

## ANSWER KEY

## 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 had (have) Christmas trees and decorations inside the house. People wrote (write) and sent (send) Christmas cards. The start of the Victorian era is also the time when people first started (start) buying gifts for each other. So what did Victorian folk give (give) each other for Christmas?

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

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

Men usually got (get) house slippers or a handkerchief for Christmas. And what did women get (get)? Jewellery was (be) expensive, so only the richer gentlemen bought (buy) such things. Therefore, most women found (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 spent (spend) their time with friends in the street, or on the school playground. Games such as Snakes and Ladders, Ludo and Draughts were (be) popular indoor games.

2 What toys did Victorian children have (have)?

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

3 What did poor and rich Victorians eat (eat)?

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

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

4 What did Victorians do (do) for fun?

Victorian rich families sang (sing) around the piano, while poor families enjoyed (enjoy) playing the pipe or a fiddle. At parties they used (use) a magic lantern where they showed (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 **the longest** (long) serving monarch in history.
- 2) Lord Shaftesbury was **the most important** (important) politician who tried to improve children's lives during the Victorian era.
- 3) Oscar Wilde was one of **the most famous** (famous) writers of the Victorian period.
- 4) Charles Dickens is one of **the most celebrated** (celebrated) writers in British history.
- 5) Alexander Graham Bell invented the first telephone and because of this he was **the best** (good) inventor of the Victorian era.
- 6) Robert Peel was one of **the greatest** (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.

- 1) In the Victorian era people were **more conservative** (conservative) than today.
- 2) Steam-railway became **more economical** (economical) than water for heavy transport.
- 3) **The largest** (large) social change was moving from the countryside to the towns.
- 4) Men were **better** (good) educated than women.
- 5) Dickens started writing **earlier** (early) than Wilde.
- 6) Wilde was **more popular** (popular) abroad than in his own country.
- 7) Schools in the Victorian era weren't as **modern** (modern) as they are today.
- 8) Britain was **the most powerful** (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 **were watching** (watch) a video about that time period and then we **were talking** (talk) about it with our teacher. I can't even imagine how life was difficult for those people, especially children. At that time, Britain **was moving** (move) in the direction of becoming Europe's strongest country. People **were using** (use) steam engines in mines, factories and ships. Small towns **were changing** (change) into smoky centres of the manufacturing industry. All this **was taking** (take) place under the government of Queen Victoria.

Most people **were struggling** (struggle) to survive. Poor Victorian children **were working** (work) long hours and for far less money than adults. Company owners **were beating** (beat) them for working too slow or for making mistakes. They **weren't playing** (not play) with their friends like us. They **weren't going** (go) to school either. Rich children **were spending** (spend) their days with nannies. I must admit that I **was crying** (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 again!