


MY TOP TWENTY FILMS

15 In A Lonely Place

For Dix and Laura it was love at first sight. But then a girl died. The police were sure that it was Dix who murdered her. Laura defended him. She didn't believe the stories about his violent past. But Dix became more and more possessive and she wasn't so sure. Did Dix kill the girl? Was their love strong enough to survive?



Presentation

Use the past simple to talk about actions and situations in the past.

to be

The past simple forms of *to be* are *was* and *were*:

It was love at first sight. The police were sure Dix was the murderer.

Regular Verbs

With most other verbs add *-ed* to form affirmative verbs:

kill → *killed*, *defend* → *defended*

Use *did/didn't* + infinitive to form questions and negatives.

Did Dix kill the girl? (not *Did Dix killed the girl?*)

Laura didn't believe the stories. (not *Laura didn't believed the stories*)

Use *did/didn't* to form short answers.

Did Laura believe the police? No, she didn't.

Irregular Verbs

Some verbs have an irregular affirmative form in the past simple:

become → *became*, *leave* → *left*, *tell* → *told*

Time expressions

Here are some common time expressions often used with the past simple: *yesterday*, *last week*, *last year*, *two years ago*, *five minutes ago*

to be

I / He / She / It	was wasn't (was not)	sure.
You / We / They	were weren't (were not)	

Was	I / he / she / it	right?	Yes, I / he / she / it was.
Were	you / we / they		No, I / he / she / it wasn't.
			Yes, you / we / they were.
			No, you / we / they weren't.

Other verbs

I / You / He / She / It / We / They	believed didn't believe	the stories.
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What	did	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	ask	Laura?
Did		I / you / he / she / it / we / they	believe	the stories?

Yes, I / you / he / she / it / we / they	did.	No, I / you / he / she / it / we / they	didn't.
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Key spelling rules

You may need to make small changes to the spelling of the verb at times:

- live → lived (not *liveed*)
- cry → cried (not *cryed*)

1 Complete the text with the past simple form of the verb in parentheses or short answers.

Dix ¹ (be) a writer and Laura ² (be) a young actress. They ³ (live) in the same apartment block, but they ⁴ (not know) each other. One night Dix ⁵ (bring) a young girl back to his apartment. As they arrived, they ⁶ (meet) Laura. She and Dix ⁷ (look) at each other. They ⁸ (not speak), but they were instantly attracted to each other. The next morning the police ⁹ (ask) Laura to go to the police station. The girl ¹⁰ (be) dead. The police ¹¹ (think) that Dix was the murderer. “¹² (you see) Dix leave with the girl?” they ¹³ (ask). “No, I ¹⁴,” she replied, “I ¹⁵ (see) him standing at his bedroom window – alone.” Dix and Laura’s eyes met across the room. Everyone could see they ¹⁶ (be) in love.

2 Complete the questions with the past simple form of the verbs in the box.

ask be (× 2) do meet talk tell

- 1 What job Dix? He was a writer.
- 2 When Dix and Laura first? One night, when Dix brought a girl home to his apartment.
- 3 they to each other? No, they didn’t. They just looked at each other.
- 4 Why the police Laura to go to the police station? They wanted to ask her some questions.
- 5 Dix worried? No, he was sure Laura could prove his innocence.
- 6 What she the police? That she saw him standing alone at his bedroom window.
- 7 they in love? Yes, it was obvious to everybody.

3 Put the words in the correct order to make questions.

- 1 night what you last do did?
- 2 see you what movie did?
- 3 actors were who the?
- 4 about was what it?
- 5 it you enjoy did?

4 Match the responses a–e to the questions in exercise 3.

- a Yes, it was great.
- b A writer and an actress who fell in love.
- c An old black and white movie called *In A Lonely Place*.
- d We went to the movies.
- e Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame.

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