

PAST SIMPLE: QUESTIONS

WITNESS INTERVIEW

Use after: Module 4 *Grammar*

Interaction: groups of four

Time: about 30 minutes

Materials: one photocopy for each student, cut into four

Instructions:

- 1 Elicit the language for Past Simple questions and answers and write it on the board for students to refer to during the activity, e.g. *Was he/she tall? Yes, he/she was. Where were you? I was Did you see the burglars? Yes, I did. Did your friend see the man? No, he/she didn't. What did you see? When did it happen?*
- 2 Divide the class into groups of four.
- 3 Give out a role-card to each student.
- 4 Explain that two of the students are police officers and the other two students are witnesses to a burglary. The police officers must interview the witnesses and find any differences and similarities in their statements.
- 5 Give students two minutes to read through their role-cards.
- 6 The police officers should each interview one of the witnesses.
- 7 When they have finished, they should swap so that they each interview the other witness.
- 8 At the end of the activity, get whole-class feedback, eliciting the discrepancies between the two witness statements.

Answers:

The woman was young/older. The woman had a blue backpack/handbag. She was tall/short with long brown/short blonde hair. The person who shouted from inside the house was a man/boy. The woman ran towards the park/shops.



Police officer 1

You want to interview two witnesses to a burglary. Ask the witnesses questions using these prompts:

- 1 When / happen?
- 2 Where / you?
- 3 What / see?
- 4 How old / burglar?
- 5 have / a bag?
- 6 burglar / tall?
- 7 Where / burglar / go?

If you find any differences in their stories, write them here:

Police officer 2

You want to interview two witnesses to a burglary. Ask the witnesses questions using these prompts:

- 1 When / happen?
- 2 Where / you?
- 3 What / see?
- 4 How old / burglar?
- 5 have / a bag?
- 6 burglar / tall?
- 7 Where / burglar / go?

If you find any differences in their stories, write them here:

Witness 1

You are a witness to a burglary. A police officer wants to interview you. Answer his/her questions using these prompts:

- 1 happen / 2 o'clock / afternoon / three days ago
- 2 at / bus stop
- 3 woman / climb into / garden / five minutes later / man inside house / shout / woman run away
- 4 young
- 5 blue backpack
- 6 tall / long brown hair
- 7 towards park

Witness 2

You are a witness to a burglary. A police officer wants to interview you. Answer his/her questions using these prompts:

- 1 happen / 2 o'clock / afternoon / three days ago
- 2 at / bus stop
- 3 woman / climb into / garden / ten minutes later / boy inside house / shout / woman run away
- 4 older - about 50
- 5 blue handbag
- 6 short / short blonde hair
- 7 towards shops