

# My Last Holiday

Using past simple tense regular verbs to talk about your holidays.

## 1. Warm up

Discuss the following with your partner.

- Look at the photographs and think of three adjectives to describe each.



Christchurch, NZ

- .....
- .....
- .....



New York, USA

- .....
- .....
- .....

- What kind of holiday activities can you do in each place?

## 2. Reading

### A. Read the story about Leo's holiday.

Last year I visited Barcelona for two weeks. I studied architecture at university, so I decided to visit the city because there are lots of beautiful buildings there.

I really enjoyed my vacation and learned a lot about the culture. I stayed in a hotel close to the Sagrada Familia, a very famous cathedral in Barcelona.

I also walked around the famous Parc Güell and watched a football game at the Nou Camp stadium. After the game we partied at a lively bar near the stadium.

I relaxed on the beach and talked with local people about the city and they recommended a beach close to the city called Sitges, so I rented a car and spent the day there. I liked it a lot! It was so beautiful and I really loved the old town. I think Barcelona is a great place for a vacation and always recommend it to my friends.



Photo by James Heming from Pexels

### B. Answer the questions about Leo's holiday.

- Where did Leo go on vacation? .....
- How many weeks did he stay? .....
- What did Leo study at university? .....
- Where did he stay during his vacation? .....
- What places did he visit? .....
- How did he travel to Sitges? .....

### 3. Past Simple Verbs

A. Underline the past simple verbs with -d, -ed, -ied in the text in Part 2A.

B. Write the underlined verbs in their infinitive form in the spaces.

- ed visit .....  
 .....  
 .....
- d .....  
 .....
- ied .....  
 .....

C. Read the rules about regular past simple verbs.

- For most past simple verbs add:  
 -ed. e.g. **walked**
- For short past simple verbs with **consonant-vowel-consonant**, double the last consonant and add:  
 -ed. e.g. **stopped** Except for words ending in -w, -x, -y. e.g. relaxed.
- For past simple verbs ending in e, add:  
 -d. e.g. **loved**
- For past simple verbs ending in **consonant + y**, remove the y and add:  
 -ier. e.g. **tried**

D. Write the verbs in the correct past simple form following the rules above,

- |               |               |                |               |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. jump ..... | 3. play ..... | 5. joke .....  | 7. shop ..... |
| 2. like ..... | 4. show ..... | 6. party ..... | 8. join ..... |

E. Write a suitable verb for each picture in the present and past simple tense.

1. .... 3. .... 5. ....



2. .... 4. .... 6. ....



## 4. Asking Questions

A. Review the example sentences. Can you see a pattern?

	Question word(s)	Did	Subject	Verb	Object or Prepositional phrase
1.	What	did	you	eat	every day?
2.		Did	you	eat	Paella?

B. Match the information you want to ask about (1-8) to the question words in the box.

a. Who	c. Where	e. Why	g. How long
b. What	d. When	f. How much/many	h. How often

1. \_\_\_\_ a place                      3. \_\_\_\_ a reason                      5. \_\_\_\_ a length of time                      7. \_\_\_\_ a time  
2. \_\_\_\_ a frequency                      4. \_\_\_\_ a person                      6. \_\_\_\_ a thing                      8. \_\_\_\_ a quantity

C. Unscramble the words to make questions.

1. did / study / you / where .....  
2. watch / did / last month / what film / you .....  
3. at school / what sports / you / play / did .....  
4. did / hate / you / when you were young / what food .....  
5. did / how often / visit museums / you / as a child .....  
6. you / what job / want / when you were a child / did .....

D. Ask and answer the questions above.

## 5. Practice

A. Think about a holiday you went on. Answer the questions with short answers.

1. **Where** did you go? .....                      6. **What** did you eat? .....  
2. **When** did you go? .....                      7. **What** did you like? .....  
3. **Who** did you go with? .....                      8. **How** did you go there? .....  
4. **How long** did you go for? .....                      9. **Why** did you go there? .....  
5. **What** did you do? .....

B. Ask your partner about their holiday using the questions above.

# My Last Holiday



Level: Beginner: A1  
Elementary: A2

Updated: Dec 18, 2021

Language: Function: Asking and answering questions. Talking about the past.  
Forms: Past tense.

Teaching time: 90 minutes.

Overview: Students focus on past simple tense regular verbs with -d, -ed, and -ied as well as constructing past simple questions. Students will discuss holidays they have had and the activities and things they did there.

## 1. WARM UP

1. In pairs, students look at the holiday destinations and write three adjectives to describe each. Elicit answers from students.
2. Students share ideas about what holiday activities you can do in each place. Elicit ideas from students, e.g. visit museums, go to the beach, shop, have dinner, take photos, etc.

A warm up activity helps set the mood for the topic/lesson and is a good opportunity to assess students' ability to generate language as well as elicit target vocabulary used in the lesson. If students struggle to engage with their partners, ask questions to encourage participation. Allow a few minutes for students to complete the activity and continue the conversation if interesting.

## 2. READING

- A. In pairs, students take turns reading about Leo's holiday in Spain. Encourage students to circle any new words to discuss with the class later. Discuss new vocabulary with the class and answer any questions that arise.
- B. Individually or in pairs, students answer the questions. Only short answers are required. Students can compare their answers with a partner and discuss any differences or check answers as a class.
  1. Where did Leo go on vacation?  
To Barcelona.
  2. How many weeks did he stay?  
2 weeks.
  3. What did Leo study at university?  
Architecture.
  4. Where did he stayed during his vacation?  
At a hotel close to the Sagrada Familia.
  5. What places did he visit?  
Parc Güell, Nou Camp, the beach, and Sitges.
  6. How did he travel to Sitges?  
He rented a car.

## 3. PAST SIMPLE VERBS

- A. Individually, students scan the text in Part 2A and underline the past simple verbs with -d, -ed, -ied then compare with their partner. Check the underlined verbs with the class; there are 15.
- B. In pairs, students place the verbs in their 'infinitive without to' form in the spaces. Elicit and board information.
  1. -ed: visit, enjoy, learn, stay, walk, watch, relax, talk, recommend, rent.
  2. -d: decide, love, like.

3. -ied: study, party.

- C. In pairs or as a class, discuss the rules. Check students understanding of information and answer any questions that arise
- D. Individually, students use the rules to write the verbs in the simple past tense form. Check answers and spelling with the class. Some students may write 'played' as 'plaid'. Remind students we only replace -y with -ier when it is preceded by a consonant not a vowel. Similarly 'stopped' may be incorrectly written as 'stoped'. We only double the last consonant for short past simple verbs ending consonant-vowel-consonant.
  1. jump jumped
  2. like liked
  3. play played
  4. show showed
  5. joke joked
  6. party partied
  7. shop shopped
  8. join joined
- E. Students look at the pictures and write suitable verbs in the present and past simple tense. Students can compare their words with a partner or class. Answers may vary.
  1. Talk - talked. Shout - shouted.
  2. Play - played.
  3. Cry - cried.
  4. Watched - watched. Relax - relaxed.
  5. Walk - walked. Exercise - exercised.
  6. Study - studied.

## 4. ASKING QUESTIONS

- A. In pairs or as a class, students read the example questions. You might choose to present the question pattern on the board and discuss how to construct questions.
- B. Individually or in pairs, students match the information they want to ask about (1-8) to the question words in the box. Check answers with the class and discuss various ways to form question words. Remind students we can use how many + plural noun / how long for the same thing:  
How many weeks did you stay?  
How long did you stay?

Remind students we can use 'what + noun' together to ask more specific questions:  
What books did you read?  
What music did you like?

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. a place          | c. Where         |
| 2. a frequency      | h. How often     |
| 3. a reason         | e. Why           |
| 4. a person         | a. Who           |
| 5. a length of time | g. How long      |
| 6. a thing          | b. What          |
| 7. a time           | d. When          |
| 8. a quantity       | f. How much/many |

C. Individually, students unscramble the questions and compare with their partner.

1. Where did you study?
2. What film did you watch last month?
3. What sports did you play at school?
4. What food did you hate when you were young?
5. How often did you visit museums as a child?
6. What job did you want when you were a child?

D. Have students ask and respond to the questions in Part 4C . Monitor and elicit interesting information in open class.

## 5. PRACTICE

- A. Read the questions with the class then individually, students answer the questions with short one or two word answers. Monitor progress as students work through the activity.
- B. In pairs, students ask and respond to the questions about a holiday. Students should form full sentence balanced answers using the same verbs in the questions.

e.g., **Who did you go with?** I went with my family.

Encourage students to ask follow-up questions if something is interesting. As an extended activity, students can present something about their partner's holiday to the class.

e.g. John went to Malaysia on holiday. He stayed for two weeks. He went with his wife and children. They visited beaches and ate local food.