Focus on Grammar: Past Simple (Exercises)

Exercise 1

Study the sentences and cross out the ones which are not in the past simple

1. The train arrived on time.
2. I didn’t enjoy the film very much.
3. Where did you go last night?
4. I’ve lived here for two years.
5. Did I miss anything at work today?
6. It was raining this morning.
7. By 2005 share prices had fallen 20%.
8. Nobody came to the meeting.
9. Did you have a good journey?
10. He didn’t find the test too hard.

Exercise 2

Now complete these notes

1. To form the past simple tense of regular verbs we add ...................... e.g. arrive…, miss…, etc.
2. The only way to know the past tense of irregular verbs is to ...................... one by one.
3. To form the negative, we use ...................... + infinitive.
4. To form a question, we use ...................... + ...................... + infinitive.
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Exercise 3

*Choose verbs to complete the sentences and put them into the past simple*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>become</th>
<th>begin</th>
<th>can</th>
<th>catch</th>
<th>cost</th>
<th>fall</th>
<th>find</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>freeze</td>
<td>go</td>
<td>make</td>
<td>rise</td>
<td>spread</td>
<td>take</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercise 4

*Four of the following sentences are not correct. Underline them and make the necessary corrections.*

1. Unemployment decreased last month.
2. Where did you stay while you were on holiday?
3. It poured with rain all night.
4. He didn’t leave a message for me, did he?
5. I’m sorry, I didn’t understand the question very well.
6. Manchester United won the Cup Final last night.
7. How much you paid for your course fees?
8. The manager rung the police when he discovered the break-in.
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Exercise 5

Complete the sentences by changing the verb in brackets into the past simple. Be careful some verbs are irregular.

1. Sickness rates ........ (go up) last month.
2. ........ the cost of childcare ........ (fall) at the start of the year?
3. I ........ (not/leave) school until I ........ (be) 18.
4. When ........ you ........ (start) learning Hindi?
5. The mechanic ........ (fix) my car very quickly.
6. The flu ........ (not/spread) as fast as they ........ (believe) it would.
7. What ........ her job at the restaurant ........ (involve)?
8. He ........ (can/not) find a job for many months.

Exercise 6

Each of the sentences below contains an error. Find it and correct the sentences

1. The number of dentists rised last year.
2. Stress caused 10% of sickness at 1997.
3. I studied English and French last year.
4. When he worked in a factory, he didn’t got paid very much.
5. Why didn’t the employees be happy?