

Past tense and holidays

Complete the postcard

1) Use the past tense verbs from the box to complete the postcard.

was	went	visited	arrived	took
wanted	were	lived	travelled	ate

Dear Sammy,

I am on holiday with my Mum and Dad in Paris. We _____¹ to Paris from London on the Eurostar train. The train _____² through the Channel Tunnel under the English Channel. The train _____³ very fast and the journey _____⁴ only 150 minutes.

When we _____⁵ at the hotel it was time for lunch. My Dad _____⁶ some snails! Ugh! In the afternoon I _____⁷ to go to the Eiffel Tower but it was raining, so we _____⁸ the Palace of Versailles where the Kings and Queens of France _____⁹. There _____¹⁰ a lot of beautiful fountains in the garden.

Love from

Julia

Asking questions about holidays

2) Underline the correct verb to complete the questions in these exchanges.

a) Where did you | go | travel | went |?
We went to Florida.

b) How did you | travel | voyage | passage | ?
We flew from London to Orlando.

c) Where did you | rest | stay | hotel |?
We stayed at the South Beach Hotel.

d) Did you | bath | swim | splash | in the ocean?
No, we didn't because the ocean was too cold. We swam in the swimming pool.

e) What did you | view | see | watch | when you were there?
We went to Walt Disney World.

f) Did you | meet | encounter | Mickey Mouse?
Yes, we met Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck.

g) Did you | enjoy | digest | delight | the food in Florida?
Yes, the American food was great but the Mexican food was even better.

h) What else did you | make | do | go |?
We had a tour of Universal Orlando Resort and I saw Shrek, ET, Jaws and Spiderman.

i) What | did | was | has | the weather like?
It rained and there was a lot of wind.

j) When did you | bring | come | go | home?
We arrived home on Tuesday.

Tell me more about your holiday

3) Write (perhaps) true answers to these questions and requests for more information.

a) Did you see anything exciting when you were on holiday?

- i) Yes I did.
What did you see? Tell me more about it.

- ii) No, I didn't.
That's a shame. Why was your holiday so boring? Tell me about it.

b) Did you eat any great meals when you were on holiday?

- i) Yes I did.
What did you eat? Where were you? Tell me more about it.

- ii) No, I didn't.
That's a shame. Why was the food so bad? Tell me about it.

c) Did you visit any interesting places when you were on holiday?

- i) Yes I did.
What did you go? What did you see? Tell me more about it.

- ii) No, I didn't.
That's a shame. What did you do most of the time? Tell me about it.

d) Did you make any new friends when you were on holiday?

- i) Yes I did.
What did you meet? Tell me more about them.

- ii) No, I didn't.
That's a shame. Who did you meet on holiday? Tell me about the people.

e) Did you hear any good music when you were on holiday?

- i) Yes I did.
What did you hear? Tell me more about it.

- ii) No, I didn't.
That's a shame. Why didn't you like the music? What was it like? Tell me about it.

4) Now that you have prepared your answers, practise this conversation with your partner. Then ask your partner about her/his holiday.



Telling stories about your holiday

When we are on holiday, we don't do ordinary things. We don't get up early. We don't go to school. We don't eat lunch at school. We do different things. We do unusual things. We do exciting things.

We can tell stories about our holidays. Maybe the stories are true. Maybe they are not true. But they are good stories...

5) The sentences below start stories. Choose a sentence and tell the story.

- a] When I was on holiday, I met a very old man ...
- b] When I was swimming in the river, a crocodile tried to ...
- c] The worst meal I ate on holiday was ...
- d] When I was at the sports stadium, I met a very famous ...
- e] Last year, when I was on holiday, I lost my ...
- f] The two policeman looked at me and the taller one said ...
- g] When I was on the beach, I saw this very beautiful girl. She was ...
- h] When I was at the gymnasium, I saw this very handsome boy. He was ...
- i] When we got back to the hotel we discovered that ...
- j] There were hundreds of people in the street. They were all looking at ...

Past tense and holidays (Teens) Teacher's Notes

Many of the exercises on this topic refer to future holidays. This collection of tasks encourages students to talk about real or invented holidays in the past.

These exercises prompt students to produce more extended descriptions and reports of their holidays.

1 Fill the gaps in the postcard. This exercise challenges students to select the appropriate verb for the context of each gap. In some cases two or more verbs may be appropriate but if the wrong verb is chosen it will not be available for another gap.

1 travelled 2 went 3 was 4 took 5 arrived 6 ate 7 wanted 8 visited 9 lived 10 were

2 This exercise examines verbs frequently used in questions about holidays.

a] go, b] travel c] stay, d] swim, e] see, f] meet, g] enjoy, h] do, i] was, j] come

3 This exercise prompts students to extend their responses to yes/no questions. Students should try to add at least one sentence to each response. Their responses do not need to be true.

Open responses

4 Role-play: Students need realistic role-play practice in English but they find it difficult to think of ideas and also find the English language to express these ideas. This exercise uses the ideas and language students have already created in Exercise 3. It will help the students gain the confidence and fluency for real role-play.

5 Telling stories: This exercise prompts students to create more extended stories about a true (or invented) event during their holidays.

The focus for exercise 5 is oral production but teachers may also want students to turn their stories into written texts.

Open responses