

Reading

Read about Maria's weekend and answer the questions on page 2 & 3.

Maria's weekend

Last weekend was hectic but very enjoyable. On Friday evening after work, I met some friends and we went for a bite to eat. It was quite late when I got home so I went straight to bed.

I had a lie-in until 11 o'clock on Saturday. The house was a mess so I spent three hours doing the housework. That afternoon I cycled down to Tesco to do the shopping for dinner that evening.

A few friends of mine came over for dinner, they arrived around 7p.m. with a bottle of wine and flowers. I made a chicken curry with rice, it was really hot! After dinner we had apple crumble and custard with coffee and then sat around the table chatting until midnight.

On Sunday morning, I got up quite early and went for a walk in the park beside my house. I bought the Sunday newspapers and relaxed at home until midday. My sister invited me to her house for Sunday lunch. Carol lives in Ranelagh so I got the LUAS to her apartment. She's a great cook, much better than me! We had her homemade soup for starters and for the main course she cooked roast beef with gravy and mashed potatoes. I was so full that I had no room for dessert! I helped her with the washing-up and arrived home just after 7p.m.

That evening, I took it easy in front of the TV. I watched a few soap operas and the evening news. By 10p.m. I was really tired so I decided to have an early night.

Maria's weekend

1. Did Maria have a quiet weekend?

2. Did Maria have dinner after work on Friday evening?

3. Did she get up later than usual on Saturday morning?

4. What did her friends give her when they came to her house for dinner?

5. What did Maria and her friends do after dinner?

6. Was she very busy on Sunday morning?

7. How did she get to her sister's apartment?

Maria's weekend

8. Where did her sister buy the soup?

9. Why didn't Maria have dessert after dinner in her sister's apartment?

10. What type of programmes did Maria watch when she got home?

Compare your answers with another student.

Language Focus

A Past Simple

1. Make a list of the verbs in the past simple from the text.
2. If a verb is used more than once, you don't need to write it again.
3. Organise the list into regular and irregular verbs and write the infinitive beside each verb.
4. Use your dictionary to help you.

Irregular Verbs

Past simple	Infinitive
<i>had</i>	<i>to have</i>

Regular Verbs

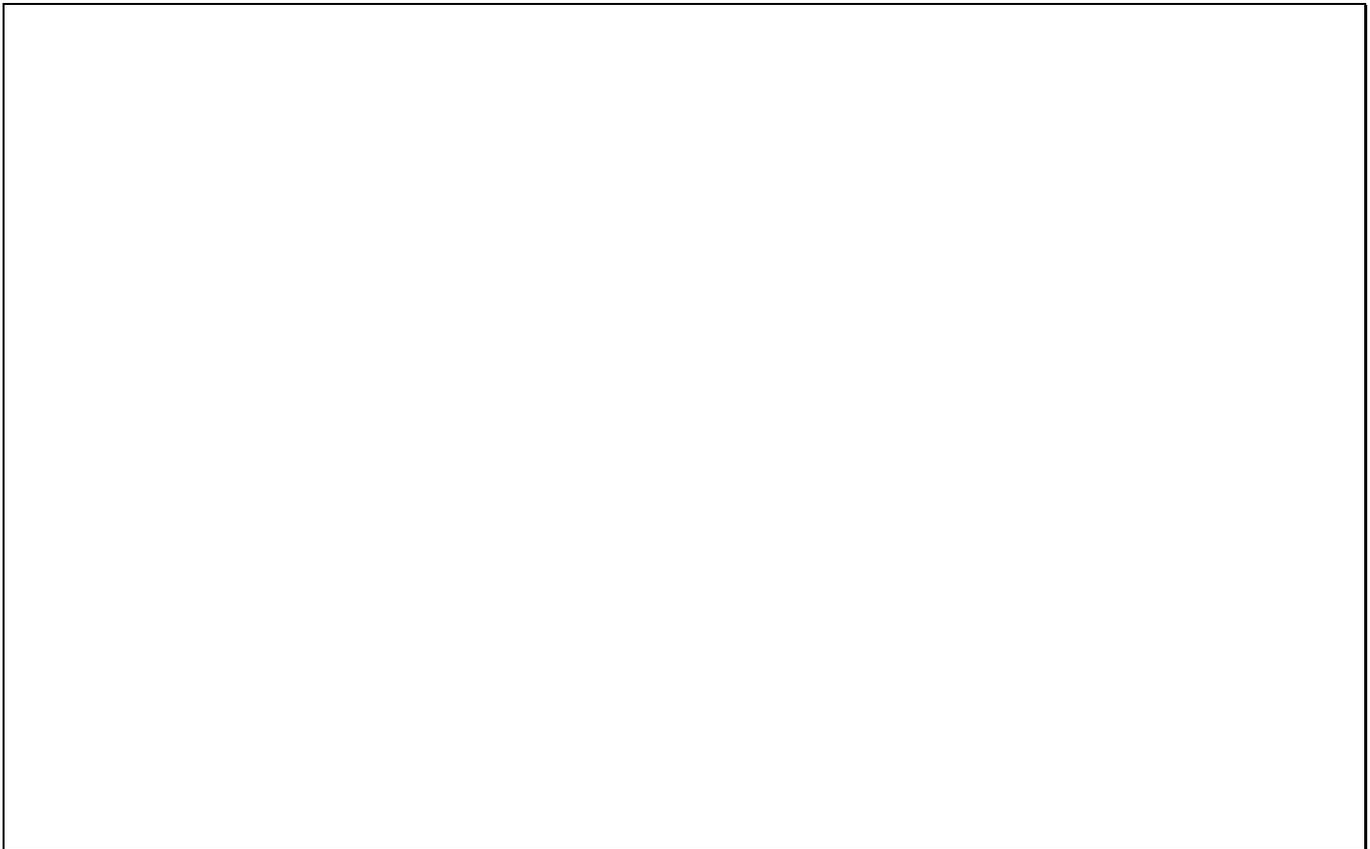
Past simple	Infinitive
<i>arrived</i>	<i>to arrive</i>

Writing

Write about what you did last weekend.

- Plan what you are going to write first.
- Make a list of all the things you did last weekend.
- Organise your weekend into Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday.
- Write three or four paragraphs.

Plan – single words and phrases



Now write about your weekend on the next page:

Last Weekend

MODULE: In the Past

LEVEL: R1T

Time: 2 hours	Focus: Past Simple
Class organisation: pairs & whole class	Type of activity: Reading and writing in the past simple
Can be adapted to: R1M, R2L	Prerequisites: Students are familiar with using the past simple and know the difference between regular and irregular past simple verbs. Students are familiar with using a correction code to correct their writing (Anseo, page 277)
FETAC:	
ELP: A2 Writing write a short basic account of an event or happening in the past or present.	

For this activity you need...

English-English dictionary with a list of regular and irregular verbs.

N.B.

In Class Procedure at a Glance

Reading (Pages 1-3)

1. Students read the questions before reading the text about Maria's weekend so they know what information to focus on. Students answer the questions in pairs.
2. Students underline where they find the answers in the text and what vocabulary helps them to decide on their answers. Ask the students to predict the meaning of unknown words from the context rather than using the dictionary.
3. Check answers with the whole class.

4. Students can select a few new words from the text and look up the meaning in the dictionary, ask them to write the meaning and an example sentence into their vocabulary notebooks.

Language focus (Page 4 & 5)

Past Simple

5. Students work in pairs and find examples of the past simple in the text, they then organise the verbs into 2 categories: regular and irregular verbs and write the infinitive beside each verb. Encourage the students to use the list of regular and irregular verbs at the back of the dictionary. Students could also decide how the endings of the regular verbs are pronounced: (cycled /d/), (watched /t/), (decided /ɪd/).

Time expressions

6. Students underline all the expressions in the text which are used to describe time and write them in the table. Students then organise the expressions into time expressions in general and words to describe a specific time, for example: Time in general: last weekend, Words to describe a specific time: until 11o'clock.

Writing (Page 6 & 7)

7. Students have an example of a person writing about her weekend and they have spoken about their own weekend. Students now write about their own weekend. Students plan what they are going to write and organise their ideas into 3 or 4 paragraphs. Encourage students to plan together and to decide what vocabulary they are going to use.
8. Students could then write about their weekend in class or for homework. Tell the students that this is a first draft and that you will correct their writing using a correction code (Anseo, page 277). Students later write the final draft after they have corrected their first draft.

Variations / Comments / Supplementary Activities

Students could write questions based on what they wrote about their own weekend. They then give their writing and the questions to other students to answer. This gives the students an audience for their writing and the questions give the students a reason to read about each other's weekends.