ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Past Simple (Regular / Irregular Verbs) Test A1 – A2 Grammar Exercises

A1 A2 Level Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. A: We _____ to the city museum three days ago.

B: Oh, how nice!
✓ **B) went**
Three days ago is in the past, so we use the past simple. **Go** is irregular: **go → went**.

2. Victor _____ some bad news from Ted yesterday and _____ sad.
✓ **C) heard / became**
Yesterday shows the past, so both verbs are in the past simple. Both are irregular: **hear → heard**, **become → became**.

3. _____ she _____ your books back last week?
✓ **B) Did / bring**
Past simple questions use **Did** + the base verb: **Did she bring…?** The clue is **last week**.

4. They often _____ questions in meetings. They just make presentations.
✓ **B) don't answer**
Often shows a habit, and **They just make presentations** is in the present. So we use the present simple: **don't answer**. Not **didn't answer**, because the sentence is about now, not the past.

5. I _____ my house last week, but it _____ dirty again now.
✓ **A) cleaned / is**
Last week needs the past simple: **cleaned**. **Now** needs the present: **is**. Not **was**, because of the word **now**.

6. Basil _____ an operation on his stomach last year and now he _____ no problem with it.
✓ **B) had / has**
Last year needs the past simple: **had**. **Now** needs the present simple: **has**.

7. I _____ the window and _____ a deep breath before the exam yesterday.
✓ **D) opened / took**
Yesterday shows the past. **Open** is regular: **opened**. **Take** is irregular: **took**.

8. He _____ fishing three times a week because he _____ spending time by the lake.
✓ **B) goes / loves**
Three times a week shows a habit, so we use the present simple with **-s** for **he**: **goes**, **loves**.

9. Nina _____ in the park alone yesterday morning and she _____ a book.
✓ **D) sat / read**
Yesterday morning shows the past. Both verbs are irregular: **sit → sat**, **read → read** (same spelling, but it sounds like **red**).

10. The twins _____ an experiment in the lab these days, so they _____ usually busy.
✓ **B) are doing / are**
These days shows something happening around now, so we use the present continuous: **are doing**.
Usually needs the present simple: **are**.

11. A: When _____ your clients sign the document?

B: Four days ago.
✓ **C) did**
Past simple questions use **did** + the base verb: **When did your clients sign…?** The answer **Four days ago** shows the past. Not **were**, because **sign** is a main verb, so we need **did**.

12. Thomas _____ up in the morning and _____ his best clothes because that day was important for him.
✓ **B) woke / wore**
That day was important shows the past. Both verbs are irregular: **wake → woke**, **wear → wore**.

13. Mandy _____ her arm two weeks ago and she _____ now.
✓ **D) broke / can't write**
Two weeks ago needs the past simple: **broke**. **Now** needs the present: **can't write**. Not **didn't write**, because of the word **now**.

14. Chris and Frances often _____ camping when they were young, but now they often _____ holiday inns.
✓ **D) went / prefer**
When they were young needs the past simple: **went**. **Now** needs the present simple: **prefer**. Not **are preferring**, because we don't usually use **prefer** in the -ing form.

15. The police officer _____ the driver right now because he _____ a traffic rule a few minutes ago.
✓ **C) is talking / broke**
Right now needs the present continuous: **is talking**.
A few minutes ago needs the past simple: **broke** (**break → broke**).

16. He _____ his homework but _____ it at home because he left home in a hurry yesterday morning.
✓ **A) did / forgot**
Yesterday morning and **left** show the past, so both verbs are in the past simple: **do → did**, **forget → forgot**.

17. I always _____ up late in the past because I was unemployed, but I'm working now and _____ up early to go to the office on time.
✓ **D) got / get**
In the past needs the past simple: **got**. **Now** and a daily habit need the present simple: **get**.

18. We _____ very hard last night to finish the project on time, but it is the weekend now and we _____ a break.
✓ **B) worked / are having**
Last night needs the past simple: **worked**. **Now** needs the present continuous: **are having**. Not **had**, because of the word **now**.

19. A: What _____ you tell Tom last night?

B: I _____ him the truth.
✓ **C) did / told**
The question uses **did** + the base verb: **What did you tell…?** The answer uses the past form: **told**. Not **did / tell**, because a positive answer needs **told**, not **tell**.

20. A: Where _____ you go for a holiday last summer?

B: We _____ to Portugal.
✓ **A) did / went**
Last summer shows the past. Questions use **did** + base verb: **Where did you go?** Answers use the past form: **We went**.

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