

Write About a Recent Trip

Writing Lesson, Examples & Practice Questions

How to Write About a Recent Trip in English

When we travel somewhere new — a city, a beach, a country, or even a local town — we often want to share the experience with friends and family. Writing about a recent trip is a very common and useful real-life writing task. You might write a **short email to a friend**, a **message on social media**, or even a **holiday postcard**.

In this lesson, you will learn how to describe a recent trip clearly and naturally in English. You will practise using **past simple verbs**, useful **linking words**, and the correct **layout for an informal email or message**. By the end, you will be able to write 60–90 words about your own trip in a confident and organised way.

Real-life examples of when you write about a trip:

- An informal email to a friend describing your holiday
- A short message to a family member after a weekend away
- A holiday postcard from another city or country
- A short post or note describing a day trip

Essential Writing Rules and Sentence Structure

1. Organise Your Writing into Clear Paragraphs

A good piece of writing about a trip follows a simple structure. Divide your writing into **2–3 short paragraphs**, each with a clear purpose:

- **Paragraph 1 — Greeting and introduction:** Say hello and mention the trip you want to write about.
- **Paragraph 2 — Key details:** Describe what you did, where you went, and how you felt. Use past simple verbs.
- **Paragraph 3 — Closing:** Add a final thought, ask a question, or suggest meeting soon.

2. Use Past Simple to Describe What Happened

Because you are writing about something that **already happened**, you must use the **past simple tense**. Study these common regular and irregular past simple verbs for describing trips:

Base Form	Past Simple	Example Sentence
go	went	I went to Barcelona last weekend.
visit	visited	We visited a beautiful old castle.
stay	stayed	We stayed in a small hotel near the beach.

Base Form	Past Simple	Example Sentence
eat	ate	I ate amazing local food every day.
see	saw	We saw a wonderful sunset from the hill.
meet	met	I met some friendly local people.
buy	bought	She bought some souvenirs for her family.
have	had	We had a fantastic time together.
walk	walked	We walked along the river for hours.
take	took	I took lots of photos of the city.

3. Use Commas Correctly with Time Clauses

When you begin a sentence with a time word such as *when*, *before*, or *after*, you must put a **comma** after the introductory clause:

- **Correct:** When we arrived, the hotel was very clean and comfortable.
- **Correct:** Before we left, we had breakfast at a café by the sea.
- **Correct:** After we visited the museum, we went for lunch in the old town.

However, if the time clause comes **at the end** of the sentence, no comma is needed:

- **Correct:** We had breakfast at a café before we left.
- **Correct:** We went for lunch after we visited the museum.

4. Connect Your Sentences with Linking Words

Good writers do not write a list of short, separate sentences. Instead, they **connect ideas** using linking words. At A2 level, use words like *because*, *so*, *but*, *although*, *then*, and *also* to make your writing flow naturally.

Useful Linking Words (Connectors)

Study this table of A2 linking words. Each one has a different job in a sentence:

Connector	Function / Use	Example Sentence
and	Adding information	We visited the market and we bought some fresh fruit.
but	Showing contrast	The hotel was small but it was very comfortable.
because	Giving a reason	I loved the trip because the weather was perfect.
so	Giving a result	It was very hot, so we went swimming in the sea.

Connector	Function / Use	Example Sentence
when	Showing time (two things happen together)	When we arrived, the hotel was beautiful.
before	Showing time (one thing happens first)	Before we left, we had a big breakfast.
after	Showing time (one thing happens second)	After we visited the castle, we had lunch.
then	Showing the next event in a sequence	We walked around the old town. Then we found a lovely café.
also	Adding an extra point	The food was great. We also visited a beautiful park.
although	Showing a contrast or surprise	Although it rained one day, we still had a great time.

Model Writing Sample: Email to a Friend About a Recent Trip

Read this complete, realistic model email written at A2 level. Notice how it is organised and how the writer uses past simple verbs and linking words.

--- Model Text ---

Hi Sophie,

How are you? I'm writing to tell you about my trip to Edinburgh last weekend. I went with my sister and we had an amazing time!

We stayed in a cosy hotel near the city centre. On Saturday, we visited Edinburgh Castle and it was absolutely incredible. Although the weather was cold, we walked around the old town and took lots of photos. Then we found a lovely little café and had some hot soup. We also bought some souvenirs before we left.

I really recommend a visit because the city is beautiful. Would you like to go together sometime?

Love,

Clara

--- End of Model Text ---

Word count: 89 words

Model Text Breakdown

Part of the Email	Example from the Model Text	Purpose
Greeting	Hi Sophie,	Opens the message in a friendly, informal way

Part of the Email	Example from the Model Text	Purpose
Opening sentence and reason	How are you? I'm writing to tell you about my trip to Edinburgh last weekend.	Greets the reader and clearly states the topic
Key details — where and when	We stayed in a cosy hotel near the city centre.	Gives specific information about the trip
Key details — what happened	We visited Edinburgh Castle... we walked around the old town and took lots of photos.	Describes activities using past simple verbs
Linking words used	Although, then, also, before, and, because	Connects ideas and makes the writing flow
Closing question	Would you like to go together sometime?	Engages the reader and invites a reply
Sign-off	Love, Clara	Ends the email in a warm, informal way

Second Model Text: Short Holiday Postcard

Here is a shorter model text — a postcard. This is a good example for practising very concise, informal writing.

--- Model Text ---

Hi Mark!

Greetings from Rome! I arrived two days ago and I'm having a wonderful time. Yesterday, I visited the Colosseum and it was breathtaking. The food here is incredible — I ate the best pasta of my life! Although my feet are very tired, I don't want to go home. I also bought a small gift for you. See you next week!

**All the best,
Priya**

--- End of Model Text ---

Word count: 73 words

Key Phrases and Sentence Starters

Use these ready-made phrases to help you write your own email or postcard about a recent trip. Adapt them using your own details.

Greetings

- Hi [Name],
- Hello [Name],
- Dear [Name],

Opening Lines and Reason for Writing

- How are you? I hope you're well!
- I'm writing to tell you about my recent trip to [place].
- I just got back from [place] and I had to write to you!
- Greetings from [place]! I'm having an amazing time.
- I wanted to share some news — I went to [place] last [weekend / week / month]!

Giving Key Details and Explanations

- I went to [place] with [person / my family / my friends].
- We stayed in a [hotel / hostel / small apartment] near [the city centre / the beach / the old town].
- We visited [place] and it was [amazing / beautiful / breathtaking / fascinating].
- On [day], we went to [place] and we [saw / ate / walked / bought]...
- Although the weather was [cold / rainy / cloudy], we still had a great time.
- The food was incredible because [give a reason].
- I really loved [place / activity] because [give a reason].
- It was very [hot / busy / crowded], so we decided to [action].
- Before we left, we [action].
- After we visited [place], we [action].
- When we arrived, [describe the scene].

Ending Your Message and Sign-offs

- I really recommend a visit because [reason].
- I think you would love it there!
- Would you like to go there together someday?
- Let me know when you are free — I'd love to tell you more!
- I can't wait to show you my photos!
- Hope to see you very soon!
- Best wishes, / All the best, / Love, / See you soon, / Take care,
- [Your name]

Common Writing Mistakes to Avoid

Study these four common mistakes that A2 learners make when writing about a trip. Make sure you do not make the same errors in your own writing.

Mistake 1: Confusing 'because' and 'so'

✗ I loved the trip so the weather was beautiful.

✓ I loved the trip because the weather was beautiful.

Use **because** to give a reason. Use **so** to give a result. The weather was the **reason** I loved the trip, so we need 'because' here.

✗ It was very hot because we went swimming.

✓ It was very hot, so we went swimming.

Going swimming was the **result** of the hot weather. Use **so** for results. Notice the comma before 'so'.

Mistake 2: Missing a comma after an introductory time clause

✗ When we arrived the hotel was very noisy.

✓ **When we arrived, the hotel was very noisy.**

When a sentence starts with a time clause (When..., Before..., After..., Although...), always put a **comma** after that clause before the main part of the sentence.

Mistake 3: Using the wrong past simple form

✗ We goed to the museum and we seed a lot of interesting things.

✓ **We went to the museum and we saw a lot of interesting things.**

'Go' and 'see' are **irregular verbs**. Their past simple forms are **went** and **saw**. Never add '-ed' to an irregular verb.

Mistake 4: Writing a run-on sentence without a connector

✗ The food was delicious we ate at a small restaurant near the beach it was very cheap.

✓ **The food was delicious. We ate at a small restaurant near the beach, and it was very cheap.**

Do not join many ideas together without a connector or a full stop. Break your ideas into clear sentences and use linking words like **and**, **but**, or **so** to connect them.

Writing Checklist and Practice Task

Writing Checklist

Before you submit your writing, go through this checklist. Tick each box when you are sure it is correct:

- ✓ Did you include a friendly, informal **greeting** (e.g. *Hi Sam,*)?
- ✓ Did you write a clear **opening sentence** that mentions your trip (where and when)?
- ✓ Did you use **past simple verbs** correctly (e.g. *went, visited, stayed, ate, saw*)?
- ✓ Did you use at least **two linking words** (e.g. *because, so, although, when, then, also*)?
- ✓ Did you put a **comma after introductory time clauses** (e.g. *When we arrived,...*)?
- ✓ Did you describe **at least two specific details** (a place you visited, food you ate, something you bought)?
- ✓ Did you write a **friendly closing sentence** or question (e.g. *Would you like to go there?*)?
- ✓ Did you use an appropriate **informal sign-off** (e.g. *Love, / Best wishes, / All the best,*) followed by your name?
- ✓ Is your text between **60 and 90 words**?

Your Practice Task

Read the task carefully and write your response. Try to use the model texts, key phrases, and linking words from this lesson to help you.

Writing Task:

You recently visited a city, town, or place that you really enjoyed. Write an **informal email to an English-speaking friend** telling them about your trip.

In your email, you should:

- Say where you went and when

- Describe what you did there (at least two activities)
- Explain why you liked it
- Ask your friend a question at the end

Write 60–90 words. Use the checklist above to review your email before you finish.

Now test your writing mechanics and sentence skills in the exercises below.

Write About a Recent Trip – Practice Test

A2 | Practice Exercises: Multiple Choice, Fill-in-the-Gap, Fill-in-the-Blank, Matrix Matching & Sorting

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 Which sentence uses the past simple correctly to describe a recent trip?

- A** Last weekend, I go to the beach with my family.
- B** Last weekend, I went to the beach with my family.
- C** Last weekend, I was go to the beach with my family.
- D** Last weekend, I have went to the beach with my family.

2 Which sentence correctly uses 'because' to give a reason about a trip?

- A** We stayed inside because it was raining.
- B** We stayed inside because it rained, so we were wet.
- C** We stayed inside, because of it was raining.
- D** We stayed inside because, the rain was heavy.

3 Choose the sentence that correctly uses 'so' to show a result during a trip.

- A** The weather was beautiful, so we decided to go hiking.
- B** The weather was beautiful so, we decided to go hiking.
- C** The weather was beautiful, because we decided to go hiking.
- D** The weather was beautiful so we decided, to go hiking.

4 Which sentence has the correct punctuation and capitalisation for writing about a trip abroad?

- A** We visited france and spoke french with the local people.
- B** We visited France and spoke French with the local people.
- C** We visited France and spoke french with the local people.
- D** we visited France and spoke French with the local people.

5 Which sentence correctly uses a time clause with 'when' in a trip description?

- A** When I arrived the hotel was very nice.
- B** When I arrived, the hotel was very nice.
- C** When, I arrived the hotel was very nice.
- D** When I arrived; the hotel was very nice.

6 Which option is the most appropriate opening line for an informal email to a friend about a recent trip?

- A** Dear Sir or Madam, I am writing to inform you of my recent journey.
- B** Hi Emma, I hope you're well! I just got back from an amazing trip to Rome.
- C** To Whom It May Concern, I visited Rome last week.
- D** Hello, this email is regarding my trip to Rome on the 5th of June.

7 Which sentence correctly uses 'although' to show a contrast in a trip story?

- A** Although the hotel was small, it was very comfortable.
- B** Although the hotel was small but it was very comfortable.
- C** Although the hotel was small, but it was very comfortable.
- D** Although the hotel was small. It was very comfortable.

8 Which sentence correctly uses the apostrophe for a contraction in a holiday message?

- A** We didnt visit the museum because it was closed.
- B** We didn't visit the museum because it was closed.
- C** We did'nt visit the museum because it was closed.
- D** We did'not visit the museum because it was closed.

9 Which sequence of sentences is correctly ordered and connected using time words in a trip description?

- A** Then we had lunch. We visited the old castle. After that, we took a boat trip.
- B** We visited the old castle. Then we had lunch. After that, we took a boat trip.
- C** After that, we took a boat trip. We visited the old castle. Then we had lunch.
- D** We had lunch. We visited the old castle after that, then we took a boat trip.

10 Which is the most appropriate closing line for an informal email about a recent trip to a friend?

- A** Yours faithfully, Maria
- B** I look forward to your prompt response. Regards, Maria
- C** Hope to hear from you soon! Love, Maria
- D** Please do not hesitate to contact me. Best regards, Maria

Part 2: Fill in the Gap (Questions 11–20)

11 I really enjoyed the trip ____ the weather was sunny and warm every day.

- A** because
- B** so
- C** although

12 ____ we arrived at the hotel, we went straight to the beach.

- A** When
- B** While
- C** Before

13 The museum was very crowded, ____ we decided to leave early.

- A** so
- B** because
- C** although

14 We visited the old castle ____ we had lunch at a small local restaurant.

- A** then
- B** while
- C** because

15 ____ it rained on the last day, we still had a wonderful holiday.

- A** Although
- B** Because
- C** So

16 We checked out of the hotel ____ we went to the airport to catch our flight.

- A** before
- B** while
- C** although

17 I ____ a lot of photos of the mountains because they were so beautiful.

- A** took
- B** take
- C** taking

18 My sister and I ____ a boat trip on the lake, and it was amazing.

- A** went on
- B** go on
- C** going on

19 We walked around the old town ____ my dad was taking photos of the buildings.

- A** while
- B** before
- C** so

20 We had dinner at a lovely Italian restaurant, and we ____ bought some souvenirs for our friends.

- A** also
- B** although
- C** when

Part 3: Fill in the Blank (Questions 21–30)

21 I am writing to tell you about the trip I _____ to Barcelona last weekend.

22 We visited the old town _____ we wanted to see the famous market.

23 The hotel was a little noisy, _____ the view from our room was absolutely beautiful.

24 When we _____ at the airport, our luggage was already on the belt.

25 We had lunch first, and _____ we walked along the beach for about an hour.

26 Although the weather was cloudy, we _____ enjoyed our time at the outdoor festival.

27 We stayed in a small hotel _____ the city centre, so it was easy to walk everywhere.

28 After we _____ the museum, we had coffee at a lovely café by the river.

29 I bought some souvenirs for my family _____ we left for the airport on Sunday morning.

30 It was a fantastic trip, so I am _____ visit Rome again next summer.

Part 4: Matrix / Match Values (Questions 31–40)

31 Match each travel vocabulary word on the left with its correct meaning on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** A plan that shows the places you will visit on a trip
- B** A place where you stay overnight, such as a hotel or hostel
- C** The moment when you leave a place to start your journey
- D** A small object you buy to remember a place you visited

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Souvenir	[]
Itinerary	[]
Accommodation	[]
Departure	[]

32 Match each sentence beginning on the left with the correct ending on the right to form a complete sentence about a trip.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** so we stayed inside the café all afternoon.
- B** because I wanted to give gifts to my family.
- C** because it was very famous in the city.

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
We visited the museum	[]
It was raining heavily,	[]
I bought a lot of souvenirs	[]

33 Match each irregular past simple verb on the left with its correct base form on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Go
- B** See
- C** Meet
- D** Buy

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Went	[]
Saw	[]
Bought	[]
Met	[]

34 Match each writing communicative function on the left with the correct example sentence on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Write back soon and tell me about your news! **B** Hi Sarah! How are you? I hope you're doing well.
- C** We visited a beautiful old castle on the second day.

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Opening an informal email	[]
Describing a past activity	[]
Closing an informal email	[]

35 Match each time connector on the left with its correct use on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Used to describe something that happened later in a sequence **B** Used to describe something that happened earlier in a sequence
- C** Used to say that two events happened at the same time **D** Used to show what happened next in a story

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Before	[]
After	[]
When	[]
Then	[]

36 Match each sentence on the left with the correct grammar label on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Future with 'going to' – a personal plan or intention **B** Past simple – describing a completed past event
- C** Present simple – expressing a general feeling or routine

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
I stayed in a small hotel near the beach.	[]
I am going to visit Rome next summer.	[]
I always feel happy when I travel.	[]

- 37** Match each sentence beginning on the left with the correct ending on the right using 'although' or 'but'.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** it was absolutely delicious. **B** we still enjoyed walking around the old town.
C but it was very clean and comfortable.

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Although the weather was cold,	[]
The hotel room was small,	[]
Although the food was expensive,	[]

- 38** Match each error on the left with the correct version on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** I bought a souvenir at the market. **B** I didn't visit the museum.
C We went to Paris last weekend. **D** The weather was hot, so we went to the beach.

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
We go to Paris last weekend.	[]
I didnt visit the museum.	[]
The weather was hot, we went to the beach.	[]
I buyed a souvenir at the market.	[]

- 39** Match each part of an informal email about a trip on the left with its correct function on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Greeting and reason for writing **B** Friendly closing and sign-off
C Body paragraph describing activities in sequence

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
'Dear Tom, How are you? I'm writing to tell you about my trip!'	[]
'We visited the market in the morning and then had lunch by the river.'	[]
'Let me know what you've been doing lately. Love, Emma'	[]

40 Match each sentence about a recent trip on the left with the correct time expression on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A in

B at

C in

D on

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
We arrived at the hotel ____ the afternoon.	[]
I visited the museum ____ Monday.	[]
We left for the airport ____ 6 o'clock in the morning.	[]
I went on holiday ____ July.	[]

Part 5: Sort the Values (Questions 41–50)

41 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

beautiful weekend, visited Last city sea. the by I a

42 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

restaurant because hungry. local went were very We to we a

43 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

arrived hotel, ready. When room the our was not we at

44 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

souvenirs market. bought family some for the my at I

45 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

Although weather enjoyed cold, still trip. the was the we

46 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

breakfast

walked

hotel

town.

then

had

the

and

the

old

We

at

to

47 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

delicious,

ordered

another

dish.

food

The

was

so

we

48 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

harbour.

Before

photos

left,

took

lot

the

we

we

of

by

a

49 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

famous

museum

there.

while

also

saw

was

I

a

I

50 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

postcard

friend.

After

trip,

wrote

best

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Answer Key & Explanations

Write About a Recent Trip | A2

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **B** **Correct Answer: Last weekend, I went to the beach with my family.**
✓ **Explanation:** Use the **past simple** to talk about finished events. The irregular past simple of *go* is **went**. *I went to Paris last summer*. Do not use *go*, *was go*, or *have went* — these are common A2 errors.
2. **A** **Correct Answer: We stayed inside because it was raining.**
✓ **Explanation:** **Because** introduces a reason and is followed directly by a subject and verb — no comma before it. *We stayed inside because it was raining* is natural and correct. Avoid adding extra words like *because of it* or placing a comma after *because*.
3. **A** **Correct Answer: The weather was beautiful, so we decided to go hiking.**
✓ **Explanation:** **So** shows a **result**. Place a comma **before so**, not after it. Do not confuse *so* (result) with *because* (reason). *It was late, so we went to bed*.
4. **B** **Correct Answer: We visited France and spoke French with the local people.**
✓ **Explanation:** **Names of countries** (France) and **languages/nationalities** (French) always start with a **capital letter** in English. Also, every sentence must begin with a capital letter. *She visited Italy and learned Italian*.
5. **B** **Correct Answer: When I arrived, the hotel was very nice.**
✓ **Explanation:** When a sentence **starts with a time clause** (e.g. *When I arrived*), place a **comma** after the clause before the main clause. Do not use a semicolon or put the comma after *When*. *When we landed, it was already dark*.
6. **B** **Correct Answer: Hi Emma, I hope you're well! I just got back from an amazing trip to Rome.**
✓ **Explanation:** An **informal email** to a friend uses a friendly greeting like *Hi Emma*, and opens with a warm phrase like *I hope you're well!* Formal openings like *Dear Sir or Madam* or *To Whom It May Concern* are too formal for a message to a friend.
7. **A** **Correct Answer: Although the hotel was small, it was very comfortable.**
✓ **Explanation:** **Although** introduces a contrast. Use a **comma** after the *although* clause, then write the main clause. Never use *although* and *but* together in the same sentence — this is a common A2 error. *Although it rained, we had fun*.
8. **B** **Correct Answer: We didn't visit the museum because it was closed.**
✓ **Explanation:** The contraction of *did not* is **didn't**. The apostrophe replaces the letter **o** in *not*. It goes between *n* and *t*: *didn't*. Never write *did'nt* or *did'not* — these are spelling mistakes.

9. **B** **Correct Answer: We visited the old castle. Then we had lunch. After that, we took a boat trip.**
✓ **Explanation:** Time sequencers like **then** and **after that** show the **order of events**. Each new sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop. The sequence castle → lunch → boat trip is clear and logical. *First, we arrived. Then we checked in. After that, we went for a walk.*
10. **C** **Correct Answer: Hope to hear from you soon! Love, Maria**
✓ **Explanation:** An **informal email** to a friend ends with a friendly phrase like *Hope to hear from you soon!* and a warm sign-off like **Love**, or *See you soon*, followed by the writer's name. Closings like *Yours faithfully* or *Please do not hesitate to contact me* are too formal for a message to a friend.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** **Correct Answer: because**
✓ **Explanation:** We use **because** to give a reason. The sunny weather is the *reason* for enjoying the trip. *I enjoyed the trip because the weather was sunny.*
12. **A** **Correct Answer: When**
✓ **Explanation:** **When** introduces a time clause showing that one action happened immediately after another. *When we arrived, we went to the beach.*
13. **A** **Correct Answer: so**
✓ **Explanation:** We use **so** to show a result. The crowded museum is the cause, and leaving early is the *result*. *It was crowded, so we left.*
14. **A** **Correct Answer: then**
✓ **Explanation:** **Then** is used to show a sequence of events — first one thing happens, and *then* the next. *We visited the castle, then we had lunch.*
15. **A** **Correct Answer: Although**
✓ **Explanation:** **Although** shows a contrast or concession — something unexpected happened but the result was still positive. *Although it rained, we had a great time.*
16. **A** **Correct Answer: before**
✓ **Explanation:** **Before** shows that one action happened earlier in time than another. Checking out came first. *We checked out before we went to the airport.*
17. **A** **Correct Answer: took**
✓ **Explanation:** We use the **past simple** to talk about completed actions during a trip. The irregular past form of *take* is **took**. *I took a lot of photos.*
18. **A** **Correct Answer: went on**
✓ **Explanation:** We use the **past simple** for actions that are finished. The irregular past form of *go* is **went**. *We went on a boat trip last Saturday.*
19. **A** **Correct Answer: while**
✓ **Explanation:** **While** shows that two actions were happening at the same time. *We walked while my dad was taking photos.*

20. **A** Correct Answer: also
✓ Explanation: **Also** is used to add extra information to a sentence. It connects two things that both happened. *We had dinner and also bought souvenirs.*

Part 3: Fill in the Blank

21. **took** Correct Answer: took
✓ Explanation: The **past simple** of *take* is **took**. We use it to describe a completed action in the past. *We took a train to the city.*
22. **because** Correct Answer: because
✓ Explanation: **Because** introduces a reason. It answers the question *Why?* For example, *We went inside because it was raining.* Do not confuse it with **so**, which introduces a result.
23. **but** Correct Answer: but
✓ Explanation: **But** is used to show a contrast between two ideas. *The food was cheap, but it was delicious.* It connects two opposite or surprising facts.
24. **arrived** Correct Answer: arrived
✓ Explanation: **Arrived** is the **past simple** of the regular verb *arrive*. A comma is used after the introductory time clause *When we arrived*, before the main clause.
25. **then** Correct Answer: then
✓ Explanation: **Then** is a sequencing word used to show the order of events. *We checked in, and then we went to the pool.* It tells the reader what happened next.
26. **still** Correct Answer: still
✓ Explanation: **Still** is used here to show that something happened **despite** a problem. *Although it was cold, we still had a great time.* It works with **although** to show concession.
27. **near** Correct Answer: near
✓ Explanation: **Near** is a preposition of place meaning *close to* something. *The restaurant was near the beach.* It describes the location of the hotel.
28. **visited** Correct Answer: visited
✓ Explanation: **Visited** is the **past simple** of the regular verb *visit*. After the time clause with **after**, we use past simple to describe the sequence of events.
29. **before** Correct Answer: before
✓ Explanation: **Before** shows that one action happened **earlier** than another. *I packed my bag before I went to sleep.* It is used here to sequence two past events.
30. **going to** Correct Answer: going to
✓ Explanation: **Going to** is used to talk about a **future plan or intention**. *I am going to book the tickets tomorrow.* It shows the speaker has already decided to do something.

Part 4: Matrix / Match Values

31. Souvenir: D • Itinerary: A • Accommodation: B • Departure: C

Correct Matches:

- **Souvenir** → A small object you buy to remember a place you visited
- **Itinerary** → A plan that shows the places you will visit on a trip
- **Accommodation** → A place where you stay overnight, such as a hotel or hostel
- **Departure** → The moment when you leave a place to start your journey

✅ **Explanation:** These are common **travel vocabulary** words used when *writing about a trip*. For example: *'I bought a souvenir at the market'* or *'Our departure was at 7 am.'*

32. We visited the museum: C • It was raining heavily,: A • I bought a lot of souvenirs: B

Correct Matches:

- **We visited the museum** → because it was very famous in the city.
- **It was raining heavily,** → so we stayed inside the café all afternoon.
- **I bought a lot of souvenirs** → because I wanted to give gifts to my family.

✅ **Explanation:** Use **'because'** to give a *reason* and **'so'** to give a *result*. For example: *'It was raining, so we stayed inside'* shows what happened as a result of the rain.

33. Went: A • Saw: B • Bought: D • Met: C

Correct Matches:

- **Went** → Go
- **Saw** → See
- **Bought** → Buy
- **Met** → Meet

✅ **Explanation:** These are common **irregular past simple verbs** used when writing about a trip. For example: *'We went to Rome', 'I saw the Colosseum',* and *'I met some friendly locals.'* These verbs do **not** follow the regular **-ed** pattern.

34. Opening an informal email: B • Describing a past activity: C • Closing an informal email: A

Correct Matches:

• **Opening an informal email →**

Hi Sarah! How are you? I hope you're doing well.

• **Describing a past activity →**

We visited a beautiful old castle on the second day.

• **Closing an informal email →**

Write back soon and tell me about your news!

✓ **Explanation:** A well-structured informal email about a trip has a **friendly opening**, a **body paragraph** using past simple to describe events, and a **closing sentence** inviting a reply. These are key *A2 writing conventions*.

35. Before: B • After: A • When: C • Then: D

Correct Matches:

• **Before →** Used to describe something that happened earlier in a sequence

• **After →** Used to describe something that happened later in a sequence

• **When →** Used to say that two events happened at the same time

• **Then →** Used to show what happened next in a story

✓ **Explanation:** These **time connectors** help organise a trip narrative clearly. For example: '*Before we left, I packed my bag.*' and '*When we arrived, it was very hot.*' Note: use a **comma** after a time clause that starts the sentence.

36. I stayed in a small hotel near the beach.: B • I am going to visit Rome next summer.: A • I always feel happy when I travel.: C

Correct Matches:

• **I stayed in a small hotel near the beach.**

→ Past simple – describing a completed past event

• **I am going to visit Rome next summer.** →

Future with 'going to' – a personal plan or intention

• **I always feel happy when I travel.** →

Present simple – expressing a general feeling or routine



Explanation:

When writing about a recent trip, you mainly use **past simple** for events. Use **'going to'** for future plans mentioned in the email, and **present simple** for general opinions and feelings.

37. Although the weather was cold,: B • The hotel room was small,: C • Although the food was expensive,: A

Correct Matches:

• **Although the weather was cold,** → we still enjoyed walking around the old town.

• **The hotel room was small,** → but it was very clean and comfortable.

• **Although the food was expensive,** → it was absolutely delicious.



Explanation:

'Although' introduces a *contrast clause* at the beginning of a sentence and is followed by a comma.

'But' joins two contrasting ideas in the *middle* of a sentence. Both express **concession** — an unexpected or surprising result.

38. We go to Paris last weekend.: C • I didnt visit the museum.: B • The weather was hot, we went to the beach.: D • I buyed a souvenir at the market.: A

Correct Matches:

• **We go to Paris last weekend. →**

We went to Paris last weekend.

• **I didnt visit the museum. →**

I didn't visit the museum.

• **The weather was hot, we went to the beach. →**

The weather was hot, so we went to the beach.

• **I buyed a souvenir at the market.**

→ I bought a souvenir at the market.



Explanation:

Common A2 errors include:
using

present simple

instead of
past simple,
missing the
apostrophe
in

contractions
like *didn't*,
creating

comma splices

instead of
using '*so*',
and using a
regular -ed
ending on

an irregular
verb like *buy*
→ *bought*.

39. 'Dear Tom, How are you? I'm writing to tell you about my trip!': A • 'We visited the market in the morning and then had lunch by the river.': C • 'Let me know what you've been doing lately. Love, Emma': B

Correct Matches:

• 'Dear Tom, How are you? I'm writing to tell you about my trip!' →

Greeting and reason for writing

• 'We visited the market in the morning and then had lunch by the river.'

→ Body paragraph describing activities in sequence

• 'Let me know what you've been doing lately. Love,

Emma' →

Friendly closing and sign-off



Explanation:

A well-organised A2 informal email has three clear sections: a **friendly greeting** with a reason for writing, a **body paragraph** using past simple and time

connectors
like *'then'*,
and a
closing line
with an
informal
sign-off
such as
'Love,' or
*'Best
wishes,'*.

40. We arrived at the hotel ____ the afternoon.: A • I visited the museum ____ Monday.: D • We left for the airport ____ 6 o'clock in the morning.: B • I went on holiday ____ July.: A

Correct Matches:

• We arrived at the hotel ____ the afternoon.

→ in

• I visited the museum ____ Monday.

→ on

• We left for the airport ____ 6 o'clock in the morning. →

at

• I went on holiday ____ July. → in



Explanation:

Use **'in'** with parts of the day (*in the afternoon*) and months (*in July*). Use

'on' with specific days (*on Monday*).

Use **'at'** with exact clock times (*at 6 o'clock*).

These **time prepositions** are essential for writing about a trip accurately.

Part 5: Sort the Values

41. **Correct Answer:** Last weekend, I visited a beautiful city by the sea.

✓ **Explanation:** In **past simple** sentences, a **time adverbial phrase** like *Last weekend* can come at the beginning, followed by a comma, then the **subject** *I*, the **past simple verb** *visited*, and the **object/place** *a beautiful city by the sea*.

42. Correct Answer: We went to a local restaurant because we were very hungry.

✓ **Explanation:** The conjunction **because** introduces a **reason clause**. The main clause *We went to a local restaurant* comes first, then **because** links it to the reason *we were very hungry*. Do not confuse **because** (reason) with **so** (result).

43. Correct Answer: When we arrived at the hotel, our room was not ready.

✓ **Explanation:** When a sentence begins with a **time clause** using **when**, a **comma** is placed after the time clause before the main clause. The structure is: *When + subject + past simple verb, + main clause in past simple*.

44. Correct Answer: I bought some souvenirs for my family at the market.

✓ **Explanation:** In a **past simple** sentence, the order is **subject + irregular past verb + object + recipient phrase + place**. *Bought* is the irregular past form of *buy*. The **place phrase** *at the market* comes at the end.

45. Correct Answer: Although the weather was cold, we still enjoyed the trip.

✓ **Explanation:** **Although** introduces a **concession clause** showing contrast. When the *although* clause comes first, it is followed by a **comma** before the main clause. The adverb **still** is placed after the subject *we* to emphasise that the positive result happened despite the contrast.

46. Correct Answer: We had breakfast at the hotel and then walked to the old town.

✓ **Explanation:** The sequencing connector **and then** joins two **past simple actions** in chronological order. The structure is: *action 1 + and then + action 2*. Both verbs *had* and *walked* are in the **past simple** tense.

47. Correct Answer: The food was delicious, so we ordered another dish.

✓ **Explanation:** **So** is used to introduce a **result clause**. A comma is placed before **so** when it joins two clauses. The structure is: *cause clause + , so + result clause*. Do not confuse **so** (result) with **because** (reason).

48. Correct Answer: Before we left, we took a lot of photos by the harbour.

✓ **Explanation:** **Before** introduces a **time sequence clause** showing what happened just prior to the main action. When the *before* clause comes first, a **comma** follows it. Both clauses use the **past simple** tense: *left* and *took*.

49. Correct Answer: I also saw a famous museum while I was there.

✓ **Explanation:** The adverb **also** is placed after the **subject** *I* and before the **main verb** *saw* to add extra information. The connector **while** introduces a **time clause** describing the background situation *I was there*, placed at the end of the sentence without a comma.

50. Correct Answer: After the trip, I wrote a postcard to my best friend.

✓ **Explanation:** **After** introduces a **time prepositional phrase** showing the sequence of events. When this phrase comes at the **beginning** of a sentence, it is followed by a **comma**. The main clause then follows with **subject + past simple verb** *wrote* + **object + recipient phrase**.

Score Guide

45–50 Correct	Excellent! You have mastered this topic.
38–44 Correct	Very good! Review the rules you missed.
30–37 Correct	Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples.
0–29 Correct	Study the lesson again before retaking the test.