

OUR LAST SUMMER

by ABBA

Grammar: Past Simple, Past Perfect, Past Continuous**Vocabulary:** holidays, travelling**Communication skills:** talking about holidays**Level:** Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate

🎵 CD track 12

Teacher's notes

1. Ask students if they have ever travelled, if they travelled this summer, where to. If students are not very enthusiastic to talk about it, let them tell both true and false information (each partner should guess if it is true or not). Find out the most popular holiday destination in the group. Introduce the word 'destination'.

2. Now, ask which holiday destination they think is said to be the most popular one all over the world. Tell them that according to the *United Nations World Tourism Organization* one of the most popular places to visit is France. Find out what students know about France and Paris. Encourage them to name the most famous sights (considering some pronunciation difficulties they may name these places in their native language first).

3. Tell the class that they are going to listen to a song by ABBA called *Our Last Summer*. It is closely connected with Paris. Then hand out the worksheets and let your students do Ex. 1 (individually or in pairs). Pay their attentions to the usage of *the*. Check the answers.

4. Then explain the second task and play the song. Check the answers.

5. Ask students what this song is about. - *The heroine recalls her romantic summer in Paris and points how things have changed*. Remind students that we use the Past Simple Tense to talk about the past. Revise the key points of this tense. Now, do Ex. 3. Let your students work individually, then check their answers in an open group. You may also ask students to find other past tenses (*we had met* – Past Perfect; *we were dancing* – Past Continuous).

6. Look through the words from the box. Explain / translate some of them if needed. Explain that the term *flower power* became generalized as a modern reference to the hippie movement (you may also mention of student riots in Paris in 1968 - it'll help students understand how dramatically *Harry* has changed). Then play the song again (twice if needed). Check the answers.

Answers

Ex. 1 A - 3. B - 1. C - 4. D - 2.

Ex. 2 The Notre Dame - 4. The Elysee - 1. The Seine - 2. The Eiffel Tower - 3.

Ex. 3 Be - was, do - did, have - had, smile - smiled, have - had, be - was, make - made, sit - sat, be - was, be - was, be - was, have - had, take - took, can - could.

Ex. 4 Gaps: warm¹, romance², memories³, happy⁴, power⁵, walking⁶, restaurants⁷, dreams⁸

'*Our Last Summer*' is a song by ABBA from the group's seventh studio album *Super Trouper*. It was written by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus. Though it was covered by a number of artists and was used in the musical *Mamma Mia!*, this variant of lyrics referred to an original track by ABBA.

OUR LAST SUMMER

by ABBA

1. Look at the photos. Match them with the words from the song. Then listen to the song. Arrange the sights in the way you hear.

A B C D

1) round the Notre Dame; 2) strolling down the Elysee; 3) walks along the Seine; 4) in the grass by the Eiffel Tower

2. Look at the lyrics. Put the words in the brackets into The Past Simple. Check.

3. Try to fill in the gaps with the words from the box. Listen and check.

Walking, warm, romance, restaurants, memories, flower-power, dreams, happy

The summer air ____ (be) soft and ____¹
 The feeling right, the Paris night
 ____ (Do) it's best to please us
 And strolling down the Elysee
 We ____ (have) a drink in each café
 And you
 You ____ (talk) of politics,
 philosophy and I
 ____ (Smile) like Mona Lisa
 We ____ (have) our chance
 It ____ (be) a fine and true ____²
 I can still recall our last summer
 I still see it all
 Walks along the Seine, laughing in
 the rain
 Our last summer
 ____³ that remain
 We ____ (make) our way along the river
 And we ____ (sit) down in the grass
 By the Eiffel tower
 I ____ (be) so ____⁴ we had met
 It ____ (be) the age of no regret
 Oh yes
 Those crazy years, that ____ (be) the time
 Of the ____⁵

But underneath we ____ (have) a fear
 of flying
 Of getting old, a fear of slowly dying
 We ____ (take) the chance
 Like we were dancing our last dance
 I can still recall our last summer
 I still see it all
 In the tourist jam, round the
 Notre Dame
 Our last summer
 ____⁶ hand in hand
 Paris ____⁷
 Our last summer
 Morning croissants
 Living for the day, worries far
 away
 Our last summer
 We ____ (can) laugh and play
 And now you're working in a bank
 The family man, the football fan
 And your name is Harry
 How dull it seems
 Yet you're the hero of my



____⁸
 Refrain