

SCENE 43 • GRAMMAR

Gāju, nācu, atradu

Past stems and an event sequence

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

The festival

Latvian

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Past stems and an event sequence

The simple past describes an earlier action. For **redzēt**: **redzēju, redzēji, redzēja, redzējām, redzējāt, redzēja**. The third person is again shared. Neither masculine nor feminine learners change these finite verb forms.

Regular long-stem verbs use **-ju, -ji, -ja, -jām, -jāt, -ja**: **spēlēju, spēlēji, spēlēja, spēlējām, spēlējāt, spēlēja**. Some first-person forms look like the present, so a time word or context matters.

Common shorter verbs must be learned with their past stem: **iet** → **gāju, nākt** → **nācu, ņemt** → **ņēmu, ēst** → **ēdu, dzert** → **dzēru, atrast** → **atradu**. Negation simply adds **ne-**. Questions still use **vai**. Earlier **samirku** and **piecēlos** were explained whole expressions, not a productive past paradigm.

Tell a sequence with **vispirms**, first, **tad**, then, **pēc tam**, after that. Past sound-change forms are normal vocabulary paradigms: **redzēju**, I saw; **dzirdēju**, I heard; **atradu**, I found.

For **iet**, all persons are **gāju, gāji, gāja, gājām, gājāt, gāja**. Gender changes only an added adjective such as **Es biju noguris/nogurusi**.

Form	Example	Meaning
gāju	Es gāju mājās.	I went home.
gāji	Tu gāji mājās.	You went home, familiar.
gāja	Viņš gāja mājās.	He went home.
gājām	Mēs gājām mājās.	We went home.
gājāt	Jūs gājāt mājās.	You went home, polite.
gāja	Viņi gāja mājās.	They went home.
noguris nogurusi	Es biju noguris. Es biju nogurusi.	I was tired.
noguris nogurusi	Jūs bijāt noguris. Jūs bijāt nogurusi.	You were tired, polite.

Es gāju mājās.

I went home.

Tu gāji mājās.

You went home, familiar.

Viņš gāja mājās.

He went home.

Mēs gājām mājās.

We went home.

Jūs gājāt mājās.

You went home, polite.

Viņi gāja mājās.

They went home.

Es biju nogurusi (**noguris**).

I was tired.

Jūs bijāt nogurusi (noguris).

You were tired, polite.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

1 Es gāju mājās.

Meaning: I went home.

2 Tu gāji mājās.

Meaning: You went home, familiar.

3 Viņš gāja mājās.

Meaning: He went home.

4 Mēs gājām mājās.

Meaning: We went home.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

1 Es _____ mājās.

- ☐ A gājām
- ☐ B gāju
- ☐ C gāji

Meaning: I went home.

2 Tu _____ mājās.

- ☐ A gājāt
- ☐ B gāji
- ☐ C gāju

Meaning: You went home, familiar.

3 Viņš _____ mājās.

- ☐ A gājām
- ☐ B gāja
- ☐ C gāju

Meaning: He went home.

4 Mēs _____ mājās.

- ☐ A gājāt
- ☐ B gājām
- ☐ C gāja

Meaning: We went home.

5 Jūs _____ mājās.

- ☐ A gāju
- ☐ B gājāt
- ☐ C gājām

Meaning: You went home, polite.

6 Viņi _____ mājās.

- ☐ A gāju
- ☐ B gājām
- ☐ C gāja

Meaning: They went home.

7 Es biju _____.

- ☐ A nogurušas
- ☐ B noguruši
- ☐ C nogurusi

Meaning: I was tired.

8 Jūs bijāt _____.

- ☐ A noguruši
- ☐ B nogurušas
- ☐ C nogurusi

Meaning: You were tired, polite.

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

gāja gāju

Viņš _____ mājās.

Meaning: He went home.

gājām gājāt

Mēs _____ mājās.

Meaning: We went home.

gājāt gāju

Jūs _____ mājās.

Meaning: You went home, polite.

gāja gāju

Viņi _____ mājās.

Meaning: They went home.

nogurusi noguruši

Es biju _____.

Meaning: I was tired.

nogurusi noguruši

Jūs bijāt _____.

Meaning: You were tired, polite.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1

mājās.

Es

gāju

Meaning: I went home.

2 Tu mājās. gāji

Meaning: You went home, familiar.

3 Viņš gāja mājās.

Meaning: He went home.

4 Mēs mājās. gājām

Meaning: We went home.

5 mājās. gājāt Jūs

Meaning: You went home, polite.

- 6 mājās. gāja Viņi

Meaning: They went home.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 I went home. You say:

- ☐ A Es gāji mājās.
- ☐ B Es gāju mājās.

2 You went home, familiar. You say:

- ☐ A Tu gāji mājās.
- ☐ B Tu gāju mājās.

3 He went home. You say:

- ☐ A Viņš gāja mājās.
- ☐ B Viņš gāju mājās.

4 We went home. You say:

- (A) Mēs gājām mājās.
- (B) Mēs gājāt mājās.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) Jūs gājāt mājās. | (A) They went home. |
| (2) Mēs gājām mājās. | (B) I went home. |
| (3) Es biju nogurusi. | (C) You went home, familiar. |
| (4) Jūs bijāt nogurusi. | (D) You went home, polite. |
| (5) Es gāju mājās. | (E) You were tired, polite. |
| (6) Viņi gāja mājās. | (F) He went home. |
| (7) Viņš gāja mājās. | (G) I was tired. |
| (8) Tu gāji mājās. | (H) We went home. |