

# Past Simple Tense Stories

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The **Past Simple tense** is used to describe actions that happened at a specific time in the past. Whether it's telling a story about yesterday, last week, or even years ago, the Past Simple helps us share moments from the past clearly and effectively. In this series, you will read three stories where the **Past Simple tense** is used to talk about completed actions. After each story, try the exercises to practice identifying and using the tense correctly.

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## Story 1: The Lost Wallet

John was walking home from work when he **noticed** something unusual. As he crossed the street, he **saw** a small wallet lying on the ground. He **picked** it up and **opened** it to see if there was any identification inside. To his surprise, the wallet **belonged** to his neighbor, Mrs. Brown.

John immediately **decided** to return it. He **knocked** on her door, and after a few seconds, Mrs. Brown **answered**. When she **saw** her wallet, she **smiled** with relief and **thanked** John repeatedly. She **had** been worried because she **thought** she had lost it forever. John **felt** happy that he could help her.

After chatting for a while, John **said** goodbye and **went** home. That night, he **thought** about the day's events and **realized** that small acts of kindness could make a big difference.

### Exercises:

1. What did John notice on the ground?
2. Who did the wallet belong to?
3. How did Mrs. Brown feel when she saw her wallet?
4. What did John realize at the end of the day?

### Answer Key:

1. John **noticed** a wallet on the ground.
  2. The wallet **belonged** to his neighbor, Mrs. Brown.
  3. Mrs. Brown **felt** relief and **thanked** John.
  4. John **realized** that small acts of kindness could make a big difference.
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## Story 2: A Day at the Beach

Last Saturday, Emma and her friends **decided** to spend the day at the beach. They **packed** their bags with snacks, sunscreen, and towels, and they **left** early in the morning to avoid the traffic. When they **arrived**, the sun **was shining** brightly, and the water **looked** perfect for swimming.

Emma and her friends **swam** in the ocean for hours. They **played** beach volleyball, **built** sandcastles, and **ate** delicious sandwiches. In the afternoon, they **sat** under an umbrella and **watched** the waves. Everything **seemed** perfect until dark clouds **began** to gather.

Suddenly, it **started** to rain heavily. They quickly **grabbed** their things and **ran** to the car. Even though the rain **ruined** their plans, Emma and her friends **laughed** about the unexpected turn of events and **agreed** that it was still a fun day.

### Exercises:

1. What did Emma and her friends do at the beach?
2. What ruined their day?
3. How did they feel about the rain?

### Answer Key:

1. Emma and her friends **swam**, **played** volleyball, and **built** sandcastles.
  2. The rain **ruined** their day.
  3. They **laughed** and **agreed** that it was still fun.
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## Story 3: The Surprise Party

Last Friday, Sarah's friends **threw** her a surprise birthday party. They **planned** it for weeks, carefully organizing every detail. On the day of the party, they **decorated** her living room with balloons and banners and **prepared** her favorite cake.

When Sarah **came** home from work, she **noticed** that the house was unusually quiet. As she **opened** the door to the living room, all of her friends **jumped** out and **shouted** "Surprise!" Sarah **was** shocked and **started** to cry tears of joy. She **hugged** each of her friends and **thanked** them for the amazing surprise.

They **spent** the rest of the evening eating, laughing, and telling stories about their favorite memories together. Sarah **felt** grateful to have such wonderful friends who **cared** about her so much.

### Exercises:

1. What did Sarah's friends do to prepare for the party?
2. How did Sarah react when she saw her friends?
3. What did Sarah and her friends do during the evening?

### Answer Key:

1. Sarah's friends **planned** the party, **decorated** the room, and **prepared** her favorite cake.
2. Sarah **was** shocked and **started** to cry tears of joy.
3. They **spent** the evening eating, laughing, and telling stories.

### Story 4: The Mountain Adventure

Last summer, Jake and his friends **planned** a mountain hike to challenge themselves and enjoy nature. They **chose** a remote trail that few people knew about, hoping for an adventure. Early one morning, they **packed** their backpacks with water, snacks, and all the gear they **needed** for the day. By 6 AM, they **were** already at the foot of the mountain, ready to begin their climb.

The first part of the hike **was** easy, with wide paths and clear skies. They **talked** and **laughed** as they **climbed**, admiring the beauty of the forest. The sound of birds chirping **filled** the air, and the scent of pine trees **surrounded** them. After two hours of hiking, they **reached** a small clearing where they **took** a short break to drink water and eat sandwiches.

However, as they **continued** their ascent, the trail **became** steeper and more difficult. They **slowed** down and **focused** on their steps, but they **didn't give up**. The higher they **went**, the more breathtaking the views **became**. At one point, they **spotted** a distant waterfall cascading down the side of the mountain, which **motivated** them to keep going.

By midday, they **were** nearing the summit. But as they **climbed** the final stretch, dark clouds **began** to gather. The wind **picked up**, and soon, it **started** to rain. They **pulled** on their rain jackets and **pressed** on, determined to reach the top. Despite the weather, they **felt** a surge of excitement as they **approached** the summit.

When they finally **reached** the peak, they **cheered** and **high-fived** each other. The view from the top **was** incredible, with the valley stretching out below them and mist rising from the trees. They **took** photos, **ate** lunch, and **rested** for a while, feeling proud of their achievement.

On the way back down, they **moved** quickly to avoid the worsening rain. The trail **was** slippery, but they **supported** each other and **made** it back safely to the base of the mountain by late afternoon. Though they **were** tired and soaked from the rain, they **agreed** that it **was** one of the best experiences they had ever had.

### Exercises:

1. What motivated Jake and his friends to keep climbing?
2. How did the weather change during their hike?
3. How did they feel when they reached the summit?
4. What did they do when the rain started?

### Answer Key:

1. They **spotted** a waterfall, which **motivated** them to keep going.
  2. Dark clouds **gathered**, and it **started** to rain.
  3. They **felt** proud and excited when they **reached** the summit.
  4. They **pulled** on rain jackets and **continued** their hike.
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### Story 5: The Baking Disaster

Sophie always **loved** baking, so when her best friend Lucy's birthday **came** around, she **decided** to bake a special cake. She **searched** through her recipe books and finally **chose** a chocolate cake with a rich, creamy filling. Confident in her skills, she **gathered** all the ingredients and **set** to work.

At first, everything **went** smoothly. Sophie **measured** the flour, sugar, and cocoa powder perfectly, and she **mixed** the batter until it was smooth and silky. She **preheated** the oven and **poured** the batter into the cake pans. Feeling satisfied, she **placed** the pans into the oven and **set** the timer.

While the cake **baked**, Sophie **began** preparing the filling. She **melted** chocolate and butter in a saucepan, stirring constantly to make sure it didn't burn. As the filling **thickened**, she **tasted** it and **smiled**. It **was** delicious, just as she had imagined.

However, when the timer **rang**, things **began** to go wrong. Sophie **opened** the oven and **noticed** that the cake **hadn't risen** properly. It **looked** flat and uneven, not like the picture in her recipe book. She **took** the cakes out and **realized** that she had forgotten to add baking powder. Frustrated, she **sighed** but **decided** to continue.

After the cakes **cooled**, she **spread** the filling between the layers and **covered** the whole cake with a smooth layer of frosting. Despite its flat appearance, it still **looked** decent. She **cleaned** the kitchen and **prepared** to take the cake to Lucy's party.

At the party, Sophie **watched** nervously as Lucy **cut** into the cake. When everyone **took** a bite, they **paused** for a moment. The cake **was** dense and dry, not at all what Sophie had hoped for. Lucy, always the kind friend, **smiled** and **said** it **tasted** good, but Sophie **knew** it wasn't her best work.

Afterward, Sophie **laughed** about the baking disaster with Lucy. Though the cake hadn't turned out as planned, it **became** a funny story that they would remember for years.

### Exercises:

1. What mistake did Sophie make while baking the cake?
2. How did the cake turn out in the end?
3. How did Sophie feel about the cake at the party?
4. What did Sophie and Lucy do after the cake was served?

### Answer Key:

1. Sophie **forgot** to add baking powder, so the cake **didn't rise** properly.
2. The cake **was** dense and dry.
3. Sophie **felt** nervous and knew it wasn't her best work.
4. Sophie and Lucy **laughed** about the baking disaster afterward.