

# Simple Past Tense – Practice 4

## B1 / B2 Level – Student Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_

### VERB LIST – Regular & Irregular Verbs

#### Regular verbs:

| Base form   | Past simple  | Example sentence                                    |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| restructure | restructured | The board restructured the company to cut costs.    |
| outline     | outlined     | She outlined the main risks in her report.          |
| challenge   | challenged   | He challenged the assumptions behind the proposal.  |
| analyse     | analysed     | The team analysed the data over several weeks.      |
| strengthen  | strengthened | The deal strengthened their position in the market. |

#### Irregular verbs:

| Base form | Past simple | Example sentence                                             |
|-----------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| arise     | arose       | A conflict of interest arose early in the negotiations.      |
| broadcast | broadcast   | The CEO broadcast a message to all staff.                    |
| freeze    | froze       | The bank froze the account pending investigation.            |
| grind     | ground      | Progress ground to a halt due to regulatory delays.          |
| hit       | hit         | The new policy hit smaller businesses hardest.               |
| mistake   | mistook     | She mistook the figures for the previous year's data.        |
| overlook  | overlooked  | He overlooked a critical detail in the contract.             |
| rebuild   | rebuilt     | They rebuilt the brand from the ground up.                   |
| split     | split       | The committee split on the issue of further investment.      |
| string    | strung      | She strung together a convincing argument from limited data. |

**Remember!** Use the past simple for completed actions in the past. Negatives: didn't + base form.  
Questions: Did + subject + base form. Never use the past form after didn't or Did.

### EXERCISE 1 – True or False?

Read each sentence. Write **True** or **False**. If false, write the correct version.

| No. | Sentence                                                                 | True / False |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1.  | "The bank freezed the account without warning." is correct.              | _____        |
| 2.  | "The committee split on the key question of investment." is correct.     | _____        |
| 3.  | "She didn't overlook the issue — she raised it immediately." is correct. | _____        |
| 4.  | "Did progress grinded to a halt during the review?" is correct.          | _____        |
| 5.  | "He mistaked the projected figures for the actual results." is correct.  | _____        |
| 6.  | "They didn't rebuilt the brand — they replaced it entirely." is correct. | _____        |
| 7.  | "The new policy hit smaller businesses disproportionately." is correct.  | _____        |

|     |                                                                          |       |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 8.  | "She outlined the main risks clearly in her written report." is correct. | _____ |
| 9.  | "Did the CEO broadcast a message to the entire workforce?" is correct.   | _____ |
| 10. | "They didn't challenge the assumptions behind the strategy." is correct. | _____ |

## EXERCISE 2 – Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answer.

- The bank \_\_\_\_\_ all accounts associated with the company pending investigation.  
a) freezed    b) froze    c) freezing
- Progress \_\_\_\_\_ to a halt as a result of the new restrictions.  
a) grinded    b) ground    c) grinding
- She \_\_\_\_\_ the quarterly projections for the actual year-end results.  
a) mistaked    b) mistook    c) mistaking
- \_\_\_\_\_ they rebuild the brand following the scandal?  
a) Did    b) Does    c) Were
- The new regulations \_\_\_\_\_ smaller firms particularly hard.  
a) hitted    b) hit    c) hitting
- He \_\_\_\_\_ challenge the decision even though he disagreed with it.  
a) didn't    b) don't    c) hadn't
- The committee \_\_\_\_\_ on whether to proceed with the acquisition.  
a) splitted    b) split    c) splitting
- \_\_\_\_\_ the CEO broadcast a message to all employees?  
a) Did    b) Does    c) Was
- She \_\_\_\_\_ the entire situation and presented her findings to the board.  
a) analysed    b) analyzied    c) analysing
- The deal \_\_\_\_\_ their competitive position considerably.  
a) strengthened    b) strenghtened    c) strengthening

## EXERCISE 3 – Gap Fill

Complete each sentence with the correct past simple form of the verb in brackets.

| No. | Sentence                                                                     |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | The bank _____ (freeze) the assets pending the outcome of the investigation. |
| 2.  | He _____ (not / overlook) the issue — he addressed it immediately.           |
| 3.  | _____ (progress / grind) to a halt at any point during the process?          |
| 4.  | She _____ (mistake) the draft figures for the final approved version.        |
| 5.  | They _____ (rebuild) the entire brand identity over a period of two years.   |
| 6.  | _____ (the policy / hit) certain sectors more severely than others?          |
| 7.  | The committee _____ (split) on several of the most contentious issues.       |
| 8.  | She _____ (outline) the key findings in her executive summary.               |
| 9.  | _____ (he / challenge) the assumptions in the original report?               |

10. The deal \_\_\_\_\_ (strengthen) their position significantly in the European market.

#### EXERCISE 4 – Matching

Match each sentence beginning (1–8) with the correct ending (a–h).

| Sentence beginning         | Answer | Ending                                                             |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. The bank froze ...      | _____  | a) ... the draft version for the final approved document.          |
| 2. He didn't overlook ...  | _____  | b) ... the brand from scratch following the reputational damage.   |
| 3. Progress ground ...     | _____  | c) ... the key risks and recommendations in the executive summary. |
| 4. She mistook ...         | _____  | d) ... the accounts while the fraud investigation was ongoing.     |
| 5. They rebuilt ...        | _____  | e) ... to a halt following the introduction of new restrictions.   |
| 6. The policy hit ...      | _____  | f) ... smaller businesses and sole traders hardest.                |
| 7. The committee split ... | _____  | g) ... the detail — in fact, he was the first to raise it.         |
| 8. She outlined ...        | _____  | h) ... over the question of how to proceed with the restructuring. |

#### EXERCISE 5 – Word Order

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence or question.

| No. | Words                                             | Your sentence |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1.  | the / bank / froze / the / accounts               | _____         |
| 2.  | he / didn't / overlook / the / issue              | _____         |
| 3.  | did / progress / grind / to / halt / a            | _____         |
| 4.  | she / mistook / the / figures / draft             | _____         |
| 5.  | they / rebuilt / the / brand / entirely           | _____         |
| 6.  | the / policy / hit / businesses / smaller         | _____         |
| 7.  | the / committee / split / on / the / issue        | _____         |
| 8.  | she / outlined / the / risks / main               | _____         |
| 9.  | the / strengthened / deal / their / position      | _____         |
| 10. | when / did / the / bank / freeze / accounts / the | _____         |

#### EXERCISE 6 – Error Correction

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

| No. | Incorrect sentence                                               | Correct sentence |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1.  | The bank freezed the accounts without prior notification.        | _____            |
| 2.  | He didn't overlook the problem — he raised it straight away.     | _____            |
| 3.  | Did progress grinded to a halt during the regulatory review?     | _____            |
| 4.  | She mistaked the provisional data for the confirmed results.     | _____            |
| 5.  | They didn't rebuildled the brand — they scrapped it entirely.    | _____            |
| 6.  | The new policy hitted small and medium-sized businesses hardest. | _____            |
| 7.  | The committee splitted on several of the most divisive issues.   | _____            |
| 8.  | She didn't outlined the risks as clearly as she should have.     | _____            |

|     |                                                                      |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9.  | Did the CEO broadcasted a message to the entire organisation?        |
| 10. | He challenged the core assumptions underpinning the entire proposal. |

## TEACHER ANSWER KEY – DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS

### EXERCISE 1 – Answers

| No. | Sentence                                                                 | Answer                                                                           |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | "The bank froze the account without warning." is correct.                | False – Freeze is irregular. Correct: The bank froze the account.                |
| 2.  | "The committee split on the key question of investment." is correct.     | True                                                                             |
| 3.  | "She didn't overlook the issue — she raised it immediately." is correct. | True                                                                             |
| 4.  | "Did progress grind to a halt during the review?" is correct.            | False – After Did, use the base form. Correct: Did progress grind?               |
| 5.  | "He mistaked the projected figures for the actual results." is correct.  | False – Mistake is irregular. Correct: He mistook the projected figures.         |
| 6.  | "They didn't rebuilt the brand — they replaced it entirely." is correct. | False – After didn't, use the base form. Correct: They didn't rebuild the brand. |
| 7.  | "The new policy hit smaller businesses disproportionately." is correct.  | True                                                                             |
| 8.  | "She outlined the main risks clearly in her written report." is correct. | True                                                                             |
| 9.  | "Did the CEO broadcast a message to the entire workforce?" is correct.   | True                                                                             |
| 10. | "They didn't challenge the assumptions behind the strategy." is correct. | True                                                                             |

### EXERCISE 2 – Answers

| No. | Question                                                                       | Answer          |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | The bank _____ all accounts associated with the company pending investigation. | a) froze        |
| 2.  | Progress _____ to a halt as a result of the new restrictions.                  | b) ground       |
| 3.  | She _____ the quarterly projections for the actual year-end results.           | b) mistook      |
| 4.  | _____ they rebuild the brand following the scandal?                            | a) Did          |
| 5.  | The new regulations _____ smaller firms particularly hard.                     | b) hit          |
| 6.  | He _____ challenge the decision even though he disagreed with it.              | a) didn't       |
| 7.  | The committee _____ on whether to proceed with the acquisition.                | b) split        |
| 8.  | _____ the CEO broadcast a message to all employees?                            | a) Did          |
| 9.  | She _____ the entire situation and presented her findings to the board.        | b) analysed     |
| 10. | The deal _____ their competitive position considerably.                        | a) strengthened |

### EXERCISE 3 – Answers

| No. | Sentence                                                                     | Answer             |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1.  | The bank _____ (freeze) the assets pending the outcome of the investigation. | froze              |
| 2.  | He _____ (not / overlook) the issue — he addressed it immediately.           | didn't overlook    |
| 3.  | _____ (progress / grind) to a halt at any point during the process?          | Did progress grind |
| 4.  | She _____ (mistake) the draft figures for the final approved version.        | mistook            |
| 5.  | They _____ (rebuild) the entire brand identity over a period of two years.   | rebuilt            |
| 6.  | _____ (the policy / hit) certain sectors more severely than others?          | Did the policy hit |
| 7.  | The committee _____ (split) on several of the most contentious issues.       | split              |
| 8.  | She _____ (outline) the key findings in her executive summary.               | outlined           |
| 9.  | _____ (he / challenge) the assumptions in the original report?               | Did he challenge   |

|     |                                                                                  |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10. | The deal _____ (strengthen) their position significantly in the European market. |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

#### EXERCISE 4 – Answers

| Sentence beginning         | Answer | Full sentence                                                                       |
|----------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. The bank froze ...      | d      | 1. The bank froze ... the accounts while the fraud investigation was ongoing.       |
| 2. He didn't overlook ...  | g      | 2. He didn't overlook ... the detail — in fact, he was the first to raise it.       |
| 3. Progress ground ...     | e      | 3. Progress ground ... to a halt following the introduction of new restrictions.    |
| 4. She mistook ...         | a      | 4. She mistook ... the draft version for the final approved document.               |
| 5. They rebuilt ...        | b      | 5. They rebuilt ... the brand from scratch following the reputational damage.       |
| 6. The policy hit ...      | f      | 6. The policy hit ... smaller businesses and sole traders hardest.                  |
| 7. The committee split ... | h      | 7. The committee split ... over the question of how to proceed with the resolution. |
| 8. She outlined ...        | c      | 8. She outlined ... the key risks and recommendations in the executive summary.     |

#### EXERCISE 5 – Answers

| No. | Words                                             | Answer                                 |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1.  | the / bank / froze / the / accounts               | The bank froze the accounts.           |
| 2.  | he / didn't / overlook / the / issue              | He didn't overlook the issue.          |
| 3.  | did / progress / grind / to / halt / a            | Did progress grind to a halt?          |
| 4.  | she / mistook / the / figures / draft             | She mistook the draft figures.         |
| 5.  | they / rebuilt / the / brand / entirely           | They rebuilt the brand entirely.       |
| 6.  | the / policy / hit / businesses / smaller         | The policy hit smaller businesses.     |
| 7.  | the / committee / split / on / the / issue        | The committee split on the issue.      |
| 8.  | she / outlined / the / risks / main               | She outlined the main risks.           |
| 9.  | the / strengthened / deal / their / position      | The deal strengthened their position.  |
| 10. | when / did / the / bank / freeze / accounts / the | When did the bank freeze the accounts? |

#### EXERCISE 6 – Answers

| No. | Incorrect sentence                                                   | Correct sentence                                                     |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | The bank frozeed the accounts without prior notification.            | The bank froze the accounts without prior notification.              |
| 2.  | He didn't overlook the problem — he raised it straight away!         | He didn't overlook the problem — he raised it straight away.         |
| 3.  | Did progress grindded to a halt during the regulatory review?        | Did progress grind to a halt during the regulatory review?           |
| 4.  | She mistaked the provisional data for the confirmed results.         | She mistook the provisional data for the confirmed results.          |
| 5.  | They didn't rebuildded the brand — they scrapped it entirely.        | They didn't rebuild the brand — they scrapped it entirely.           |
| 6.  | The new policy hitted small and medium-sized businesses hardest.     | The new policy hit small and medium-sized businesses hardest.        |
| 7.  | The committee splitted on several of the most divisive issues.       | The committee split on several of the most divisive issues.          |
| 8.  | She didn't outlined the risks as clearly as she should have.         | She didn't outline the risks as clearly as she should have.          |
| 9.  | Did the CEO broadcasted a message to the entire organisation?        | Did the CEO broadcast a message to the entire organisation?          |
| 10. | He challenged the core assumptions underpinning the entire proposal. | He challenged the core assumptions underpinning the entire proposal. |