

## 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**

become	begin	can	catch	cost	fall	find
freeze	go	make	rise	spread	take	

- 1 The cost of production ..... 16% last year, adding to the company's problems.
- 2 Fortunately, the economy ..... to recover in spring last year.
- 3 Many people ..... cholera and other diseases from contaminated water.
- 4 Families who ..... part in the experiment in July ..... that eating healthily ..... no more than eating junk food.
- 5 In the past, only people who ..... afford to pay ..... to university.
- 6 The disease ..... rapidly in a matter of weeks and soon ..... a major epidemic.
- 7 The temperatures ..... so low last winter that water in the pipes .....
- 8 Strikes ..... chaos to the transport system last month and ..... many people's journey home a nightmare.

### 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 stayed 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 understood 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.
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- 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 studyed 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?