

THE SIMPLE PAST: to describe finished actions, states or events in the past

FORM

There are regular verbs, irregular verbs and special cases

i) REGULAR VERBS

INFINITIVE: to work

+	I <u>worked</u>	We <u>worked</u>
	You <u>worked</u>	You <u>worked</u>
	He <u>worked</u>	They <u>worked</u>
-	I <u>didn't</u> work	We <u>didn't</u> work
	You <u>didn't</u> work	You <u>didn't</u> work
	She <u>didn't</u> work	They <u>didn't</u> work
?	Did I work ?	Did we work ?
	Did you work ?	Did you work ?
	Did it work ?	Did they work ?

SPELLING

INFINITIVE	PAST	INFINITIVE	PAST
Play	Played	Stop	Stopped
Enjoy	Enjoyed	Plan	Planned
Like	Liked	Prefer	Preferred
Die	Died	Occur	Occurred
Study	Studied	Enter	Entered
Try	Tried	Limit	Limited
Travel	Travelled	Bow	Bowed
Patrol	Patrolled	Fax	Faxed

ii) IRREGULAR VERBS

INFINITIVE: to have

+	I had	We had
	You had	You had
	He had	They had
-	I didn't have	We didn't have
	You didn't have	You didn't have
	She didn't have	They didn't have
?	Did I have ?	Did we have ?
	Did you have ?	Did you have ?
	Did it have ?	Did they have ?

iii) SPECIAL CASES

HAVE GOT

CAN

TO BE

+	I had got	I could	I was	We were
	You had got	You could	You were	You were
	He had got	He could	He was	They were
-	I hadn't got	I couldn't	I was not	We weren't
	You hadn't got	You couldn't	You weren't	You weren't
	She hadn't got	She couldn't	She wasn't	They weren't
?	Had I got ?	Could I ?	Was I ?	Were we ?
	Had you got ?	Could you ?	Were you ?	Were you ?
	Had he got ?	Could she ?	Was it ?	Were they ?

Un esempio di memorizzazione "a recitazione": i verbi irregolari

I fonemi passano dalla memoria a breve termine all'archivio fonologico di lunga durata del cervello tramite un processo che potremmo chiamare "a recitazione" (dall'inglese "rehearsal" (Williams & Burden 1997: 16).

Cerca di memorizzare questi gruppi di verbi irregolari ripetendoli ad alta voce a gruppi di tre o quattro, sfruttando la similitudine tra i suoni e il loro ritmo per fissarli nella tua memoria. A questo punto, copri la seconda e/o terza colonna e metti alla prova la tua conoscenza controllando se, leggendo la forma all'infinito, sei in grado di ricordare le forme corrispondenti per le altre due colonne.

INFINITIVE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE	INFINITIVE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE
Cut	Cut	Cut	Ring	Rang	Rung
Shut	Shut	Shut	Sing	Sang	Sung
Put	Put	Put	Swim	Swam	Swum

Let	Let	Let	Sink	Sank	Sunk
Set	Set	Set	Shrink	Shrank	Shrunk
Spread	Spread	Spread	Drink	Drank	Drunk

Hit	Hit	Hit	Run	Ran	Run
Quit	Quit	Quit	Come	Came	Come
			Become	Became	Become
Cost	Cost	Cost	Begin	Began	Begun

INFINITIVE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE	INFINITIVE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE
Know	Knew	Known	Buy	Bought	Bought
Grow	Grew	Grown	Fight	Fought	Fought
Blow	Blew	Blown	Bring	Brought	Brought
Throw	Threw	Thrown	Think	Thought	Thought
Fly	Flew	Flown	Seek	Sought	Sought
Draw	Drew	Drawn	Teach	Taught	Taught
Withdraw	Withdrew	Withdrawn	Catch	Caught	Caught

INFINITIVE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE	INFINITIVE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE
Make	Made	Made	Break	Broke	Broken
Lay	Laid	Laid	Wake	Woke	Woken
Pay	Paid	Paid	Speak	Spoke	Spoken
			Freeze	Froze	Frozen

Say	Said	Said	Take	Took	Taken
Read	Read	Read	Shake	Shook	Shaken
Lead	Led	Led	Fall	Fell	Fallen
Meet	Met	Met			

Sell	Sold	Sold	Give	Gave	Given
Tell	Told	Told	Forgive	Forgave	Forgiven
Hold	Held	Held	Forget	Forgot	Forgotten

Have	Had	Had	Write	Wrote	Written
Hear	Heard	Heard	Ride	Rode	Ridden
			Rise	Rose	Risen
Find	Found	Found	Drive	Drove	Driven
Bind	Bound	Bound			

INFINITIVE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE
Stand	Stood	Stood
Understand	Understood	Understood

INFINITIVE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE
Choose	Chose	Chosen
Steal	Stole	Stolen
Eat	Ate	Eaten

Bite	Bit	Bitten
Hide	Hid	Hidden
Forbid	Forbade	Forbidden

INFINITIVE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE
Keep	Kept	Kept
Creep	Crept	Crept
Sleep	Slept	Slept
Sweep	Swept	Swept

INFINITIVE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE
Wear	Wore	Worn
Tear	Tore	Torn
Swear	Swore	Sworn
Show	Showed	Shown

Spend	Spent	Spent
Send	Sent	Sent
Bend	Bent	Bent
Lend	Lent	Lent
Mean	Meant	Meant

See	Saw	Seen
Lie	Lay	Lain

INFINITIVE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE
Shine	Shone	Shone
Win	Won	Won
Hang	Hung	Hung

Feel	Felt	Felt
Deal	Dealt	Dealt
Build	Built	Built

INFINITIVE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE
Be	Was/Were	Been
Go	Went	Gone/Been
Do	Did	Done

Get	Got	Got
Shoot	Shot	Shot

Lose	Lost	Lost
Leave	Left	Left
Light	Lit	Lit

Sit	Sat	Sat
Stick	Stuck	Stuck
Strike	Struck	Struck

Exercise 4 A



06

Complete this article about Vivendi by putting each of the verbs in brackets into the past simple. Most of the verbs are irregular (see Appendix 2).

Vivendi: 150 years of history

Vivendi, the French utilities and communications group, has a long history going back to 1853. In that year the Government (1) *created* (create) Compagnie Generale des Eaux. The founders (2) (have) two objectives: to irrigate the countryside for farming and to supply water to towns and cities in France.

In 1880 a treaty (3) (give) Generale des Eaux the right to supply water to Venice, and then Constantinople and Oporto (4) (come) soon after. By the time of the centenary celebrations in 1953 Generale des Eaux (5) (supply) water to eight million people in France.

In the 1960s and 1970s the company (6) (begin) activities in the area of civil construction and (7) (build) a large tower block in the La Defense business district of Paris.

During the 1980s Generale des Eaux (8) (join) with the Havas media group to create Canal Plus, a pay TV channel. They also (9) (take) a controlling stake in the civil engineering giant, SGE. In the 1990s they (10) (win) major contracts in the Asia Pacific region and in Latin America.

Jean-Marie Messier (11) (become) CEO in 1996 and (12) (run) the company along American lines.

He (13) (sell) \$5 billion in assets and (14) (cut) the workforce by 10%. All this (15) (mean) that an annual loss of \$600 million (16) (turn) into a profit of \$320 million. In 1998 he (17) (change) the name of the group to Vivendi and soon after (18) (make) a series of partnerships and acquisitions in the telecommunications industry.

Operations in North America (19) (grow) very quickly after this and in 2000 Vivendi (20) (buy) Seagram to become a truly international media and communications company. ■

47 Irregular verbs crossword 2

Complete the crossword by filling in the past tense of the verbs in the sentences below (see example):

ACROSS

- 1 It was so cold last November that the canal ...
- 2 The police finally ... the bank robbers after chasing them for several hours.
- 3 I ... up at 6.30 this morning.
- 4 Mr and Mrs Brown ... from London to Manchester last weekend.
- 5 The child ... his mother's hand as they crossed the road.
- 6 We ... in the park all afternoon.
- 7 We ... up at least fifty balloons for the party.
- 8 My parents ... £35,000 for their house.
- 9 He was so tired that he ... down for a while on the bed.
- 10 Björn Borg ... the ball into the net.

DOWN

- a She ... a long, white evening-dress to the party.
- b I ... a £5 note on my way to work this morning.
- c We ... English all the time when we were on holiday.
- d He ... his wife at a disco.
- e The child ... her finger while playing with a knife.
- f The thieves ... in the doorway until the police had gone past.
- g He ... his girlfriend a ring for her birthday.
- h The teacher ... a map of Spain on the blackboard.
- i My cousin ... an actor in 1964.
- j I thought you ... you would help me.
- k My brother ... his boat himself.

FREEZE

CATCH

WAKE

DRIVE

HOLD

SIT

BLOW

PAY

LIE

HIT

WEAR

FIND

SPEAK

MEET

CUT

HIDE

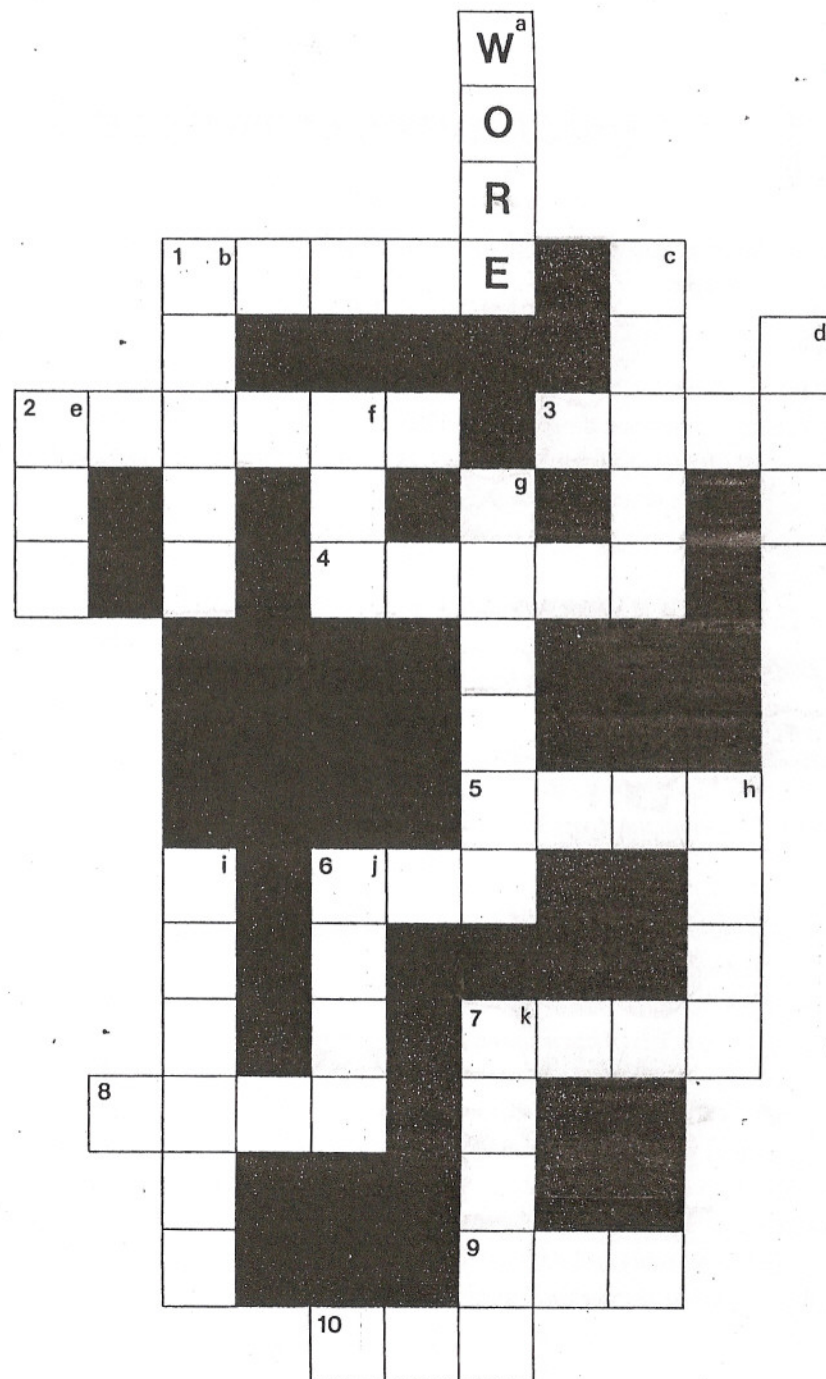
BUY

DRAW

BECOME

SAY

BUILD



NELSON MANDELA

- 1) In which year was Nelson Mandela born ?
- 2) How old was he when his father died ?
- 3) When did he go to university ?
- 4) When did he join the African National Congress (ANC) ?
- 5) When did he become a lawyer ?
- 6) When did he go to prison ?
- 7) For how many years did he stay in prison ?
- 8) When did he leave prison ?
- 9) When did free and fair elections finally take place in South Africa ?
- 10) For how many years was Nelson Mandela South Africa's President ?
- 11) When did he retire ?
- 12) When did he die ?
- 13) How old was he when he died ?
- 14) Where did he ask to be buried ?