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Extension	Write a recount						

Striking up conversations and keeping it going is really important to good communication. What you do on the weekend always makes a good topic whether it is with strangers or acquaintances.

Talk about Last Weekend

**Vocabulary**

**1) Match verbs with nouns**

- |       |                |
|-------|----------------|
| go    | homework       |
| read  | dinner         |
| watch | computer games |
| play  | shopping       |
| do    | a book         |
| have  | TV             |

2) Match the phrases with the pictures



3) Ask questions using the above phrases in the structure “Did you ... last weekend?” and have the student answer them. Write the structure on board/paper and teach grammar: Simple Past

**Grammar : Simple Past**

The simple past is used to describe what happened at a specific time in the past - *last weekend* here. Common past time expressions include last (week, year, night), yesterday, ...ago, in 1988, etc.

- For regular verbs, add an *-ed* to the verb. For example,  
*watch – watched    play – played    clean – cleaned    work – worked*  
*I watched TV last night.*
- Some verbs are irregular. The past simple is not *-ed*. Some of the most common are: *do – did, come – came, go – went, say – said, see – saw, buy – bought, take – took, have – had, eat – ate, drink – drank, read – read*. There are many irregular verbs so the student needs to start taking notes when they come across such words. For example:  
*I left home at 6 o'clock this morning.*
- Use *did not/didn't + verb* to make negatives. For example,  
*I didn't watch TV last night.*  
*I didn't leave home at 6 o'clock this morning.*
- Use *did ... + verb* to form questions. For example,  
*Did you watch TV last night?*  
*What did you do last night?*  
*When did you leave home this morning?*

## Exercises

### 1. Form negatives and questions with *Did ...?*

- 1) I enjoyed the party.
- 2) I slept well last night.
- 3) I did the shopping the day before yesterday.
- 4) It rained on Sunday.
- 5) I had a good time at the party.
- 6) I arrived at the airport on time.

### 2. Complete the sentences. Use the past simple the words in the brackets.

- 1) Tom \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new house last month.
- 2) When \_\_\_\_\_ (they/arrive) last week?
- 3) Fred \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a lot of pictures last weekend.
- 4) They \_\_\_\_\_ (not remember) to get the bread this morning!
- 5) I \_\_\_\_\_ (play) tennis this morning.
- 6) Where \_\_\_\_\_ (you/go) last weekend?

### 3. Complete B's questions, using the following words/phrases

arrive    cost    go    go to bed late    happen    have a nice time

stay    win

1) A: We went to Brisbane last month.  
B: Where \_\_\_\_\_?  
A: With some friends

2) A: We came home by taxi.  
B: How much \_\_\_\_\_?  
A: Ten dollars.

3) A: I was late this morning.  
B: What time \_\_\_\_\_?  
A: Half past nine.

4) A: I was tired this morning.  
B: \_\_\_\_\_?  
A: No, but I didn't sleep very well.

5) A: I played tennis last weekend.  
B: \_\_\_\_\_?  
A: No, I lost.

6) A: We went to the beach yesterday.  
B: \_\_\_\_\_?  
A: Yes, it was great.

7) A: I had a nice holiday.  
B: Good. Where \_\_\_\_\_?  
A: To the mountains.

8) A: The window was broken.  
B: How \_\_\_\_\_?  
A: I don't know.

#### 4. Put the verbs in the correct form.

Last Saturday I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Long Bay with my family. In the morning we \_\_\_\_\_ (get) ready. At about 10am we \_\_\_\_\_ (start) to go to Long Bay. The trip in the car \_\_\_\_\_ (is) long. In about an hour we \_\_\_\_\_ (get) there.

At the beach we \_\_\_\_\_ (swim) all morning. Then we \_\_\_\_\_ (play) cricket for two hours. At lunch time we \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) fish and chips. In the afternoon I \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) on the sand and \_\_\_\_\_ (read) the newspaper. My husband \_\_\_\_\_ (go) fishing on the rocks. He \_\_\_\_\_ (not catch) any fish, but it \_\_\_\_\_ (is) very relaxing. Later we \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) in the sun and \_\_\_\_\_ (have) an ice-cream. Finally we \_\_\_\_\_ (pack) up for home at sunset. We \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a great day.

### Conversation Practice

#### 1. Listen to the following conversation and answer questions

A: Good morning, Bill. How are you today?  
B: Good morning, Robert. I'm all right. How are you?  
A: Pretty good. Did you have a nice weekend?  
B: Not bad. I went to the movies on Saturday night.  
A: Oh yeah? What did you see?  
B: I saw the new Kung Fu Panda movie.  
A: Did you like it?  
B: Yes, it was excellent!

#### Comprehension questions

- 1) What were they talking about?
- 2) What did Bill do on Saturday?
- 3) What movie did Bill see?
- 4) Did Bill like the movie?

#### 2. Conversation: What did you do last weekend?

### 3. How to keep conversation going

**Starters:** Did you have a nice weekend?  
How was your weekend?  
What did you do last weekend?

**Follow-on questions:** For example,

A: I went to the movies.

B: *Oh yeah? What did you see?*

A: I went to a new restaurant.

B: *Oh really? What did you eat?*

A: I went shopping.

B: *Oh yeah? What did you buy?/Where did you go?*

A: I went for a drive.

B: *Oh really? Where did you go?*

#### Ask for opinions

Did you like/enjoy it? How did you like/enjoy it?	---Yes, it was excellent/great/ terrific/wonderful/awesome
	---No, it was boring/horrible/disgusting

For example,

A: *I read a book last night.*

B: *Did you like it?*

A: *It was great.*

**4. Role Play:** Two friends met at a café and talked about the weekend.

#### Sample Dialogues

##### Dialogue 1

A: Hi Alice, what did you do last weekend?

B: I did a lot of things. On Saturday, I went shopping.

A: What did you buy?

B: I bought some new clothes. I also played tennis.

A: Who did you play with?

B: Tom.

A: Oh, Tom, was it a good match?

B: Yes, it was. I sweated a lot and it was very tiring. I usually cook dinner myself, but I didn't last Saturday. I was too tired.

A: Did you eat in a restaurant?

B: Yes, my friend Jacky and I ate at "The Rocks".

A: Did you enjoy your dinner?

B: Yes, we enjoyed our dinner very much thank you. What did you do?!

A: Unfortunately, I didn't go out this weekend. I didn't eat out and I didn't play tennis.

B: What did you do?

A: I stayed home and studied for my test!

B: Poor you!

## Dialogue 2: Small talk at a party

A: Hello, are you Jack?

B: Yes, and you must be James. It's nice to meet you at long last.

A: Yes, you too. My wife Helen should be here any minute. Would you like something to drink?

B: No, thanks. I'm fine. **Did you have a nice weekend?**

A: Yes, I did. My family and I went to the Snowy Mountains to ski and the weather was great. **How about you?**

B: I stayed in Sydney and it was sunny the entire weekend. We spent most of the time at home but we did go see Kung Fu Panda.

A: **How did you like it?**

B: It was better than I expected. But, you know, I think I would have enjoyed skiing in the Snowy Mountains even better. **Do you go there often?**

A: No, not much. My wife doesn't like to ski. She prefers holidays at a warmer place.

B: I don't blame her. **But I really enjoyed it at the snow when we went a few years ago.** I'd like to go back sometime soon.

A: Yes, me too. Oh, **here's Susan now. Let me introduce you.**

## Talk about Weekend plans

### Sentence Structures for Starters

Do you have any plans for this weekend?

What are you going to do this weekend?

What are you up to this weekend?

---I'm going to have a barbecue next Saturday.

---I'll probably have a beach party next Sunday.

---I might go camping if the weather is nice.

---I'd like to go camping with you but I haven't got a tent yet.

### Grammar: Future Tense with "be going to..."

We use "be going to" to talk about future plans. The form is *be going to* + Verb

- Negative form:

I am	not going to	do...
He/She/It is		drink...
We/You/They are		watch...

- Yes/No questions:

I am	going to	do...
He/She/It is		drink...
We/You/They are		watch...

- Information questions: *What are you going to ...?*  
---I'm going to ...

**Pronunciation:** going to → gonna

### Exercises

1. Complete the sentences, using **be going to** + one of the following verbs.

eat do wear wash buy stay

- 1) My hands are dirty. \_\_\_\_\_ them.
- 2) What \_\_\_\_\_ to the party tonight?
- 3) John is going to London next week. He \_\_\_\_\_ with some friends.
- 4) I'm hungry. I \_\_\_\_\_ this sandwich.
- 5) It's Sharon's birthday next week. We \_\_\_\_\_ her a present.
- 6) What \_\_\_\_\_ Rachel \_\_\_\_\_ when she leaves school.

2. What are you going to do today or tomorrow? Give at least three sentences.

### Going to or Will

We also use *will* to discuss future. It is usually confusing for the student whether to use *be going to* or *will* to express future.

- When we want to talk about future facts or things we believe to be true about the future, we use 'will'. For example,  

<i>The boss won't be happy.</i>	<i>(will+not=won't)</i>
<i>I'm sure you'll like her.</i>	<i>(you+will=you'll)</i>
<i>I'll give you a ring tomorrow.</i>	<i>(I+will=I'll)</i>
<i>I'll pick you up at ten.</i>	<i>(I+will=I'll)</i>
- If we are not so certain about the future, we use 'will' with expressions such as 'probably', 'possibly', 'I think', 'I hope'. For example,  
*I hope you'll visit me in my home one day.*  
*I'll probably come but I may not get back in time.*  
*I think we'll get on well.*
- If you are making a future prediction based on evidence in the present situation, use 'going to'. For example,  
*There's not a cloud in the sky. It's going to be another warm day.*  
*Look at the queue. We're not going to get in for hours.*  
*The traffic is terrible. We're going to be late for the concert.*  
*Be careful! You're going to spill your coffee.*
- At the moment of making a decision, use 'will'. Once you have made the decision, talk about it using 'going to'. For example,  
*I will call Jenny to let her know. Sarah, I need Jenny's number. I'm going to call her about the meeting.*  
*I'll come and have a drink with you but I must let Harry know. Harry, I'm going to have a drink with Simon.*

## Exercises

### 1. What you will say next: Match the sentences in Column A with those in Column B.

A	B
1. Look at that blue sky.	He'll be late today as well.
2. He never arrives on time.	I'll pick you up at seven.
3. Look at the time.	It's going to be a beautiful day.
4. Andrea is off today.	He's going to call me back.
5. I called Jerry but he was busy.	She'll be back tomorrow.
6. Great. I'm glad you're coming.	We're going to be late.

### 2. Match the responses in Column B with sentences in Column A.

A	B
1. I'd love a cup of tea.	--- Of course, I'll call him now.
2. What is Jack studying?	--- Medicine. He's going to be a doctor.
3. What are you doing over the summer?	--- We're going to spend it in Spain.
4. Can you call him back?	--- Too much. I'll never get it finished.
5. How much more have you got to do?	--- I'll make some.
6. Is Anne happy in her new job?	--- No, she isn't. She's going to resign.

### 3. Which is the more natural sentence?

1) I'm sorry, I can't talk now. I'll call you later.

I'm sorry, I can't talk now. I am going to call you later.

2) Stephanie will have a baby in June.

Stephanie is going to have a baby in June.

3) No, don't come to meet me. I'll get a taxi. It'll be easier.

No, don't come to meet me. I am going to get a taxi. It will be easier.

4) Good idea! We'll have a barbecue.

Good idea! We are going to have a barbecue.

5) I've decided to repaint the bathroom. I'll paint it green.

I have decided to repaint the bathroom. I will paint it green.

6) There's not much petrol left. We'll run out.

There's not much petrol left. We are going to run out.

7) Bye. I'll see you in the morning.

Bye. I'm going to see you in the morning.

**To keep conversation going: Follow-on questions.** For example,

A: We might go fishing.

B: Fishing, *great!* *Do you have a fishing rod?*

A: We might play some music.

B: Play music, *wow!* *Do you have a band?*

A: I am going to have a beach party next Sunday.

B: *Where are you going to have the party?*

A: We are going to have a party tonight.

B: Great, should we bring anything?

## Sample Dialogues

### Dialogue 1:

A: Do you have any plans for this weekend?

B: I don't know. I might watch a video at home. And you?

A: I'm going to meet some friends.

B: What are you going to do?

A: We might go sailing if the weather is nice.

B: Sailing, wow! Do you have a sailboat?

A: No, my friend has one. She goes sailing every weekend.

**Dialogue 2:** There are some colloquial expressions in this telephone conversation. It's not necessarily for high level students as most students are interested in such expressions. It could be fun for low level students.

A: Hello.

B: **Hey what's up?**

A: Not much. I'm having a foot massage right now.

B: **Cool. What are you up to this weekend?**

A: Not sure yet. I've got no plans as of now but I'm **definitely up for something.**

B: How about a round of golf Saturday afternoon and then we'll **hit the town** later.

A: Sounds perfect. Oh no, that's right, I think I have some kind of boring meeting I have to go to.

B: **That sucks. Is there any way you can get out of it?**

A: I'll try to think of something.

B: **You better.** It's going to be a great afternoon.

A: I'll see what I can do. **I'll keep you posted.**

B: Alright. Make sure you **get back to me** by Thursday.

A: **Will do.**

B: Ok. Bye.

A: Bye.

**1. Hey what's up?** – It's a very casual question that you would say to your close friends. It means "What are you doing?", but you don't always need to answer it. We often just say "not much" to answer this question. You can also return the question by saying, "not much, you?" or "not much, what's up with you?". If you want you can answer this question with what you are doing. So if someone asks "what's up?" you can say, "oh not much, just watching TV" or something like that. Never ask "what's up?" in a formal situation.

**2. What are you up to?** - This means "what are you doing?". It is a very casual expression and you can use it in past, present, and future: "What were you up to last night?", "What are you up to now?", and "What are you up to next weekend?".

**3. I'm definitely up for something** - This means you definitely want to do something. You aren't sure what but you don't just want to sit around and do nothing. If you say "I'm up for anything" that means that you don't care and will do anything the other person suggests.

**4. hit the town** - A casual expression meaning that you will go out in the city, usually talking about a fun night of going to different restaurants and bars.

**5. Is there any way you can get out of it?** - This is asking if there is any way that you can cancel your plans. Maybe thinking of an excuse, or a lie, to not attend the meeting.

**6. I'll keep you posted** - A very useful expression that means "I will keep you informed" or "I will let you know".

**7. Get back to me** - It means "tell me when you get the answer"

**8. Will do** - A slang phrase meaning "I'll do it"

### **Extension: Write a Recount**

Recounts have three parts:

- An introduction: Things which happened. For example,  
*My whole family went for a picnic last Saturday.*
- A record of all things that happened. It's a good practice of using the past tense, time words, eg. at 3pm, and linking words like *and* and *but*. Students can use the following format,  
First....  
And then...  
After that...  
At last...
- A conclusion. For example,  
*It was a very happy day.*  
*I had a very good time.*

## Exercises

### 1. Link these sentences with the word *and*.

- 1) I left home. I walked to the station.
- 2) In the morning I went shopping. I took my daughter to the library.
- 3) I visited my friend. I stayed there for a long time.
- 4) In the evening I cooked dinner. I watched a video.

### 2. Link these sentences with the word *but*.

- 1) We lost the game. We had a good time anyway.
- 2) I went to a party. I didn't talk much.
- 3) She bought a new skirt. She didn't like it.
- 4) I called my uncle. He wasn't home.

### 3. Write a recount of last Saturday, using the following format.

I .... last Saturday. In the morning I ... and .... In the afternoon I .....

In the evening I ... and .... I ...

### 4. Write a recount of a special day out with your family or friends, using the following format.

On ... I .... First .... And then ... After that ... At last ... I....

Sample Writing (refer to Exercise 4 in Grammar: Simple Past section)