ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Past Simple Used To Test A2 – B1 Grammar Exercises

A2 B1 Level Grammar Tests · 18 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. Last week, I _____ my friend Harry and we _____ about the Australian Open tennis final.
✔ **B) saw / talked**
Last week is a finished time in the past, so both verbs are in the past simple: **saw** and **talked**. Not **used to see**, because **used to** is for habits, not one single meeting.

2. Azra _____ blonde hair, but now she has brown hair because she _____ it yesterday.
✔ **C) used to have / dyed**
Used to have shows a past state that is not true now (**but now she has brown hair**). **Yesterday** is a finished time, so we use the past simple **dyed**.

3. A: What _____ you _____ last weekend?

B: I _____ volleyball and basketball.
✔ **D) did / do / played**
Past simple questions use **did** + base verb: **What did you do last weekend?** The answer uses the past simple: **I played**.

4. The famous computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee _____ the World Wide Web in 1989.
✔ **B) invented**
In 1989 is a finished time in the past, so we use the past simple: **invented**. Not **used to invent**, because this happened once, not again and again.

5. I _____ home this morning at half-past seven. I _____ at school at quarter to nine.
✔ **A) left / arrived**
This morning is finished here, and these are two single actions, so both verbs are past simple: **left** and **arrived**.

6. A: What did you _____ with your sick dog?

B: We _____ him to the vet.
✔ **B) do / took**
After **did** we use the base verb: **What did you do?** The answer is in the past simple: **We took him to the vet**.

7. A: Did Nur call you yesterday?

B: No, she _____ call me.

A: I guess she _____ busy.
✔ **D) didn't / was**
The question is about **yesterday**, so the short negative is **didn't call**. The guess is also about the past: **she was busy**.

8. We _____ talent shows on TV, but now, we _____ them twice a week.
✔ **A) didn't use to like / watch**
Didn't use to like shows a past feeling that has changed. **But now** and **twice a week** show a present habit, so we use the present simple: **watch**. Note: after **didn't** we write **use to**, not **used to**.

9. Mike and Sue _____ at home last night, and they _____ a wildlife documentary.
✔ **C) stayed / watched**
Last night is a finished time in the past, so both verbs are past simple: **stayed** and **watched**.

10. A: Didn't Paulie _____ wear glasses?

B: Yes, he did. Now he wears contact lenses.
✔ **B) use to**
In questions and negatives with **did/didn't**, we write **use to** (no -d): **Didn't he use to wear glasses?** Not **used to**, because **did** already shows the past.

11. Yesterday, Geoff _____ at the airport at half-past ten, and his plane _____ off at quarter past eleven.
✔ **C) arrived / took**
Yesterday shows a finished past time, so we use the past simple: **arrived** and **took** (irregular: take – took).

12. A: Where did you _____ most of your time in Paris?

B: Around the Eiffel Tower in the Field of Mars. Also, I _____ the Louvre Museum and the Notre Dame Cathedral.
✔ **C) spend / visited**
After **did** we use the base verb: **Where did you spend...?** The answer is about a finished trip, so we use the past simple: **visited**.

13. Carrie _____ at the supermarket five years ago, but she works at the library now.
✔ **A) used to work**
Used to work shows a past situation that is not true now (**but she works at the library now**). Not **works**, because **five years ago** is in the past.

14. The fireman _____ the door. Then he _____ the family out of the burning building.
✔ **B) broke / took**
This is a story of single past actions, one after another (**Then**), so we use the past simple: **broke** and **took** (irregular: break – broke, take – took).

15. I _____ to help Mandy with her problems, but she _____ my advice.
✔ **C) tried / didn't take**
These are finished single actions in the past, so we use the past simple: **tried** and **didn't take**. After **didn't** we use the base verb **take**.

16. **Which of the following is true?**
✓ D) Sandy used to help her parents in the garden.
The text says: **When I was a little girl, ... I always helped my parents in the garden.** This was a habit in the past, so Sandy **used to help** her parents. Not **joined the company last year**, because she joined it seven years ago; she got married last year.

17. **Mr Heron is a nice man because he _____.**
✓ C) allowed Sandy and her husband off work for their honeymoon
The text says Mr Heron **gave us three weeks off for our honeymoon**. This means he allowed them not to work for that time. It was Sandy's husband who married her, not Mr Heron.

18. **Sandy used to want to _____ when she was young.**
✓ C) be a florist
The text says: **When I was a little girl, I wanted to be a florist.** A **florist** is a person who sells flowers.

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