ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Past Simple Tense MCQ Grammar Quiz – Test – Exercise

English Grammar Tests · 16 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/past-simple-tense-mcq-grammar-quiz-test-exercise/

1	**A**	2	**C**	3	**A**	4	**B**	5	**B**	6	**B**	7	**C**	8	**C**	9	**B**	10	**A**
11	**A**	12	**C**	13	**B**	14	**A**	15	**C**	16	**A**								

Explanations

1. My family and I _____ in London when I was young.
✓ **A) lived**
When I was young is about the past, so we use the past form **lived**. Not **was live**, because we don't put **was** before **live**.

2. We _____ some sandwiches and fresh fruit to eat for lunch yesterday.
✓ **C) bought**
Yesterday tells us it is in the past. The past form of **buy** is **bought**.

3. They wanted to _____ a movie but there were no more tickets.
✓ **A) see**
After **to** we use the base form of the verb: **to see**, even when the sentence is in the past. Not **saw**, because **wanted** already shows the past.

4. (A) Did you have a good time?

(B) Yes, I _____.
✓ **B) did**
A short answer to a **Did ...?** question uses **did**: **Yes, I did.** Not **had**, because short answers repeat the helping verb, not the main verb.

5. He didn't _____ me because I was behind the tree.
✓ **B) see**
After **didn't** we use the base form of the verb: **didn't see**. Not **saw**, because **didn't** already shows the past.

6. (A) _____ you a good student in school?

(B) Yes, I was.
✓ **B) Were**
With **you** we use **were**: **Were you a good student?** Not **Did**, because there is no other verb, only **a good student**.

7. When did they _____ back to their country?
✓ **C) fly**
In a question with **did**, the main verb is in the base form: **When did they fly ...?** Not **flew**, because **did** already shows the past.

8. They _____ back to their country last month.
✓ **C) flew**
Last month is in the past. The past form of **fly** is **flew**.

9. Did you _____ lots of interesting photos on your holiday?
✓ **B) take**
In a question with **Did**, use the base form of the verb: **Did you take ...?** Not **took**, because **Did** already shows the past.

10. We had a great time and we _____ lots of fun and exciting things.
✓ **A) did**
The sentence is about the past (**had a great time**), so we use **did**, the past form of **do**. Not **was did**, because we don't put **was** before **did**.

11. Why _____ you finish your math homework last week?
✓ **A) didn't**
Finish is a normal verb, so the question uses **didn't**: **Why didn't you finish ...?** Not **weren't**, because we use **were** with adjectives or places, not with another verb like **finish**.

12. He _____ see a dentist yesterday because he had a toothache.
✓ **C) had to**
Yesterday is in the past, so we use **had to**, the past of **have to**. Not **has to**, because that is for now, not for the past.

13. I wanted to _____, but I couldn't. I had to stay and help my friend.
✓ **B) go**
After **to** we use the base form of the verb: **to go**. Not **went**, because **wanted** already shows the past.

14. _____ they late or on time yesterday afternoon?
✓ **A) Were**
With **they** we use **were**: **Were they late?** Not **Did**, because **late** is not a verb, so we need **were**.

15. She didn't answer the phone because she _____ at home.
✓ **C) wasn't**
With **she** we use **was**, so the negative is **wasn't**: **she wasn't at home**. Not **weren't**, because **weren't** goes with **you**, **we** and **they**.

16. (A) _____ they tired after the long trip?

(B) Yes, they _____.
✓ **A) Were / were**
With **they** we always use **were**, in the question and in the short answer: **Were they tired? Yes, they were.** Not **was**, because **was** goes with **I**, **he**, **she** and **it**.