

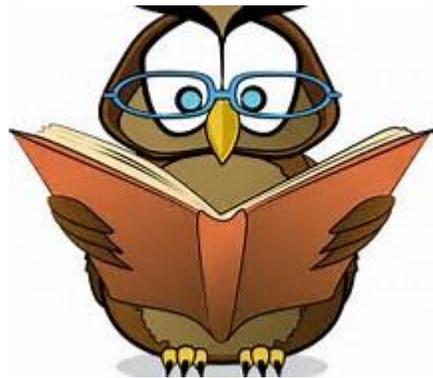
# “We lost everything”



**New Internationalist Easier English**  
**Ready Elementary/Pre-Intermediate Lesson**



This lesson  
Leida's Story



grammar: past simple

# Which country is this?



# What countries is it near?



# Afghanistan Quiz

1) What is the capital city of Afghanistan?

(a) Kabul (b) Kandahar (c) Herat

2) What is the population of Afghanistan?

a) 10 million (b) 25 million (c) 39 million

3) What does Afghanistan sell most to the world?

(a) vegetables (b) fruit and nuts (c) cotton

4) Which is the Afghan flag?



1) Who are they? 2) Where are they? 3) When is this? 4) Why are they there?



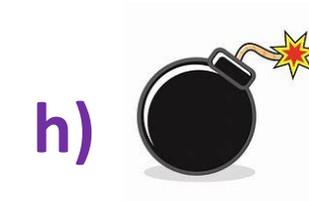
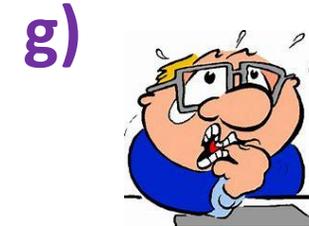
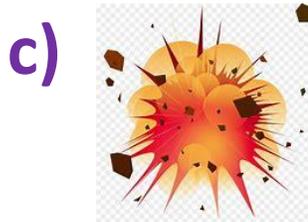
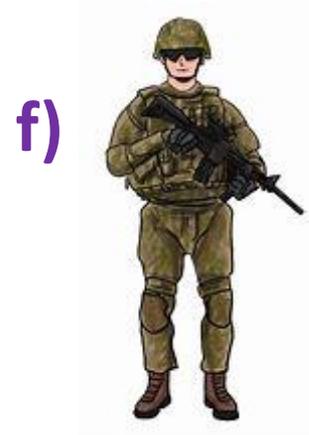
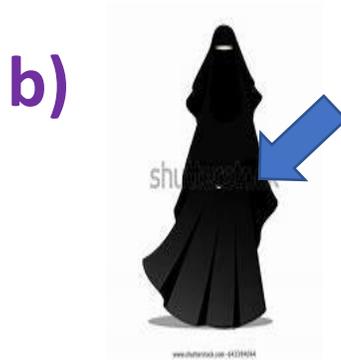


***A family from Afghanistan at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border,  
September 6, 2021.***



# Match:

- 1) airport
- 2) canal
- 3) checkpoint
- 4) bomb
- 5) soldier
- 6) worried
- 7) explode
- 8) burqa





We will read about Leida from Afghanistan. Put these questions about her in the correct order.

- 1) live she did Kabul in? → Did she live in Kabul?
- 2) go she did airport the to?
- 3) how long at wait the airport she did?
- 4) with go family her did she?
- 5) sit plane on she the did?
- 6) did food and water have plane she the on?

Check your questions. Then choose what you think are the **answers** before you read.



- 1) Did she live in Kabul? **Yes/no.**
- 2) Did she go to the airport? **Yes/no.**
- 3) How long did she wait at the airport?  
**3 hours/3 days/3 weeks.**
- 4) Did she sit on the plane? **Yes/no.**
- 5) Did she have food and water on the plane?  
**Yes/no.**

Now read and check your answers

When Leida left her home in Kabul in August 2021, there were so many problems for her. First there was the dangerous journey to the airport. She had to cross the canal and go through Taliban checkpoints with her one-year-old daughter and her husband.

‘We lost everything,’ Leida said. ‘I was in the canal water for hours. It was very dirty. We dropped our bag of food.’

‘I waited for three days at the airport. Then a bomb exploded there. When we got on to the military plane, there were over 200 people there. The plane was for 100 people. There was no place to sit. We stood for nearly 11 hours with my daughter. They did not give us food and water because there was only one toilet. And no one could use the toilet.’

Leida had a lot of problems. How many problems can you find? 5, 6, 7, 10, more than 10?

When Leida left her home in Kabul in August 2021, there were so many problems for her. First there was the dangerous journey to the airport. She had to cross the canal and go through Taliban checkpoints with her one-year-old daughter and her husband.

‘We lost everything,’ Leida said. ‘I was in the canal water for hours. It was very dirty. We dropped our bag of food.’

‘We waited for three days at the airport. Then a bomb exploded there. When we got on to the military plane, there were over 200 people there. The plane was for 100 people. There was no place to sit. We stood for nearly 11 hours with my daughter. They did not give us food and water because there was only one toilet. And no one could use the toilet.’

What do you think happened next?  
Match the sentences. Now read and check.

- 1) Leida and her family went to
- 2) The family were worried about
- 3) Leida was
- 4) Women in Afghanistan must
- 5) Afghan women cannot
- 6) Afghan women must
- 7) The future for Afghanis looks

- a) stay at home.
- b) wear burqas.
- c) Europe.
- d) good.
- e) the future.
- f) study in school or university.
- h) a student in Kabul.
- i) the USA.
- j) a teacher in Herat.
- k) bad.



Leida and her family arrived in Europe. Perhaps they are safe from the Taliban now but they are worried about the future. ‘We don’t know where we will go next. My husband is worried about his job. How will he look after us? I was a university student in Afghanistan. I am not sure if I can still study.’

People say the Taliban are taking women away from their jobs. They must stay at home. They cannot go to school or university. They must wear burqas. Some Afghans helped the government, the British, and the Americans. People say the Taliban are looking for them.

The future for many Afghans looks bad.

# Find the past simple of the verbs in the first text.

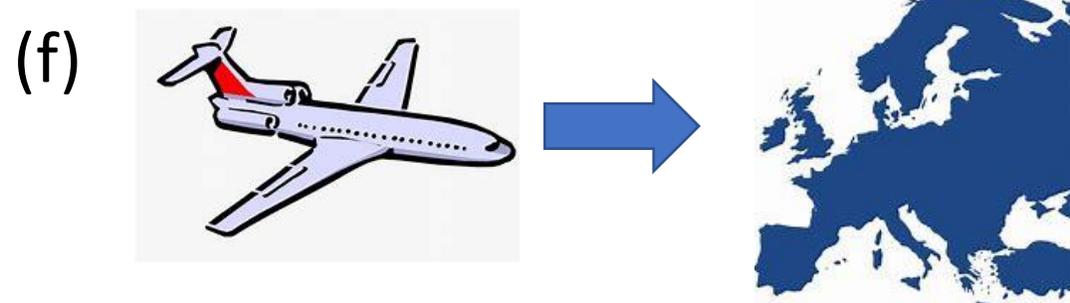
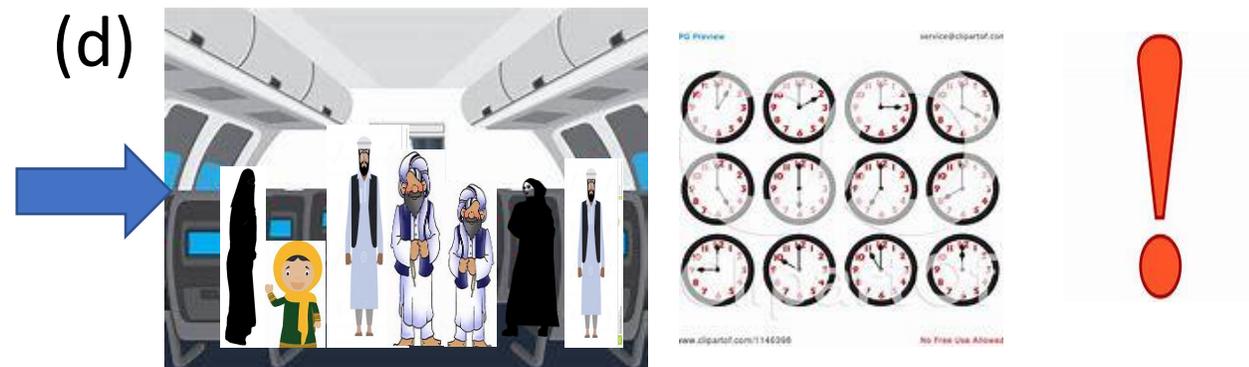
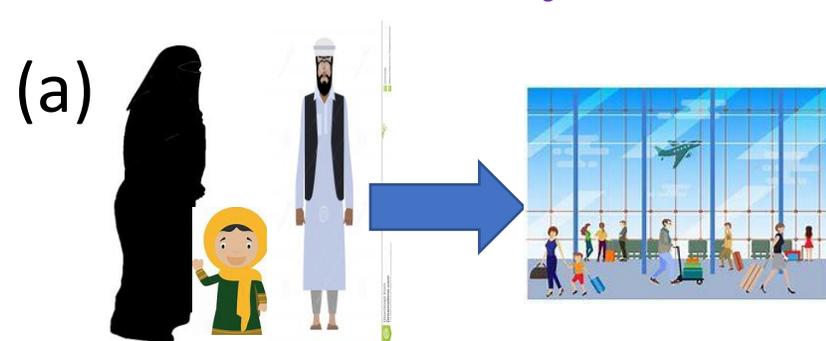
## infinitive

- 1) leave
- 2) have to
- 3) lose
- 4) drop
- 5) wait
- 6) explode
- 7) get to
- 8) stand

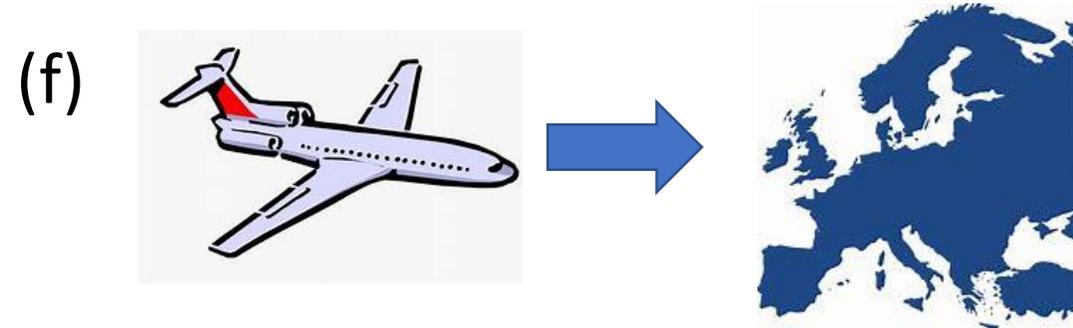
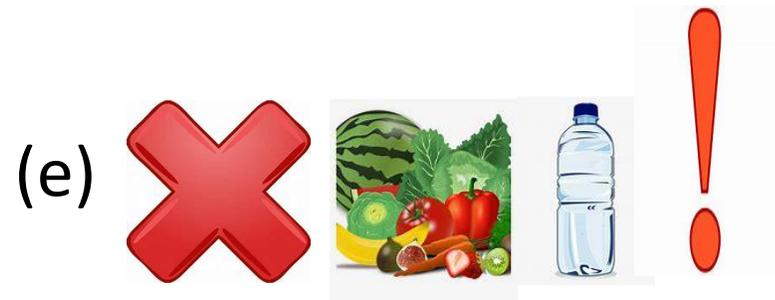
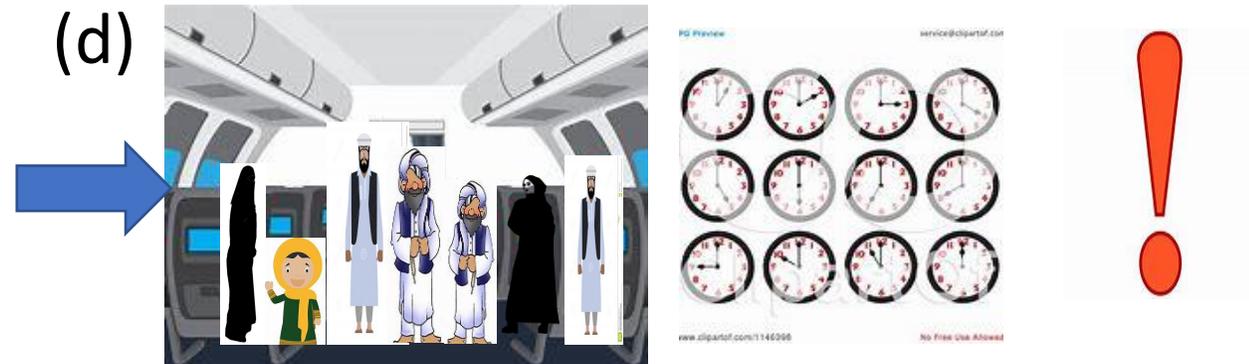
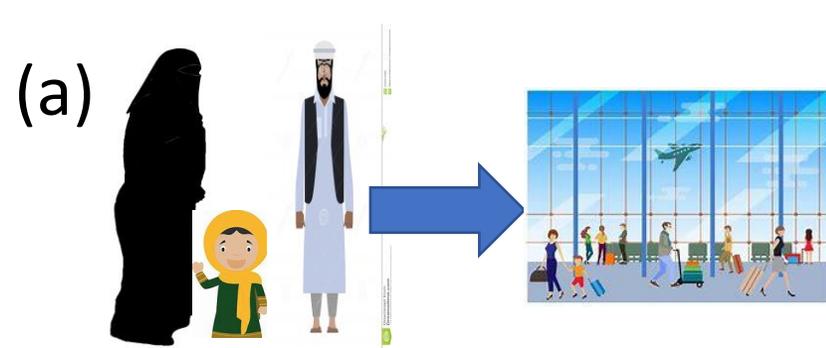
## past simple

- a) *left*
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)
- f)
- g)
- h)

# Leida's story - Are these in the correct order?



# Leida's story. Now tell the story in the past simple



Homework: now try the original article and see how much you can understand.

[https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php?title=%E2%80%98We have lost everything%E2%80%99](https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php?title=%E2%80%98We%20have%20lost%20everything%E2%80%99)