

Did you know...?

1. Andrew _____ to the town centre yesterday afternoon to buy a new pair of jeans. He _____ there by bus and _____ to several shops before finding what he _____. Unfortunately, when he got home he _____ that there _____ a hole in them.
2. Karen's parents _____ her a new computer for her birthday last year. She _____ a lot of new friends while chatting on the internet and _____ to create her own homepage.
3. Nigel _____ his cousin in Scotland at the weekend. He _____ there from London and _____ a great time. The only problem was that it _____ the whole time, so he _____ to buy himself an umbrella.
4. Julie _____ a terrible day yesterday. Firstly she _____ late at work because the train was _____, then she _____ her house keys on her desk at the end of the day, so she had to wait outside the house for an hour until her boyfriend _____ home.
5. Simon _____ on holiday to Spain in July. He _____ in a large hotel near the beach, and _____ every day. In the evenings he _____ out in the town centre and _____ the night clubs.
6. Louise _____ to prepare a special dinner for her family last night. She _____ two hours cooking, but just before it _____ all ready, the telephone _____. By the time she had _____ the call the meal was burnt, and they had to phone for a pizza instead.
7. Christopher _____ £250 on the lottery at the weekend. He _____ all his friends to a restaurant to celebrate, but when he _____ the bill, he _____ it was bigger than the amount he had _____!

Teachers' Notes

AIM To practise the simple past – regular and irregular verbs
To develop listening, reporting, writing and reconstructing skills in English.

LEVEL Pre-intermediate / intermediate / post-intermediate

TIME 45 minutes

- PROCEDURE**
- Put the word 'gossip' on the board, and ask if anyone knows what it means. If they don't, try to give them an example ... perhaps something about a famous person / member of the class etc.
 - Divide the class into groups of 4, and explain that one person from each group must come outside (with you) and listen to some gossip. They must then return to their group and report what they remember. A different person from the group must note this down.
 - Repeat this procedure for all the stories, with the person going outside and the person noting the information changing each time.
 - Class feed-back on what they remember of the stories – write the information they have on the board.
 - Hand out the work sheet and ask students to complete the stories.

FOLLOW UP

- Students could continue one of the stories.
- The stories could be used for phonological practice and drilling.

1. Andrew went to the town centre yesterday afternoon to buy a new pair of jeans. He got there by bus and went to several shops before finding what he wanted. Unfortunately, when he got home he discovered that there was a hole in them.
2. Karen's parents bought her a new computer for her birthday last year. She made a lot of new friends while chatting on the internet and decided to create her own homepage.
3. Nigel visited his cousin in Scotland at the weekend. He flew there from London and had a great time. The only problem was that it rained the whole time, so he had to buy himself an umbrella.
4. Julie had a terrible day yesterday. Firstly she arrived late at work because the train was delayed, then she left her house keys on her desk at the end of the day, so she had to wait outside the house for an hour until her boyfriend arrived home.
5. Simon went on holiday to Spain in July. He stayed in a large hotel near the beach, and swam every day. In the evenings he went out in the town centre and visited the night clubs.
6. Louise decided to prepare a special dinner for her family last night. She spent two hours cooking, but just before it was all ready, the telephone rang. By the time she had finished the call the meal was burnt, and they had to phone for a pizza instead.
7. Christopher won £250 on the lottery at the weekend. He invited all his friends to a restaurant to celebrate, but when he got the bill, he discovered it was bigger than the amount he had won!