

Snow days

Warmer: Talk in groups. Do you like snow? Why (not)?

Hi Iman,

How are you? I hope you are warm and the weather is OK!

Last week it was very snowy here. Everything stopped! There were no buses, trains or taxis. There were no planes. Lots of people slept in the airport. Lots of places closed. All the schools, colleges and universities closed. Lots of shops, bars and restaurants closed too. There was no transport so people couldn't go to work.

The college closed so I stayed at home. I studied a little then I went to the park with my children. We went sledging and made a snowman, a snowwoman and a snowdog! It was lots of fun. There were lots of people snowboarding and skiing in the park too. It was difficult to walk home because it was very icy. I nearly fell over! When we got home, we switched the heating on and drank hot chocolate!

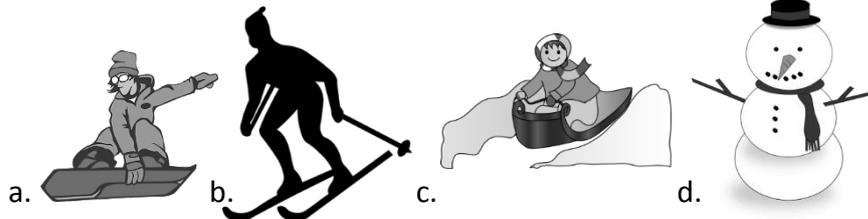
I hope you had a nice week. Write soon!

Best wishes,

Azad

1. Read the email from Azad. What was special about last week?
2. Read the email again. Answer the questions.
 - a. Did children and students go to class last week? Why (not)?
 - b. Why were shops, bars and restaurants closed?
 - c. What did Azad do in the park?
 - d. What did other people do in the park?
 - e. Why was it not easy to walk?
 - f. Did Azad fall over?
 - g. What did Azad and his family do at home?

3. Match the words to the pictures.



	skiing
	a snowman
	sledging
	snowboarding

4. Read the text again. Circle all the past tense verbs.
5. Complete the table with the verbs. Then circle to complete the regular verb rules.

Present	Past	
Regular		Rule
switch		Regular verbs → add -ed/-d/-ied
close		Verbs ending 'e' → add -ed/-d/-ied
study		Verbs ending 'y' → Take off y, add -ed/-d/-ied
stay		Verbs ending vowel (aeiou) + Y → add -ed/-d/-ied
stop		Consonant Vowel Consonant (CVC) → double consonant add -ed/-d/-ied
Irregular		
Present	Past	There are no rules for irregular verbs. You need to learn these.
is		
are		
can		
eat		
drink		
fall		
go		
get		
make		
sleep		

6. Complete the sentences using past tense.
 - a. We _____ (can) not use your car yesterday because there _____ (is) too much snow.
 - b. Dawid _____ (go) home because the shops _____ (are) not open.
 - c. I _____ (make) a snowcat with my children.
 - d. It _____ (is) very cold so I _____ (switch) on the heating.
 - e. They _____ (eat) soup after they _____ (go) snowboarding.
 - f. My sister _____ (fall) over and hurt her leg.
 - g. The students _____ (stay) home and _____ (study).
 - h. It _____ (stop) snowing about 6 o'clock last night.
7. What did you do the last time it snowed? Talk to your partner.
8. Write an email to a friend. It snowed last week. Tell them what you did. Write about:
 - The weather
 - What you ate
 - What you did
 - Who you were with

Teacher's notes

Warmer: Ask students to discuss what they like and dislike about snow.

1. Ask students to read the email and say what was special about last week. Answer: It was so snowy that people couldn't go to work. Many businesses and schools, etc closed.
2. Ask students to read the email again and answer the questions.
Answers: a. schools, colleges and universities were closed so there were no classes.
b. shops, bars and restaurants were closed because staff couldn't travel – there were no buses, trains or taxis. c. Azad made a snowman, snowwoman and snowdog + went sledging with his children. d. other people were skiing and snowboarding. e. it was difficult to walk because it was icy. f. Azad *nearly* (almost) fell over, but didn't. g. At home, Azad switched on the heating and drank hot chocolate with his family.
3. Ask students to match the words to the pictures. Answers: a. snowboarding b. skiing c. sledging d. snowman
Ask students if there are any other new words in the text. Discuss as a class. Encourage peer support.
4. Ask students to read the email again and circle all the past tense verbs. Drill pronunciation.
5. Ask students to complete the table using the past tense verbs. Then complete the rules. You may wish to discuss pronunciation rules for t/d/id endings. Answers:

Present	Past	
Regular		Rule
switch	switched	Regular verbs → add -ed
close	closed	Verbs ending 'e' → add -d
study	studied	Verbs ending 'y' → Take off y, add -ied
stay	stayed	Verbs ending vowel (aeiou) + Y → add -ed
stop	stopped	Consonant Vowel Consonant (CVC) → double consonant add -ed
Irregular		
is	was	There are no rules for irregular verbs. You need to learn these.
are	were	
can	could	
eat	ate	
drink	drank	
fall	fell	
go	went	
get	got	
make	made	
sleep	slept	

You may wish to ask students to think of more verbs that follow each spelling rule.

6. Ask students to complete the sentences using past tense verbs. Answer:
 - a. We **could** not use your car yesterday because there **was** too much snow.
 - b. Dawid **went** home because the shops **were** not open.
 - c. I **made** a snowcat with my children.
 - d. It **was** very cold so I **switched** on the heating.
 - e. They **ate** soup after they **went** snowboarding.
 - f. My sister **fell** over and hurt her leg.
 - g. The students **stayed** home and **studied**.
 - h. It **stopped** snowing about 6 o'clock last night.

You may wish to discuss question forms and negatives. You could ask students to re-write each sentence into a question and a negative form.

7. Ask students to talk together about what they did the last time it snowed.
8. Ask students to write an email to a friend about what they did in the snow. If it hasn't snowed for a while, pre-teach some vocabulary for what they did last week/weekend and ask them to write about that.