

## Injuries and Past Simple



### Warm up:

- Have you ever broken a bone?
- Did you have a lot of injuries when you were a kid?
- Do you think you are a very careful person, or are you more of a risk-taker?
- What is a sport or activity that is very dangerous? Would you ever try it?



### 1. Match the words in the box to the pictures below

bruise

stitches

broken bone

band-aid

swollen ankle

scar

graze

cast



Past Simple

The past simple tense is used to describe something in the past that is finished.

Most verbs are regular, which means we simply add "ed" to make the past tense.

Eg. *The doctor looked at my bruise.*

Some verbs are irregular, which means the past tense is different.

Eg. *I went to the hospital.*

Negative past simple sentences are formed with *didn't* (did not) + *base verb*.

Eg. *I didn't go to the hospital.*

Negative past simple sentences are also often formed with *couldn't* (could not) + *base verb*.

Eg. *I couldn't walk for a week after my accident.*

Past simple for the verb "be" is different. For *I, he, she,* and *it,* we say *was* or *wasn't* (was not).

Eg. *I was in the hospital for 3 days after my accident.*

For *you, we,* and *they,* we say *were* or *weren't* (were not).

Eg. *You were lucky you didn't need stitches!*

 2. Read the injury stories below and put the verbs in the brackets in past simple.

*John:* I ..... (play) football when I was younger, and once I ..... (be) at a football match when I ..... (try) to do a bicycle kick. That's basically a kick where you jump in the air and kick the ball over your head. Anyway, I ..... (jump) in the air, completely ..... (miss) the ball, and ..... (fall) on my head. I ..... (feel) so embarrassed and I ..... (can/negative) play for months afterwards because of the injury to my neck. It ..... (take) so long to heal.

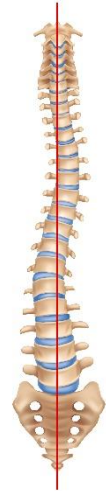


? *Have you ever had an injury that was embarrassing like this?*

*Chrissy:* Last summer me and some friends ..... (go) to Thailand for a holiday, and we ..... (decide) to rent some motorbikes to go on a trip. I don't know how to ride a motorbike, but my friend ..... (tell) me that if I can ride a bicycle then I can ride a motorbike. I ..... (know) it ..... (be) a bad idea, but I ..... (want/negative) to be the boring one, so I ..... (say) yes. On the very first corner I ..... (go) too fast and ..... (fall) off. I ..... (have) a lot of grazes and cuts, and I ..... (need) a lot of band-aids, but luckily I ..... (break/negative) any bones. I'll never ride a motorbike again.

? *What advice would you give to someone who wants to ride a motorbike in Asia but doesn't know how to ride one?*

Torsten: Believe it or not my worst injury ..... (happen) just by picking up my son. He ..... (be) 3 years old and I .....him ..... (pick up), and I .....(feel) a very strange feeling in my back. At first I ..... (think/negative) it was anything serious, but over the next few days it ..... (get) harder and harder to stand up and walk around, I was moving like an old man! Eventually I ..... (go) to the doctor and she ..... (do) an X-ray on me and ..... (tell) me I ..... (damage) my spine! I ..... (can/negative) believe I ..... (hurt) my back so badly in such a stupid way! I ..... (have to) do months of special exercises for my spine, and I still have to be careful.




? Have you ever had an injury like this that just happened while you were doing something normal?

Ada: A few years ago I ..... (break) 2 toes while I was bowling with friends. I ..... (want/negative) to wear the bowling shoes they ..... (give) us because they're ugly and uncomfortable, and they look like clown shoes! I never really ..... (understand) why they make you wear those shoes, but I ..... (find out) why when I ..... (drop) the ball on my foot. I ..... (try) to continue playing, but it ..... (hurt) so much I ..... (have to) go to the hospital. I ..... (need/negative) a cast, but the doctor ..... (say) I ..... (can/negative) walk for a week, and after that I ..... (need) crutches for a month.



? Why do you think you have to wear special shoes when you go bowling?

 3. Think of an injury you or someone you know had, and write the story below. Try to go into a lot of detail. Use the past simple like the stories in the exercise above.

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### Past Simple Questions

There are two types of questions, open questions and closed questions. Open questions use words like *what*, *who*, *why*, and *how*. In past simple questions with the verb *be* are formed with *was* or *were*.

Eg. "Was she angry at the doctor?" (closed question) and "How many people were hurt?" (open question).

However, questions with other verbs are formed with *did* or *didn't*.

Eg. "Did you fall off your bike?" (closed question) and "How did you get that scar?" (open question).

Note that the verb after *did* is in the base form, not in the past.

Questions can also sometimes be formed with "could" instead of "did." *Could* focuses on ability, but *did* is used to ask if something happened or not.

Eg. "Could you walk after the accident?" (closed question) and "How could he ride a bike with a broken leg?" (Open question)



4. Pairwork: tell your partner your story from exercise 3. Listen to their story and write at least four past simple questions you have about their story. Listen to and answer the questions they have about your story.

- 1) .....
- 2) .....
- 3) .....
- 4) .....

### Two Truths and a Lie Game

Step 1: Write down 3 statements about your past (they can be about injuries or accidents, but they don't have to be). Two should be true, and one should be a lie.

- 1) .....
- 2) .....
- 3) .....

Step 2: Listen to your classmates' statements and ask as many questions as you can about what they say.

Step 3: Say which statements you believe, and which you think are lies, and why.

The student who tricks the most people into believing their lie wins!





5. Listen to the audio of Burt talking about his injury and answer the questions.

- a) Why did Burt get injured so often as a teenager?
- b) How many bones did Burt break when he was a teenager?
- c) What do you think Burt means when he says “knock on wood”?
- d) How did Burt’s best friend George injure himself?
- e) What were George’s injuries?
- f) Where is George’s scar?
- g) How did Burt break his leg, and why didn’t he feel embarrassed about it?
- h) What did Burt get at the hospital?
- i) Why did Burt have to use crutches for longer than George?

