Workshop 17 - Yesterday (was / were and the past simple)

Didier Herrera · English workshop

57/75
PUNTOS

3.8
NOTA · APROBADO

How each part went

Section	Exercise	Score	
P1a	was / were / wasn't / weren't	**8 / 8**	
P1b	Make these sentences negative	**3 / 4**	
P1c	Write the question (was / were)	**3 / 4**	
P2a	Regular verbs: write the past simple	**7 / 8**	
P2b	Regular verbs in context	**5 / 6**	
P3a	Irregular verbs: write the past simple	**10 / 10**	
P3b	Irregular verbs: complete the story	**8 / 8**	
P4a	didn't: make these sentences negative	**5 / 5**	
P4b	did: write the question	**0 / 6**	
P4c	Find the mistake and correct it	**2 / 5**	
P5a	could / couldn't	**2 / 5**	
P6a	Six sentences about yesterday	**4 / 6**	

Every correction, in one place

The same corrections are written in red next to each cross on your pages.

Item	You wrote	It should be
P1b.3	I wasn't the shop	**I wasn't at the shop.**
P1c.2	Were It good the film?	**Was the film good?**
P2a.4	traveled	**travelled**
P2b.5	stoped	**stopped**
P4b.1	What time you wake up?	**What time did you wake up?**
P4b.2	where she goes?	**Where did she go?**
P4b.3	you cook yesterday?	**Did you cook yesterday?**
P4b.4	What they buy?	**What did they buy?**
P4b.5	he likes the film?	**Did he like the film?**
P4b.6	When you study English?	**When did you study English?**
P4c.2	I didn't went to work?	**I didn't go to work.**
P4c.4	Where you went?	**Where did you go?**
P4c.5	(blank)	**Were you at home last night?**
P5a.3	could	**couldn't**
P5a.4	couldn't	**Could**
P5a.5	couldn't	**could**
P6a.4	My sister was relaxing with me.	**My sister relaxed with me.**
P6a.5	My sister and me were listening to music everyday	**My sister and I listened to music.**

Notes on the marking

- Part 1a is worth 8 points but prints only seven numbers: item 4 is one sentence with two gaps ("I ___ at work yesterday, because it ___ a holiday"). Both gaps are marked, as P1a.4a and P1a.4b, so the section counts eight items against the key's eight points. He has both right.
- P1c.1 "Were you at the house last night?" is marked correct. The key says to accept any correct question that fits the answer, and "at the house" for "at home" does not break the question.
- P2b.5 "stoped" is marked wrong even though spelling is normally not marked. Part 2 teaches the four -ed spelling rules and stop -> stopped is the key's own doubling example, so the doubling is what the item tests. Overturn it if you would rather let this one go.
- P4c.1 to P4c.4: the ringed word inside each printed prompt (went, no, bought, did) is his working, not an answer. Only what is written on the rule is marked.
- P4c.5 is blank and counts as wrong. The small pen tick before the printed arrow is not an answer.
- Part 6 is marked by the key's own rule, one point per sentence that uses a correct past simple form. Lines 4 and 5 fail because they use the past continuous (was relaxing, were listening) rather than the past simple the task asks for. Line 6 takes its point for "wotched" (watched), but "sleeped" still needs correcting to "slept" in red.
- His capital-shaped K and W inside words (cooKed, talKed, tooK, KneW, woKe) are his hand, not capitals, and are not marked.
- Worth saying on the cover sheet: P4b is 0 out of 6. He wrote all six questions without "did" and put the main verb in the present (she goes, he likes). Part 4c repeats the same slip. That is one lesson, not ten mistakes.

Workshop 17: Yesterday ◄

Talking about the past: was, were, and the past simple

Name: Didier Herrera **Date:** 20/09/2026

Nina asked all three of you the same two questions: **How was your day today?** and **What did you do today?**

Those two questions are about the past, and the past is what this workshop is for. Once you can answer them, you can tell anyone about your day, your weekend, your childhood, or your last holiday. It is the single most useful thing you can add to your English right now.

Everything here comes from your book, **Grammar Bank 7A, 7B and 7C on pages 136 and 137.** Keep the book open beside you.

Your plan for today ►

- **Part 1** was / were: the past of *be*
- **Part 2** Regular verbs: + **ed**
- **Part 3** Irregular verbs: the ones that change
- **Part 4** Questions and negatives: **did / didn't**
- **Part 5** could: the past of *can*
- **Part 6** Putting it together: How was your day?

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① was / were

The past of *am*, *is* and *are* is **was** and **were**. Two words cover every person.

	was	were
Who	I · he · she · it	you · we · they
Positive	She was at home.	They were at home.
Negative	She wasn't at home.	They weren't at home.
Question	Was she at home?	Were they at home?
Short answer	Yes, she was. / No, she wasn't.	Yes, they were. / No, they weren't.

⚠ **Careful** Not *Was you at home?* With **you** it is always **Were you...?**

★ Two things worth memorising now **was born:** *I was born in Pasca.* This is *nací*. Never *borned*.

Past time words: yesterday · last night · last week · two years ago · in 2020

a. ✎ Complete with was, were, wasn't or weren't.

8 points

1 Nina was our guest last Thursday. ✓
2 Erika and Adriana were both a little nervous at the beginning. ✓
3 The conversation was fifteen minutes long. ✓
4 I wasn't at work yesterday, because it was a holiday and everything was closed. ✓ ✓
5 Where were you last Saturday? ✓
6 My parents weren't at home when I called. ✓
7 Didier was born in 2010. ✓

b. ✎ Make these sentences negative.

4 points

1 The class was easy. → The class wasn't easy ✓
2 We were tired. → We weren't tired ✓
3 I was at the shop. → I wasn't the shop ✗ I wasn't at the shop.
4 They were in Bogotá. → They weren't in Bogotá ✓

c. ✎ Write the question.

4 points. Write the question that fits the answer.

1 Were you at the house last night? → Yes, I was at home last night. ✓
2 Was it good the film? → No, the film wasn't good. ✗ Was the film good?
3 Where were you last weekend? → I was in Fusagasugá last weekend. ✓
4 When was she born? → She was born in 1990. ✓

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② Regular verbs: + ed

For almost every other verb, the past simple adds **-ed**. The best part: the form is **the same for every person**. I worked, you worked, she worked, they worked. One word covers all of them.

I worked in the shop yesterday.
We **arrived** at eight o'clock.
She **studied** English last night.

Use the past simple for finished actions: something that happened **once** in the past, **or many times** in the past. Either way, it is finished.

The four spelling rules ▸

Rule	Example	Another one
Most verbs: add -ed	work → worked	play → played
Verb ends in -e: add -d	arrive → arrived	live → lived
Consonant + y: -y becomes -ied	study → studied	carry → carried
One vowel + one consonant: double the consonant	stop → stopped	plan → planned

Tip: *The doubling rule is only for **short verbs of one syllable**: stop → stopped, plan → planned. Longer verbs do not double: listen → listened, visit → visited. One British exception: verbs ending in -l always double, so travel → travelled.*

a. ✎ Write the past simple. Watch the spelling.

8 points

Infinitive	Past simple	Infinitive	Past simple
1 cook	Cooked ✓	2 like	liked ✓
3 try	tried ✓	4 travel	traveled ✗ travelled
5 watch	watched ✓	6 dance	danced ✓
7 study	studied ✓	8 listen	listened ✓

b. ✎ Complete with the past simple of the verb in brackets.

6 points

1 Last Thursday we talked to Nina for fifteen minutes. (talk) ✓
2 Erika worked in the shop all morning. (work) ✓
3 I studied the questions before the class. (study) ✓
4 Adriana cooked lunch for her family. (cook) ✓
5 The conversation stoped at six o'clock. (stop) ✗ stopped
6 We all practised. our answers out loud. (practise) ✓

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③ Irregular verbs

Some verbs do not take **-ed**. They change into a completely different word, and the only way is to learn them. The good news is that they are the verbs you use most, so they come quickly.

buy	**bought**	**come**	**came**	**feel**	**felt**
find	**found**	**get**	**got**	**go**	**went**
have	**had**	**know**	**knew**	**put on**	**put on**
say	**said**	**take**	**took**	**think**	**thought**
wear	**wore**				

Tip: *Watch* ***put on****: the past is exactly the same word. Only the sentence tells you it is the past.*

★ Three more you needed with Nina

These are not on page 136, but you all reached for them and did not have them. Learn them now: make → made · eat → ate · wake up → woke up

I made arepas. I ate breakfast at six. I woke up at half past four.

a. ✎ Write the past simple.

10 points

Infinitive	**Past simple**	**Infinitive**	**Past simple**
1 go	went ✓	2 have	had ✓
3 say	said ✓	4 buy	bought ✓
5 think	thought ✓	6 get	got ✓
7 wear	wore ✓	8 come	came ✓
9 find	found ✓	10 take	took ✓

b. ✎ Complete the story with the past simple.

8 points. Use the verb in brackets. They are all irregular.

Last Thursday we had **(have) a special class. Our guest Nina** came **(come) from Melbourne, and we all** went **(go) online at six o'clock. I** felt **(feel) nervous at the beginning, and I** thought **(think) it was a very long time. Nina** said **(say) hello and asked about our day. We** got **(get) to the end without Spanish, and everybody** knew **(know) more English than before.**

✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

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④ did / didn't

For questions and negatives you do not change the main verb at all. You use **did** or **didn't**, and the main verb goes back to its ordinary form.

Positive	I went to Bogotá. She **bought** a dress.
Negative	I **didn't go** to Bogotá. She **didn't buy** a dress.
Question	**Did** you **go** to Bogotá? **Did** she **buy** a dress?
Short answer	Yes, I did. No, I didn't. Yes, she did. No, she didn't.

⚠ **The most common mistake** Not *Did you went?* Say **Did you go?** After **did** or **didn't**, the verb is always the ordinary form. **Did** is already the past, so the second verb does not need to be.

Word order in questions ▸

Without a question word: Did + you + go + shopping yesterday?
With a question word: Where + did + you + go + yesterday?
Your book calls these **ASI** (Auxiliary, Subject, Infinitive) and **QuASI** (Question word, Auxiliary, Subject, Infinitive) on page 136. The order never changes, so learn it once and every past question follows it.

a. ✎ Make these sentences negative.

5 points

1 I watched the film. → I didn't watch the film.
2 She went to work. → She didn't go to work.
3 They had breakfast. → They didn't have breakfast.
4 We bought the tickets. → We didn't buy the tickets
5 He said goodbye. → He didn't say goodbye.

b. ✎ Write the question.

6 points. Use the words in brackets.

1 (what time / you / wake up) What time you wake up? ✗ — What time did you wake up?
2 (where / she / go) where she goes? ✗ — Where did she go?
3 (you / cook / yesterday) you cook yesterday? ✗ — Did you cook yesterday?
4 (what / they / buy) What they buy? ✗ — What did they buy?
5 (he / like / the film) he likes the film? ✗ — Did he like the film?
6 (when / you / study / English) When you study English? ✗ — When did you study English?

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c. ✎ Find the mistake and write the sentence correctly.

5 points. Each sentence has a mistake.

1 Did you ~~went~~ to the party? → Did you go to the party? ✓

2 I ~~no~~ went to work. → I didn't went to work? ✗ I didn't go to work.

3 She didn't ~~bought~~ a dress. → She didn't buy a dress ✓

4 Where you ~~did~~ go? → Where you went? ✗ Where did you go?

5 Was you at home last night? ✓ → ✗ Were you at home last night?

⑤ could

The past of *can* is **could**. It behaves like *can*, not like an ordinary verb, so it never takes *did*.

Positive	**I could swim when I was six.**
Negative	**I couldn't understand the question.**
Question	**Could you understand Nina?**
Short answer	**Yes, I could. No, I couldn't.**

⚠ **Careful** Not *I didn't can understand.* Say **I couldn't understand.**

a. ✎ Complete with could or couldn't.

5 points

1 I couldn't hear the question, so I asked Nina to repeat it. ✓

2 Erika could answer every question about her job, and Nina was impressed. ✓

3 When I was a child I could speak any English. ✗ couldn't

4 couldn't you understand Nina at the beginning? ✗ Could

5 We couldn't talk for fifteen minutes without Spanish, and Nina understood everything. ✗ could

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⑥ How was your day?

This is the part that matters. Nina asked two questions and none of us had a good answer ready. Here they are again, and this time you have the grammar for them.

How was your day today?

It was good, thank you. It was a busy day. It wasn't an easy day.

What did you do today?

I woke up at half past four. I made breakfast for my family. Then I went to work and I worked until six.

a. ✎ Write six sentences about yesterday.

6 points. Use the past simple in every sentence. Start with the time you woke up and finish with the evening. Then read them out loud three times.

I woke up at the six o'clock, a. m. ✓
I went to the kitchen for prepare breakfast. ✓
I had breakfast while I watched TV. ✓
My sister was relaxing with me. ✗ My sister relaxed with me.
My sister and me were listening to music everyday ✗
In the night I watched a movie and I sleeped. ✓

6a.5 My sister and I listened to music.

✓ **When you can answer those two questions without thinking, you can talk about anything that already happened. That is most of what people ask each other.**

Before the next class ▸

- ☐ I know when to use was and when to use were.
- ☐ I can spell the four regular endings: worked, arrived, studied, stopped.
- ☐ I know sixteen irregular verbs by heart.
- ☐ I never say *Did you went*. I say **Did you go.**
- ☐ I use **couldn't**, never *didn't can*.
- ☐ I wrote my six sentences and said them out loud.

Written total: 75 points. Part 1 16 · Part 2 14 · Part 3 18 · Part 4 16 · Part 5 5 · Part 6 6
Nota = (correct ÷ 75) × 5.0, to one decimal. Pass = 3.0.

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