

That's Interesting!



A worksheet for adults to practise reading, writing, spelling and numbers.

Death of Pope Francis



On Easter Monday the death was announced in Rome of Pope Francis, leader of the Catholic Church. Although he had spent some time in hospital in recent months, he gave a public blessing a day earlier, to the crowds who were gathered at Saint Peter's Basilica on Easter Sunday.

Born and raised in Argentina in South America, Jorge Mario Bergoglio chose the name Francis, when he became pope in 2013, following the retirement of Pope Benedict. It was unusual for a pope to retire from the role as normally a pope remains a pope until his death. Francis was the first pope to come from South America.

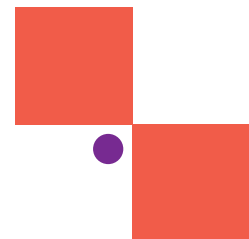
In 2018, Pope Francis visited Ireland. Large crowds turned out to welcome him in Dublin and at Knock Shrine in County Mayo. He held a private meeting where he met with survivors who, as children, had been sexually abused by members of the church and also those who had spent time in mother and baby homes run by the church. He listened to their experiences and later at a mass in the Phoenix Park, Pope Francis asked for forgiveness for the failure of the church to protect children.



Pope Francis

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He was regarded as the "pope of the poor". He set up an area of the Vatican for food and shelter and washing facilities for people who were homeless. He visited and said mass in the prisons regularly. He did not wear the silk robes and red shoes that was the tradition of former popes to wear, and he travelled around Rome in a small car rather than the large cars associated with the position.



He chose to live in a guest house in the city instead of in the Palace in the Vatican where all the other popes lived because he wanted to be around people.

In his time as Pope, he visited over 60 countries all over the world. In fact, the little bus that he travelled in when greeting the crowds in each country, known as the “Popemobile”, will now be made into a mobile health clinic for children living in war torn Gaza. This was Pope Francis’s wish before he died. He spoke out about topics that previous popes had not. He encouraged world leaders to seek peace to the wars in the world, show greater compassion to immigrants who have been forced to leave their countries and for us all to take greater care of our climate and the environment.



Pope Francis's popemobile which will become a mobile clinic

Image source:
U.S. Department of the Interior, CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

Hundreds of thousands of people stood for hours outside Saint Peter’s Basilica, to pay their respects to the late pope as he lay in state for three days. His funeral was attended by leaders and heads of state from all over the world, including the Irish president Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina, Prince William of England and President Donald Trump and former President Biden from America. Nine days after his funeral, 135 cardinals, Catholic Church leaders from all over the world, met behind closed doors to elect the new pope. This meeting, known as the Conclave, takes place every time a new pope must be elected.

After just two days, white smoke bellowed from a special chimney on the roof of the building to let the waiting crowds know that the new pope had been chosen. He is 69-year-old Robert Prevost, who will be known as Pope Leo XIV (14th). Born in Chicago he is the first pope to come from the United States of America.



Pope Leo XIV

Image source:
Edgar Beltrán, The Pillar, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons

Supports are available

If you have been impacted by any of the topics in this article, Samaritans services are available 24 hours a day, for confidential, non-judgmental support.

- Freephone **116 123**, any time
- Email jo@samaritans.ie
- Visit [samaritans.ie](https://www.samaritans.ie)

More Irregular Past Tense Verbs



A verb is an action word.

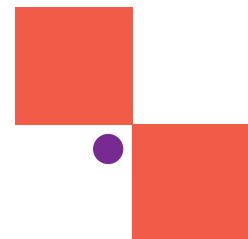
When we want to use an action word in the past, we usually add the letters **ed** to the verb.

Example: I **walk** five km every day. I **walked** 3 km yesterday.
I **work** 5 days a week. Last week, I **worked** 3 days.

However, for some action words we **do not use ed**. Instead, the word changes completely when we use them in the past tense.

Here are some more examples:

Catch / caught	Try to catch it when I throw it. / I caught a fish last week.
Come / came	I will come to see you later. / I came home late last night.
Eat / ate	I eat an apple every day. / I ate a banana yesterday.
Fall / fell	Be careful, do not fall . / He fell off the ladder.
Feel / felt	I really feel for you. / I felt very cold when it was snowing.
Forget / forgot	I forget your name. / I forgot to buy bread for lunch.
Give / gave	Give me your name and address. / I gave her a hand with the work.
Leave / left	I will leave after dinner. / I left the meeting early.
Meet / met	What time will we meet ? / I met Anne for lunch on Monday.
Ring / rang	Will you ring me later? / I rang him but there was no answer.
Say / said	I would like to say yes. / I said I will be there on time.
See / saw	I see your point. / I saw a good film in the cinema.
Send / sent	Send me your details. / I sent you a card in the post.
Speak / spoke	Can you speak a little slower. / I spoke to the doctor.
Sell / sold	I will sell my old computer. / I sold my car last year.



Place the correct **past tense action word** in each sentence.

(The first one is done for you.)

Here are some more examples:

Eat I **ate** a good breakfast this morning.

Catch The robber was _____ red handed.

Fall She _____ over the toys that were thrown on the floor.

Forget Oh, I _____ to tell you, I will not be able to go.

Give She _____ me a hand to finish the job.

Ring My mother _____ to say she will be over soon.

Say I _____ I will be home at 2 pm.

Send She _____ me a lovely birthday card.

Speak I _____ to her about the way she was acting.

Sell She _____ her old car and made a profit

Leave I _____ home at 9.30 am and I arrived in Dublin at 1 pm.

Feel I _____ a stab of pain in my back when I hit the ground.

Meet At Mary's party we _____ up with all our old friends.

Ou words



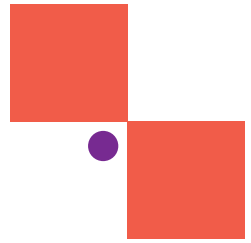
Words that have ou that sounds like **ow** as in cow.

loud proud	our hour sour	found hound pound round ground	ouch couch pouch slouch	out about shout stout grout	house mouse blouse	mouth south
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Work on 3 words per day.

When you feel you know them, cover the list above and then fill in the blanks below:

1. That music is too _____ , my ears hurt.
2. An orange is sweet, but a lemon is _____ .
3. I saw a little _____ running around the _____ .
4. I lost my glasses but I _____ them later.
5. I like the _____ of the birds singing.
6. My sister bought a new white _____ .
7. I'm going to town I will be home in an _____ .
8. I was so _____ of myself when I passed the driving test.
9. Donegal is in the north of the country, Cork is in the _____ .
10. I was at the dentist for a filling, now my _____ is sore.
11. Please do not _____ out the answer.
12. Be careful where you walk the _____ is very muddy.
13. A circle is _____ .
14. It is great to see you out and _____ .



1. Ann is twice Jane's age. Pat is half Paul's age. Paul is 1 year younger than Jane.

Pat is having his birthday this week.
There will be 12 candles on the cake.

How old are each of them?

Ann _____

Jane _____

Pat _____

Paul _____

3. Susan and Paul are going for a cycle. They leave home at 10.30am.

It takes them 45 minutes to get to the beach.

They go for a walk for 20 minutes, spend 25 minutes having lunch and then take a short nap for 15 minutes, before cycling the 45-minute journey home.

What time will they arrive home?

2. Mary is travelling from Galway to Dublin. It is a journey of 240km.

a. When Mary has $\frac{1}{4}$ of her journey completed, how far will she have travelled?

b. She can travel 80km in 1 hour. How long should it take her to travel the journey of 240km?

c. If she leaves home at 8.45 am what time should she arrive in Dublin?

4. Find the missing number in each of these.

a. $5 + 10 + 15 = \square$

b. $5 \times \square = 20$

c. $21 \div \square = 7$

d. $6 + 7 + \square = 19$

e. $44 \div 4 = \square$

f. $4 \times \square = 20$

g. $32 \div \square = 4$

Answers

Q1 Ann is 50, Jane is 25, Pat is 12, Paul is 24
Q2 a. 60 km, b. 3 hours, c. 11.45am
Q3 1pm
Q4 a. 30, b. 4, c. 3, d. 6, e. 11, f. 5, g. 8

Notes



Further help is available

If you need help with these worksheets, or with reading, writing, maths or digital skills, you can contact the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).



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You can study online on our Learn with NALA website www.learnwithnala.ie or with a tutor over the phone, or we can give details of your local training options.



National Adult Literacy Agency

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