

401 Past Tense

Exercise 1: Daily Activities

Fill in the blanks with the correct past tense form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Yesterday, I _____ (go) to the store and _____ (buy) some groceries.
 2. She _____ (wake) up late and _____ (run) to school.
 3. They _____ (eat) pizza for lunch and _____ (drink) soda.
 4. He _____ (write) an email to his teacher and _____ (send) it last night.
 5. We _____ (see) a movie and _____ (have) popcorn.
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Exercise 2: Weekend Stories

Fill in the blanks with the correct past tense form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Last weekend, I _____ (take) my dog to the park. He _____ (run) around and _____ (catch) a ball.
 2. Sarah _____ (come) to my house, and we _____ (make) cookies together.
 3. They _____ (swim) in the pool and _____ (lie) in the sun all afternoon.
 4. My brother _____ (break) his phone when he _____ (fall) off his bike.
 5. We _____ (drive) to the beach and _____ (build) a sandcastle.
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Exercise 3: Travel Adventures

Fill in the blanks with the correct past tense form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Last summer, I _____ (fly) to Italy and _____ (visit) Rome.
 2. She _____ (take) a lot of photos and _____ (send) them to her friends.
 3. They _____ (ride) bicycles and _____ (see) the Eiffel Tower in Paris.
 4. He _____ (lose) his suitcase but _____ (find) it at the airport.
 5. We _____ (eat) delicious food and _____ (drink) local wine.
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Exercise 1: School Life**

Fill in the blanks with the correct past tense form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Yesterday, I _____ (forget) my homework, so I _____ (write) it during lunch.
2. She _____ (read) a book and _____ (tell) the class about it.
3. They _____ (begin) the project late but _____ (finish) it on time.
4. He _____ (speak) to the teacher and _____ (ask) for help.
5. We _____ (choose) our partners and _____ (start) the assignment.

Exercise 2: Mixed Irregular Verbs

Fill in the blanks with the correct past tense form of the verb in parentheses.

1. I _____ (see) a shooting star last night and _____ (make) a wish.
2. She _____ (teach) me how to bake a cake, and we _____ (eat) it together.
3. They _____ (build) a treehouse and _____ (play) in it all afternoon.
4. He _____ (bring) his guitar and _____ (sing) a song for us.
5. We _____ (know) the answer but _____ (forget) to raise our hands.

Exercise 3: Fun with Friends

Fill in the blanks with the correct past tense form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Last night, we _____ (meet) at the park and _____ (play) soccer.
2. She _____ (draw) a picture and _____ (give) it to her friend.
3. They _____ (hear) a strange noise and _____ (run) away.
4. He _____ (find) a wallet on the street and _____ (take) it to the police.
5. We _____ (spend) the day at the zoo and _____ (see) many animals.

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Exercise 1: Mistakes and Fixes

Fill in the blanks with the correct past tense form of the verb in parentheses.

1. I _____ (break) my glasses, so I _____ (buy) a new pair.
2. She _____ (lose) her keys but _____ (find) them under the couch.
3. They _____ (forget) their tickets but _____ (get) new ones at the door.
4. He _____ (fall) off his chair and _____ (hurt) his arm.
5. We _____ (leave) the window open, and the cat _____ (run) away.

Exercise 2: Mixed Challenge**

Fill in the blanks with the correct past tense form of the verb in parentheses.

1. I _____ (wake) up early, _____ (eat) breakfast, and _____ (go) to school.
2. She _____ (write) a letter, _____ (put) it in an envelope, and _____ (send) it.
3. They _____ (begin) the game, _____ (play) for hours, and _____ (win) the prize.
4. He _____ (take) a shower, _____ (get) dressed, and _____ (leave) for work.
5. We _____ (see) the movie, _____ (buy) popcorn, and _____ (have) a great time.

Exercise 2: Mixed Challenge**

Write a sentence for each verb in the past tense.

1. went
2. woke
3. ate
4. wrote
5. saw

Answer Key

Here are the answers for the exercises above:

****Exercise 1:****

****Exercise 2:****

1. took, ran, caught
2. came, made
3. swam, lay
4. broke, fell
5. drove, built

****Exercise 3:****

1. flew, visited
2. took, sent
3. rode, saw
4. lost, found
5. ate, drank

****Exercise 4:****

1. forgot, wrote
2. read, told
3. began, finished
4. spoke, asked
5. chose, started

****Exercise 5:****

1. saw, made
2. taught, ate
3. built, played
4. brought, sang
5. knew, forgot

****Exercise 6:****

1. met, played
2. drew, gave
3. heard, ran
4. found, took
5. spent, saw

****Exercise 7:****

1. broke, bought
2. lost, found

3. forgot, got
4. fell, hurt
5. left, ran

****Exercise 8:****

1. woke, ate, went
2. wrote, put, sent
3. began, played, won
4. took, got, left
5. saw, bought, had

These exercises can be used in class or as homework to reinforce irregular past tense verbs. Encourage students to check their answers and review any verbs they find challenging!

Here are some engaging exercises to help high school ESL students practice irregular verb past tenses. These activities are designed to be interactive and fun while reinforcing their understanding of irregular verbs.

**Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks**

Provide sentences with missing past tense verbs. Students must choose the correct irregular verb from a word bank or recall it from memory.

Example:

1. Yesterday, I _____ (go) to the park and _____ (see) a beautiful bird.
2. She _____ (write) a letter to her friend last night.
3. They _____ (eat) pizza for dinner and _____ (drink) lemonade.
4. He _____ (break) his phone when he _____ (fall) off his bike.

Word Bank: went, saw, wrote, ate, drank, broke, fell

**Exercise 2: Story Time**

Give students a short story with regular verbs in the present tense. Ask them to rewrite the story in the past tense, changing the verbs to their irregular forms.

Example:

****Present Tense Story:****

"Every day, Sarah wakes up early. She eats breakfast and goes to school. She sees her friends and they play soccer together. After school, she writes in her journal and reads a book."

****Past Tense Rewrite:****

"Yesterday, Sarah _____ up early. She _____ breakfast and _____ to school. She _____ her friends and they _____ soccer together. After school, she _____ in her journal and _____ a book."

**Exercise 3: Verb Match-Up**

Create a matching activity where students match the base form of the verb to its past tense form.

Example:

1. Go → _____
2. See → _____
3. Write → _____
4. Eat → _____
5. Drink → _____
6. Break → _____
7. Fall → _____

Answer Key: 1. Went, 2. Saw, 3. Wrote, 4. Ate, 5. Drank, 6. Broke, 7. Fell

**Exercise 4: Sentence Correction**

Provide sentences with incorrect past tense verbs. Students must identify and correct the mistakes.

Example:

1. She goed to the store yesterday. (Correct: She went to the store yesterday.)
2. They eated dinner at 7 PM. (Correct: They ate dinner at 7 PM.)
3. He writed a letter to his grandma. (Correct: He wrote a letter to his grandma.)

**Exercise 5: Verb Charades**

Write irregular verbs on small cards (base form). Students take turns picking a card and acting out the verb without speaking. The rest of the class must guess the verb and say its past tense form.

Example:

- Base form: "Sing" → Past tense: "Sang"
- Base form: "Run" → Past tense: "Ran"

Exercise 6: Past Tense Bingo

Create bingo cards with past tense irregular verbs. Call out the base form of the verb, and students must find the corresponding past tense form on their cards.

Example:

- Call out: "Swim" → Students look for "Swam"
- Call out: "Take" → Students look for "Took"

Exercise 7: Verb Timeline

Ask students to create a timeline of their day or a recent event using at least 10 irregular past tense verbs.

Example:

"Yesterday, I woke up at 7 AM. I ate breakfast and went to school. I saw my friends and we played soccer. After school, I wrote my homework and read a book."

Exercise 8: Irregular Verb Quiz

Give students a short quiz where they must write the past tense form of irregular verbs.

Example:

1. Begin → _____
2. Drive → _____
3. Speak → _____
4. Choose → _____
5. Forget → _____

Answer Key: 1. Began, 2. Drove, 3. Spoke, 4. Chose, 5. Forgot

Exercise 9: Group Story Creation

Divide students into small groups. Give each group a set of irregular verbs. They must create a short story using the past tense forms of those verbs.

Example Verbs: go, see, write, eat, drink, break, fall

Story: "Last weekend, we went to the beach. We saw dolphins and wrote about them in our journals. Later, we ate sandwiches and drank juice. Unfortunately, my brother broke his sunglasses when he fell off the boat!"

**Exercise 10: Verb Flashcards**

Have students create their own flashcards with the base form on one side and the past tense form on the other. They can use these to quiz themselves or a partner.

These exercises can be adapted to suit the proficiency level of your students. Encourage creativity and repetition to help them master irregular past tense verbs!