

PAST SIMPLE

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets in the past simple. Some verbs are regular and some are irregular. The first sentence has been done for you.



Before the 1800s people rarely celebrated (*celebrate*) Christmas, but during the Victorian period it became (*become*) popular.

Suddenly everyone _____ (*have*) Christmas trees and decorations inside the house. People _____ (*write*) and _____ (*send*) Christmas cards. The start of the Victorian era is also the time when people first _____ (*start*) buying gifts for each other. So what _____ Victorian folk _____ (*give*) each other for Christmas?

Many parents _____ (*fill*) their children's stockings with fruit and nuts. These stockings usually _____ (*hang*) from a Christmas tree and they _____ (*be*) a nice treat for the little ones. In 1846, Tom Smith, a sweet maker from London, _____ (*come*) up with the idea of wrapping his sweets in a twist of paper. This _____ (*be*) the beginning of the famous Christmas cracker. Over the period it _____ (*develop*) into the cracker we know today.

The most popular gifts that parents of the higher classes _____ (*get*) for their children were homemade toys. As they were handmade this _____ (*make*) them expensive. Those from the lower classes _____ (*can*) never afford such luxuries for their children.

Men usually _____ (*get*) house slippers or a handkerchief for Christmas. And what _____ women _____ (*get*)? Jewellery _____ (*be*) expensive, so only the richer gentlemen _____ (*buy*) such things. Therefore, most women _____ (*find*) scented soaps or perfumes in their stockings on Christmas morning.

PAST SIMPLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ask the questions and choose the correct answer using the past simple.

The first one has been done for you.

- 1) What games did Victorian children play (*play*)?

Outdoors, Victorian children **played** (*play*) hopscotch or with toys like hoops, marbles and skipping ropes. They _____ (*spend*) their time with friends on the street, or in the school playground. Games such as Snakes and Ladders, Ludo and Draughts _____ (*be*) popular indoor games.

- 2) What toys _____ Victorian children _____ (*have*)?

Victorian children _____ (*not have*) as many toys as children have today. Poor families _____ (*make*) their own, such as rag balls and paper windmills. Children _____ (*save*) their pocket money to buy marbles, skipping ropes, kites or cheap wooden toys. Girls _____ (*love*) playing with dolls and tea sets while boys _____ (*prefer*) toy soldiers and marbles.

- 3) What _____ poor and rich Victorians _____ (*eat*)?

Many poor people across Britain mainly _____ (*eat*) white bread. When they _____ (*can*) afford it, people _____ (*add*) vegetables, fruit, meat, fish, milk, cheese and eggs to their diet.

Servants _____ (*prepare*) meals for rich families. They _____ (*cook*) food in the kitchen and _____ (*serve*) it to the family in the dining room. Breakfast _____ (*be*) a large meal which _____ (*include*) ham, eggs, bacon, bread and fish. For lunch they _____ (*not eat*) much and they _____ (*drink*) the afternoon tea.

- 4) What _____ Victorians _____ (*do*) for fun?

Victorian rich families _____ (*sing*) around the piano, while poor families _____ (*enjoy*) playing the pipe or a fiddle. At parties they _____ (*use*) a magic lantern where they _____ (*show*) pictures of a story or animals.

COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

A) Write the superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.

The first sentence has been done for you.

Here is the list of the most popular (*popular*) people from the Victorian era:

- 1 Queen Victoria was _____ (*long*) serving monarch in history.
- 2 Lord Shaftesbury was _____ (*important*) politician who tried to improve children's lives during the Victorian era.
- 3 Oscar Wilde was one of _____ (*famous*) writers of the Victorian period.
- 4 Charles Dickens is one of _____ (*celebrated*) writers in British history.
- 5 Alexander Graham Bell invented the first telephone and because of this he was _____ (*good*) inventor of the Victorian era.
- 6 Robert Peel was one of _____ (*great*) Prime Ministers of all time.

B) Write the correct form of the adjectives in brackets – positive, comparative or superlative form. There is an example at the beginning.

In the Victorian era people were more conservative (*conservative*) than today.

- 1 Steam-railway became _____ (*economical*) than water for heavy transport.
- 2 _____ (*large*) social change was moving from the countryside to the towns.
- 3 Men were _____ (*good*) educated than women.
- 4 Dickens started writing _____ (*early*) than Wilde.
- 5 Wilde was _____ (*popular*) abroad than in his own country.
- 6 Schools in the Victorian era weren't as _____ (*modern*) as they are today.
- 7 Britain was _____ (*rich*) and _____ (*powerful*) country at that time.

PAST CONTINUOUS

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets using the past continuous.

The first one has been done for you.

Yesterday at school we were learning (*learn*) about the Victorian era. We _____

(*watch*) a video about that time period and then we _____ (*talk*) about it with

our teacher. I can't even imagine how life was difficult for those people, especially children.

At that time, Britain _____ (*move*) in the direction of becoming Europe's strongest

country. People _____ (*use*) steam engines in mines, factories and ships.

Small towns _____ (*change*) into smoky centres of the manufacturing industry.

All this _____ (*take*) place under the government of Queen Victoria.

Most people _____ (*struggle*) to survive. Poor Victorian children

_____ (*work*) long hours and for far less money than adults. Company owners

_____ (*beat*) them for working too slow or for making mistakes.

They _____ (*not play*) with their friends like us.

They _____ (*not go*) to school either.

Rich children _____ (*spend*) their days with their nannies.

I must admit that I _____ (*cry*) yesterday because I felt sorry for those poor kids.

We should be very happy for having a normal

carefree childhood.

I will never complain about going to school

