

# 16 It was three years ago...

In this lesson: Talk about the first and last times you did things

Grammar: Past time expressions: *ago, last, when, the first time, the last time*



## Introduction

1 a Match the verbs with the words on the right to make phrases.

- |   |       |              |                                  |                |
|---|-------|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | drive | <u>drove</u> | <input type="radio"/>            | on holiday     |
| 2 | give  | _____        | <input type="radio"/>            | on a boat      |
| 3 | go    | _____        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | a car          |
| 4 | ride  | _____        | <input type="radio"/>            | someone a kiss |
| 5 | sail  | _____        | <input type="radio"/>            | a bicycle      |
| 6 | sleep | _____        | <input type="radio"/>            | red wine       |
| 7 | drink | _____        | <input type="radio"/>            | Indian food    |
| 8 | eat   | _____        | <input type="radio"/>            | in a tent      |

b Complete the table in activity 1a with the past simple form of the verbs.



## Listening

2 a CD - 30 Listen to Colin and Sue talk about Sue's holiday photos. Letter the photos in the order they talk about them.



rode a camel  
visited Italy  
slept in a tent



b CD - 30 Listen again.

Complete the sentences about Sue with the words from the box, above.

- The first time she \_\_\_\_\_ was 30 years ago.
- The first time she \_\_\_\_\_ was last year.
- The first time she \_\_\_\_\_ was when she was 18.

c Do you think she enjoyed her holidays?



## Language focus

**ago** means 'before now'.  
We use it with a period of time.

eight years **ago** = eight years before now  
one week **ago** = one week before now

**last** means 'the most recent'.  
We use it with a point in time.

**last** week  
**last** year

We can use **when** with a clause to talk about the time something happened.

**when** I was at high school  
**when** we were six

We use **the first time** to talk about when we did something new.

**The first time** I slept in a tent was when I was eight.  
**The first time** I went to Italy was last year.

We use **the last time** to talk about the most recent time we did something.

**The last time** I saw her was three days ago.  
**The last time** I ate curry was last night.

Question	Answer
When was the first / last time you slept in a tent?	(It was) last summer. (It was) a year ago. (It was) when I was twenty. I've never slept in a tent.

## Practice

3 a Read the story and put the verbs in brackets into the past simple.

The first time I went to hospital was \_\_\_\_\_.  
I \_\_\_\_\_ (fall off) my bicycle when \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ (break) my arm. It really \_\_\_\_\_ (hurt).  
My mother \_\_\_\_\_ (take) me to the doctor and  
he \_\_\_\_\_ (put) my arm in a sling. I couldn't get dressed or  
do homework for three months. It \_\_\_\_\_ (be) great! I broke my  
arm again last \_\_\_\_\_. I \_\_\_\_\_ (fall off) my bicycle!



b Write the words from the box in the remaining spaces to complete the story.

twenty years ago      I was ten      week

c CD - 31 Listen and check your answers.



## Sounding natural

4 a CD - 32 Listen to the sentences. How do we pronounce the underlined words?

- 1 It was last summer.
- 2 It was a year ago.
- 3 It was when I was twenty.

b CD - 32 Listen again and copy the pronunciation.

## Time to talk

5 a Read the questions below. Make a note of your answers.

1. When was the first time you went on a date?

2. When was the last time you played sports?

3. When was the last time you ate an ice cream?

4. When was the first time you drank beer?

5.

6.

7.

8.

b Write four more questions about first times and last times.  
Add them to the list of questions in **activity 5a**.

6 a Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions in **activity 5**.  
Ask more questions for extra information. Make a note of your partner's answers.  
**example** - When was the last time you ate ice cream?  
- It was last summer, when I was on holiday.  
- What flavour was it?

b Tell the class about your partner.  
**example** The last time Eri ate ice cream was...

**Homework** - turn to page 101