

Name _____

Date _____

The Past Tense

Reading and Discussion

Today I talk
Today I walk
Today I play
But what did I do yesterday?

Then I talked
Then I walked
Then I played
That's what I did yesterday.

In the English language we have three tenses. The **present** tense tells what we are doing now. The **future** tense tells what we will be doing in the future. The **past** tense tells what we did in the past. The second verse in the little poem above is about things I did in the past. To show this we usually add 'ed' to the **infinitive** of the verb or the present tense. So talk becomes talked; walk becomes walked; play becomes played. We call this the **past simple tense**. The past simple tense of all **regular** verbs is made by adding 'ed'. Here are some more regular verbs in the present tense. Can you change them to the past simple tense?

climb, jump, walk, talk, kick, push, open, close

Unfortunately there are also a lot of **irregular** verbs in English. The ones we use the most often are **to do**, **to have** and **to be**. The first two are quite easy. Today I **do**; yesterday I **did**. Today I **have**; yesterday I **had**. But the infinitive **to be** changes to 'I **am**' in the present and 'I **was**' in the past tense.

Because there are no rules to tell us what to do we just have to learn the irregular verbs. Here are some others which we use often. Do you know all of them?

write/wrote run/ran sing/sang fall/fell take/took

catch/caught sit/sat swim/swam eat/ate stand/stood

Name _____

Date _____

Activities

A: Change the verbs from present to past tense.

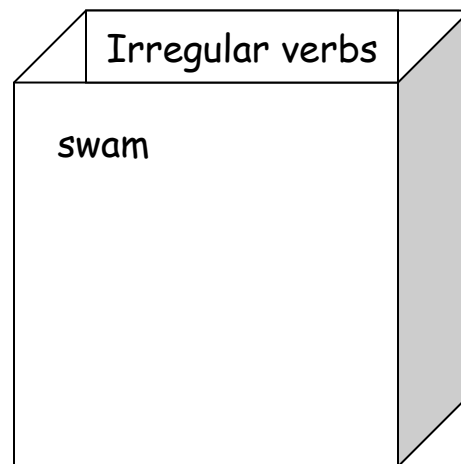
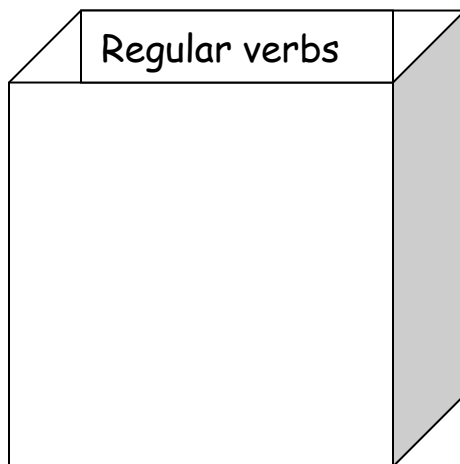
Can you correct the regular verbs in the following sentences?

1. Yesterday I (climb) the hill next to our house.
2. Last week I (plan) our trip to the beach.
3. Last birthday I (turn) nine.
4. At soccer last Thursday I (kick) the ball into goal.
5. When I got my kitten I (call) it Socks.

B: Sort the verbs

Underline the regular and irregular past simple tense verbs in the following sentences and then sort them into the correct boxes. The first one has been done for you.

1. Last summer I swam every day.
2. During the holidays I played with my friends.
3. Last night I wrote in my diary.
4. Yesterday I visited my best friend
5. At the beach last week I caught a big fish.
6. I fell out of the tree yesterday and bumped my head.
7. Before school I took four cookies and packed them in my lunchbox.
8. Last weekend I invited all my friends to my house.



Name _____

Date _____

Answer Sheet

Activity A

1. Yesterday I climbed the hill next to our house.
2. Last week I planned our trip to the beach.
3. Last birthday I turned nine.
4. At soccer last Thursday I kicked the ball into goal.
5. When I got my kitten I called it Socks.

Activity B

