Unit 1 — First Day Back — Teacher copy

Track E · Klasse 7 · Niveau E

Niveau E

1. Reading

Read the text and use it for the activities below.

A short classroom dialogue

Read the dialogue silently first, then listen to the teacher read it aloud. Pay attention to the questions Ms. Reyes asks.

Ms. Reyes. Welcome back, Year 7. Aisha, you go first. One good thing about your summer — go.
Aisha. I went to my grandmother's village for two weeks. We made bread every morning.
Ms. Reyes. Bread every morning? That sounds like work. Did you enjoy it?
Aisha. Yes, but my arms got tired.
Ms. Reyes. Ben?
Ben. I, um — I built a bike ramp in the garden. With my cousin.
Ms. Reyes. And did it work?
Ben. It worked twice. Then it broke.
Ms. Reyes. Twice is enough for a story.

Language focus — past simple

Past simple in English uses two patterns.

- **Regular verbs** add `-ed`: *work → worked*, *enjoy → enjoyed*, *play → played*. Spelling: drop final *e* (*bake → baked*), double a final consonant after a short vowel (*stop → stopped*).
- **Irregular verbs** change form: *go → went*, *see → saw*, *make → made*, *have → had*, *get → got*, *build → built*, *break → broke*.

For questions and negatives, use *did / didn't* and the base form:

- *I went → Did you go? / I didn't go.*
- *She built → Did she build it? / She didn't build it.*

Common transfer error from German: *"I have made bread every morning"* sounds odd in English when there is a clear past time marker. English prefers simple past with a finished time ("*yesterday*", "*last week*", "*every morning that summer*"). Use present perfect only when "now" is part of the meaning.

2. Practise

Niveau G — gap-fill

Fill in the past simple form of the verb in brackets.

1. Last summer Aisha _____ (go) to her grandmother's village.
2. She and her grandmother _____ (make) bread every morning.

3. Ben _____ (build) a bike ramp with his cousin.
4. The ramp _____ (work) only twice.
5. After that, it _____ (break).
6. Ms. Reyes _____ (smile) and _____ (say), ”Welcome back.”

Niveau M — transformation
Rewrite each sentence in the past simple. Keep the meaning.

1. Aisha **goes** to her grandmother’s village every summer. → ___
2. They **bake** bread together. → ___
3. Ben **builds** a bike ramp. → ___
4. The ramp **breaks** after two jumps. → ___
5. He **does not give up**, though. → ___
6. Ms. Reyes **asks** the class one simple question. → ___

3. Your turn

Writing task. Write a short text titled ”One Day in My Summer”. Tell the reader **one** day, not the whole summer. Use past simple. Include at least:

- *one place* you went,
- *one person* you were with,
- *one thing* you ate, made, saw, or played,
- *one feeling* you had.

Niveau G — 60–80 words. **Niveau M** — 100–120 words.

Sample student response (Niveau M, 112 words)

One day in August, my cousin and I went to the lake near our grandmother’s village. The sun was hot and the water was cold, which was a good problem to have. We took bread and cheese in a small bag. My cousin can swim better than me, so I followed her across to the small island in the middle. We sat on a flat stone and ate everything in five minutes. On the way back, I lost one of my flip-flops. We laughed for a long time, and then we searched for it under the water until we found it.

Strong moves: one clear day, simple past throughout, named place and person, a small problem (”I lost a flip-flop”) that creates shape. Improve by varying connectives (”then”, ”after that”, ”while we were eating”) rather than only ”and”.

4. Further reading / listening

- BBC Learning English — *6 Minute English: Talking about your weekend.* https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/6-minute-english
- The Guardian Education — short *first-day-back* opinion pieces by teachers, e.g. https://www.theguardian.com/education (search "first day back").
- A simple read-aloud version of *Welcome back, Year 7* is in the shared `_classroom/` folder for absent students.

5. Teacher answer key

Niveau G

1. went, 2. made, 3. built, 4. worked, 5. broke, 6. smiled / said.

Niveau M

1. Aisha **went** to her grandmother's village every summer.
2. They **baked** bread together.
3. Ben **built** a bike ramp.
4. The ramp **broke** after two jumps.
5. He **didn't give** up, though.
6. Ms. Reyes **asked** the class one simple question.