

## Activity Type

Reading and writing exercises

## Focus

Past simple affirmative and negative

Regular and irregular past tense verbs

## Aim

To practice past simple affirmative and negative sentences as well as a variety of regular and irregular past tense verbs.

## Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

## Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

## Time

35 minutes

## Introduction

This past simple worksheet helps students to practice affirmative and negative sentences as well as a variety of regular and irregular past tense verbs.

## Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Students begin with a word search exercise where they find and circle the past tense form of verbs, relating to a story they are going to read.

When the students have finished, go through the answers with the class.

### Exercise A - Answer key

t	o	l	d	a		w	a	n	t	e	d	r		s	f	
h		e		p	u	t		l	i	f	t	e	d	t	e	
o		t		o								m		e	l	
u				l	e	f	t	c	h	e	w	e	d	p	l	
g	s		w	o	k	e		r			e	m		p	w	
h	a			g				a		s	n	b		e	a	
t	i	e	d	i				n		a	t	e		d	l	
	d			s	e	t				w	e	r	e	w	k	
	c	a	m	e				r	e	p	l	i	e	d	a	e
l	i	k	e	d				o	p	e	n	e	d		s	d

Across: told (tell), wanted (want), put (put), lifted (lift), left (leave), chewed (chew), woke (wake), tied (tie), set (set), were (are), came (come), replied (reply), liked (like), opened (open)

Down: thought (think), said (say), let (let), apologised (apologise), ran (run), saw (see), went (go), remembered (remember), stepped (step), was (is), fell (fall), walked (walk)

Next, students read the story in three parts and fill in the gaps with suitable verbs from the boxes in the past simple. Afterwards, check the answers together as a class.

(continued on the next page)

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## Procedure continued

Exercise B - Answer key

Part 1: fell, wanted, ran, woke, put, thought, opened, was, apologised, told

Part 2: liked, lifted, let, set, stepped, came, tied, went

Part 3: left, walked, saw, remembered, chewed, was, was, said, replied, were

After that, students read another version of the story that contains mistakes.

The students then write past simple affirmative and negative sentences about the details that are incorrect.

Go through the first one as an example and then have the students find the other incorrect details.

Exercise C - Answer key

The mouse didn't walk up and down the lion. She ran up and down the lion.

The lion didn't put his huge nose on the mouse. He put his huge paw on the mouse.

The mouse didn't sing to the lion. The mouse apologized to the lion.

The lion didn't eat the mouse. He let the mouse go.

Two farmers didn't set a trap. Two hunters set a trap.

The hunters didn't go to find a car. They went to find a truck.

The mouse didn't run by. She walked by.

The lion wasn't asleep again. The lion was free again.

The lion and the mouse weren't hungry. They were friends.

Finish the activity with a discussion about the story. Some students might recognise it as a version of one of Aesop's Fables. Explain that Aesop's Fables are old stories and that each one illustrates a moral.

Ask the students to think of a moral for this story. According to some sources, the moral is 'A kindness is never wasted' or 'Even the smallest kindness brings its reward'.

As an extension, have the students retell the story with a partner. Each student changes some details and the other student tries to identify the mistakes.

**A. Find and circle the past tense form of the following verbs in the word search.**

apologise are chew come fall go is leave let lift like open want  
put remember reply run say see set step tell think tie wake



t	o	l	d	a	b	w	a	n	t	e	d	r	n	s	f
h	p	e	k	p	u	t	z	l	i	f	t	e	d	t	e
o	e	t	n	o	y	a	s	w	e	h	c	m	u	e	l
u	n	h	i	l	e	f	t	c	h	e	w	e	d	p	l
g	s	t	w	o	k	e	r	r	v	r	e	m	e	p	w
h	a	r	p	g	o	r	y	a	a	s	n	b	e	e	a
t	i	e	d	i	w	h	e	n	e	a	t	e	s	d	l
f	d	o	e	s	e	t	e	l	l	w	e	r	e	w	k
u	c	a	m	e	n	u	r	e	p	l	i	e	d	a	e
l	i	k	e	d	r	o	o	p	e	n	e	d	i	s	d



**B. Read the story "The Lion and the Mouse". Fill in the gaps with suitable verbs from the boxes in the past simple.**

**Part 1**

apologise	is	fall	open	put	run	tell	think	wake	want
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A long time ago, a lion ..... asleep in the jungle. A mouse ..... to play, so she ..... up and down the lion. The lion ..... up and ..... his huge paw on the mouse. 'Breakfast!' he ..... He ..... his mouth to eat the mouse. The mouse ..... very afraid, and she ..... to the lion. She ..... the lion that maybe she could help him someday.

**Part 2**

come	go	let	lift	like	set	step	tie
------	----	-----	------	------	-----	------	-----

The lion ..... the idea that the mouse could help him in the future. He ..... his paw and ..... the mouse go. A few weeks later, two hunters ..... a trap, and the lion accidentally ..... into it. The hunters ..... back to the trap and ..... the lion to the tree with ropes while they ..... to find a truck to carry the lion in.

**Part 3**

are    chew    is    is    leave    remember    reply    say    see    walk

After the hunters ....., the mouse ..... by and ..... the lion. She ..... her promise to help him. So, she ..... through the ropes connecting the lion to the tree. Soon the lion ..... free again. 'See, I ..... right', ..... the mouse. The lion ....., 'Thank you!' After that, the lion and the mouse ..... friends.

**C. Now, read another version of the story that contains mistakes. Write past simple affirmative and negative sentences about the details that are incorrect. The first one has been done as an example.**

A long time ago, a lion was asleep in the forest. A mouse wanted to play, so she walked up and down the lion. The lion woke up and put his huge nose on the mouse. 'Breakfast!' he thought. He opened his mouth to eat the mouse.

The mouse was very afraid, and she sang to the lion. She told the lion that maybe she could help him someday. The lion liked the idea that the mouse could help him in the future. He lifted his paw and ate the mouse.

A few weeks later, two farmers set a trap, and the lion accidentally stepped into it. The hunters came back and tied the lion to the tree with ropes while they went to find a car to carry the lion in.

After the hunters left, the mouse ran by and saw the lion. She remembered her promise to help him. So, she chewed through the ropes connecting the lion to the tree. Soon the lion was asleep again.

'See, I was right', said the mouse. The lion replied, 'Thank you!' After that, the lion and the mouse were hungry.

1. .... *The lion wasn't asleep in the forest. He was asleep in the jungle.* .....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....
6. ....
7. ....
8. ....
9. ....
10. ....