

6.2 Grammar

Past Simple: affirmatives

I can use the Past Simple to describe events in the past.

PASSION OR MADNESS?

When you look at mountains like this, do you think, 'I'd love to climb that!' or are you one of those people who say, 'Anyone who wants to climb that is mad!'?

These are Trango Towers (6,286 m) in the Karakoram in Pakistan. British climber Martin Boysen tried to climb them in 1975 and nearly died. In 1976 he tried again and became the first climber to reach the top.

In 1990 Japanese climber Takeyasu Minamiura climbed to the top of one side of the mountain. But that wasn't his main aim. He wanted to paraglide to the bottom.

On 9 September Minamiura jumped off the top of Trango Towers, but his paraglider hit

the wall and he fell forty-five metres until the glider caught on a piece of rock and saved his life. And there he hung. The fall broke his glasses, but he was OK. When his hands stopped shaking, he took his radio and contacted his friends. He asked them to send a helicopter to rescue him.



- 1 Read the first part of a story. Who was the first person to climb Trango Towers?
- 2 Read GRAMMAR FOCUS 1 and look at the verbs in blue in the story. Then write the Past Simple form of the verbs below.

GRAMMAR FOCUS 1

Past Simple: regular verbs

To form the Past Simple of regular verbs:

- add **-ed** to the end of the verb.
jump → jumped
- add **-d** to the end of regular verbs that end in **-e**.
save → saved
- double the final letter and add **-ed** if the verb ends with a single vowel and a consonant.
stop → stopped
- for a verb that ends in a consonant + **-y**, change the **-y** to **-i** and add **-ed**.
try → tried

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 look - <u>looked</u> | 7 ask - _____ |
| 2 climb - _____ | 8 shout - _____ |
| 3 want - _____ | 9 help - _____ |
| 4 like - _____ | 10 save - _____ |
| 5 stay - _____ | 11 cry - _____ |
| 6 decide - _____ | 12 start - _____ |
- 3 **CD>3.5 MP3-102** Listen and put the Past Simple form of the verbs in Exercise 2 in the correct column.

| /t/ | /d/ | /ɪd/ |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| look <u>ed</u> | climb <u>ed</u> | want <u>ed</u> |

- 4 **CD>3.6 MP3-103** Listen, check and repeat.
- 5 **CD>3.7 MP3-104** Read GRAMMAR FOCUS 2 and complete it with the underlined verbs in the article. Then listen, check and repeat.

GRAMMAR FOCUS 2

Past Simple: irregular verbs

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 become - <u>became</u> | 4 catch - _____ | 6 break - _____ |
| 2 hit - _____ | 5 hang - _____ | 7 take - _____ |
| 3 fall - _____ | | |

- 6 Complete the sentences with the Past Simple form of the verbs in the box.

[break drink fall go have say run take]

- 1 We went swimming yesterday afternoon.
 - 2 We _____ part in a Zumba competition.
 - 3 'I have to train really hard,' _____ the champion.
 - 4 Sarah _____ a lot of homework, so she stayed home to do it.
 - 5 Jake _____ 100 metres in forty seconds.
 - 6 I _____ a lot of water during the tennis match.
 - 7 The man _____ off his bike and _____ his leg.
- 7 Read the second part of the story about Minamiura. Complete it with the Past Simple form of the verbs in brackets.

Two of his friends ¹walked (walk) twelve miles to a Pakistani army base to get help and they ²_____ (fly) to Trango Towers. They ³_____ (see) Minamiura, but winds ⁴_____ (stop) the helicopter from landing. The two friends ⁵_____ (plan) a daring rescue - they ⁶_____ (go) to Trango Glacier and ⁷_____ (look) for Boysen's fourteen-year-old ropes to help them climb the glacier.

Minamiura ⁸_____ (spend) six days without food and water before his friends ⁹_____ (reach) him and ¹⁰_____ (bring) him down the mountain. They ¹¹_____ (arrive) back on 18 September, forty-nine days after Minamiura ¹²_____ (art) his adventure on Trango Towers.