

**Past simple: last week**

by Jill Hadfield

**Level:** Elementary / Pre-Intermediate**Target age:** Secondary / Adult**Time needed:** 15 minutes**Grammar objective:** to practise past simple verbs**Materials:** one set of diary cards per group (cut up); one copy of the puzzle sheet per group**Summary:** a small-group, information-gap and puzzle-solving activity to practise the past simple

4. For some freer practice of the past simple, ask students to remain in character and discuss in their groups the party they all went to.

- Did they enjoy it? Why? Why not?
- What was the food like? The music? The people?
- Did anything interesting or funny happen while they were there?

Listen and, when they have finished, offer some feedback on their use of the past simple, as well as any other language points you have been working on.

**Procedure**

1. Divide your students into groups of three or four.
2. Give each group one puzzle sheet and give each member of the group one diary card. In groups of three, one person will have to have two diaries. Students should not show their diary cards to each other.

The object of the game is to complete the puzzle sheet by finding out where and when each member of the group met the other members last week.

To do this, they must pretend to be the person on their diary card and ask each other questions like, 'What did you do last Monday, Alex?' Model this question with the students, practising variants like, 'What did you do last Tuesday?' etc.

3. When groups have finished, ask groups for their answers and give feedback.

**Key:** 1. They met at 2.30pm on Saturday and went to a football match; 2. They met at 1pm on Tuesday and went to Platters for lunch; 3. They met at 2pm on Monday and played tennis; 4. They met at 5pm on Thursday and went skating; 5. They met at 7.30pm on Wednesday and went to a guitar concert; 6. They met at 12.30pm on Sunday and had a picnic; 7. They met at 8pm on Saturday at Sarah's party.

**Note:** As they all met at 8pm on Saturday at Sarah's party, this will also come up as an answer for questions 1-6.

**Past simple: last week**

by Jill Hadfield

**Alex's diary**

<b>Monday</b> tennis 2pm	<b>Friday</b> Sarah's party 8pm
<b>Tuesday</b> lunch at Platters 1pm	<b>Saturday</b> football match 2.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b> doctor's appointment 11am	<b>Sunday</b> cycling 11am
<b>Thursday</b> cinema: Robots! 6pm	

**Tom's diary**

<b>Monday</b> dentist appointment 10.30am	<b>Friday</b> Sarah's party 8pm
<b>Tuesday</b> badminton 3pm	<b>Saturday</b> football match 2.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b> guitar concert 7.30pm	<b>Sunday</b> meet Sam and Donna at beach
<b>Thursday</b> skating 5pm	

**Julie's diary**

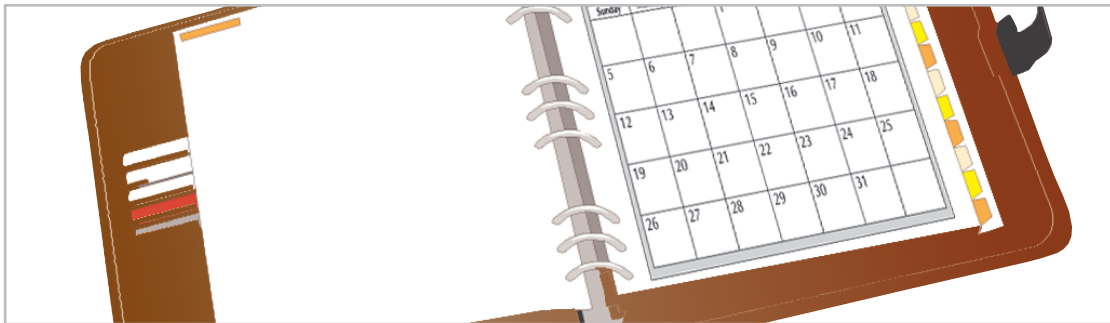
<b>Monday</b> badminton 2.30pm	<b>Friday</b> Sarah's party 8pm
<b>Tuesday</b> lunch at Platters 1pm	<b>Saturday</b> visit Aunt Mary 3pm
<b>Wednesday</b> swimming practice 5pm	<b>Sunday</b> picnic 12.30pm
<b>Thursday</b> skating 5pm	

**Sue's diary**

<b>Monday</b> tennis 2pm	<b>Friday</b> Sarah's party 8pm
<b>Tuesday</b> dinner with Mitch 7pm	<b>Saturday</b> volleyball match 3pm
<b>Wednesday</b> guitar concert 7.30pm	<b>Sunday</b> picnic 12.30pm
<b>Thursday</b> theatre: Wicked! 7.30pm	

**Past simple: last week**  
by Jill Hadfield

Talk to the other people in your group to find the answers to the questions.



1. When did Alex meet Tom? What did they do?

---

2. When did Alex meet Julie? What did they do?

---

3. When did Alex meet Sue? What did they do?

---

4. When did Tom meet Julie? What did they do?

---

5. When did Tom meet Sue? What did they do?

---

6. When did Julie meet Sue? What did they do?

---

7. When did all four friends meet? What did they do?

---