation good or bad in general?
- 2 Do they mention any problems?

WORLD TOUR SERVICE

PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO WRITE A SHORT EVALUATION OF YOUR TOUR WITH US.

We took a tour to Ireland, and we had a fantastic time. WTS planned our trip very carefully and we visited a lot of places. We especially liked Dublin. It's an amazing city! The tour guides explained everything very clearly, and they answered all of our questions. They knew a lot about Irish history. They were also very helpful, and they carried our heavy bags for us. The hotel in Cork was a bit uncomfortable, but in general, we stayed in very nice hotels. We loved Ireland, and we'd like to go back.

JULIE WEST AND MAX RUSHMORE

NOTICE!

Look at the past simple verbs in blue. What is the ending of most past simple verbs in English?

B ANALYSE Read the text in Exercise A again.

Function Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.

We use the past simple to talk about ...

- a) events in the past. b) events that began in the past and are still happening at the moment of speaking.

Form Complete the table with the correct past simple verb forms.

Regular verbs		Irregular verbs	
Base form	Past simple form	Base form	Past simple form
explain	(1) _____	be	(5) _____
like	(2) _____	have	(6) _____
carry	(3) _____	know	(7) _____
plan	(4) _____	take	(8) _____

The complete list of irregular verbs is on page 168.

Spelling rules for simple past regular verbs:

- Most verbs, add **-ed**: explain – explained
- Verbs ending in **-e**, add **-d**: love – loved
- Verbs ending in consonant + **y**, change **-y** to **-i** and add **-ed**: carry – carried
- One-syllable verbs ending in one vowel + one consonant, double the consonant and add **-ed**: plan – planned

C PRACTISE Complete the email with the past simple of the verbs in brackets.

To: tracy_smith@mymail.com
 From: robert_brown@mymail.com
 Subject: Tanzania!

Hey, Tracy! Last month Susan and I (1) _____ (go) on a tour in Tanzania, and it (2) _____ (be) incredible! We (3) _____ (travel) from the town of Arusha to a volcanic crater called Ngorongoro. We (4) _____ (stay) in a cabin near the crater, and the first evening we (5) _____ (watch) the sunset over the volcano – wow! The next day we walked into the crater, and we (6) _____ (see) lots of wild animals, including zebras, elephants, and lions! I (7) _____ (take) lots of photos! Our guide (8) _____ (explain) the geology of the crater, and he also (9) _____ (tell) us about the people and the animals in the region. We (10) _____ (have) a great time!

D NOW YOU DO IT
 Work in groups. Talk about the last trip you took.

My family/friends and I went to ...
 We stayed at ... It was ...

Time expressions:

yesterday
 last Tuesday/week/month/year
 three hours/days/weeks/
 months/years ago
 in March/2010

PRONUNCIATION: -ed endings

A **58** Listen to the sounds in the table. Then listen to the past simple forms of the verbs in the box and write them in the correct columns in the table.

listened watched decided
wanted played liked

/d/	/t/	/ɪd/

B **59** Work in pairs. Listen and repeat the verb pairs. Then listen again and write the past simple forms in the correct columns in the table above.

READING: a survey

A Read the first paragraph of the article. What is the topic of the survey?

- a) readers' birthdays b) readers' email use c) readers' experiences

HOW WAS YOUR YEAR?

It's Your Life emailed 100 readers on their birthdays and asked them how they felt about the past year of their lives. Then they completed a survey about specific positive experiences during the year. Many people were surprised at the results! For example, a lot of people who said, 'It was OK,' really had a fantastic year, according to the survey. Sometimes we focus too much on the bad or boring things in our lives! Now you try it ...

My past year was ...

- a) great! b) OK. c) not very good.

Now circle yes or no for each statement about your past year.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 I took an interesting or fun trip. | YES NO | 6 I did a lot of exercise or sports. | YES NO |
| 2 I went to some great parties. | YES NO | 7 I discovered some great music. | YES NO |
| 3 I met some new friends. | YES NO | 8 I read some good books. | YES NO |
| 4 I had a romantic relationship. | YES NO | 9 I got a new pet. | YES NO |
| 5 I went out with my friends a lot. | YES NO | 10 I tried a new hobby. | YES NO |

Now look at your score.

Every 'yes' equals 1 point and every 'no' equals 0 points.

Does your general opinion of your past year match your score?

- 6-10 It looks like you had a great year!
3-5 Your year was fun! But maybe you can do more ...
0-2 Why not try some more of the things on the list?

B Read the whole survey and choose T (true) or F (false) for these sentences.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 The magazine asked the readers how they felt about the previous month. | T / F |
| 2 The survey was about positive experiences. | T / F |
| 3 Lots of people were surprised by the results. | T / F |
| 4 People who say their year was 'OK' are often right. | T / F |
| 5 Four statements in the survey relate to hobbies and activities. | T / F |
| 6 Four statements in the survey relate to relationships and socialising. | T / F |

C Now complete the survey for yourself.

D Carry out a class survey. Answer these questions.

- How many people in the class did each thing on the survey?
- How many people had a great year?
- How many people were surprised by the results?