It was three years ago...

Introduction

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

1 drive _______ 6 drink _______
2 give _______ 7 eat _______
3 go _______ 8 _______
4 ride _______ 9 _______
5 sail _______ 10 _______
6 sleep _______ 11 _______

_ drive _______ drove _______ on holiday
_ give _______ gave _______ on a boat
_ go _______ went _______ a car
_ ride _______ rode _______ someone a kiss
_ sail _______ sailed _______ a bicycle
_ sleep _______ slept _______ red wine
_ drink _______ drank _______ Indian food
_ eat _______ ate _______ in a tent

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

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

Listening

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

b CD 30 Listen again. Complete the sentences about Sue with the words from the box, above.

1 The first time she _______ was 30 years ago.
2 The first time she _______ was last year.
3 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.

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 5a. 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 Evi ate ice cream was...