

The Past Simple Tense

This is the basic **Past Tense**. We use it whenever we want to talk about the past, **finished actions, states or habits in the past**.

1: We use it with finished actions, states or habits in the past when we have a finished time word (yesterday, last week, at 2 o'clock, in 2003).

- I **went** to the cinema **yesterday**.
- We **spent** a lot of time in Japan **in 2007**.

2: We use it with finished actions, states or habits in the past when we know from general knowledge that the time period has finished. This includes when the person we are talking about is dead.

- Leonardo **Painted** the Mona Lisa.
- The Vikings **invaded** Britain.

The Past Simple with 'be'

Positive with 'be'	Negative with 'be'	Negative Short Form	Questions with 'Be'
I was cold	I was not sleepy	I wasn't sleepy	was I sleepy?
you were tired	you were not on the bus	you weren't on the bus	were you late?
he was in the garden	he was not at school	he wasn't at school	was he at the cinema?
she was late	she was not beautiful	she wasn't beautiful	was she kind?
it was sunny	it was not cold	it wasn't cold	was it hot?
we were on holiday	we were not at work	we weren't at work	were we hungry?
you were tired	you were not on the bus	you weren't on the bus	were you on the bus?
they were hungry	they were not tired	they weren't tired	were they at work?

The Past Simple with Other Verbs

1) We usually make the positive by adding '-ed' to the infinitive.

⇒ 'ed' in English it's pronounced in *three* different ways. It depends on the letter before:

- ♦ 'id' (**Painted** 'paint-id')
- ♦ 'd' (**played**)
- ♦ 't' (**hoped**)

Regular Verbs make Past Tense Simple usin the Rule: **S + V + ED**

Examples:

We **played** football **yesterday**.

I **cooked** a cake last **weekend**.

The spelling of the simple past form (-ed forms)

1. Regular verbs ending in a silent *e* take /-d/ in the simple past and past participle:
Example:
close=closed
2. Regular verbs ending in a vowel + *y* take /-ed/ in the simple past and past participle:
Example:
play=played
3. Regular verbs ending in a consonant + *y* take /-ied/ in the simple past and past participle (the 'y' becomes an 'i' followed by /-ed/)
Example:
marry=married
4. If there is a consonant after a stressed vowel at the end of the word, double the consonant
stop – stopped
ban - banned
swap - swapped

⚡ In British English we double the last 'l' of words like travel, cancel and level even though the last vowel is not stressed. Here are some examples:

- ⇒ travel - travelled
- ⇒ cancel - cancelled
- ⇒ level - levelled
- ⇒ marvel - marvelled

2) However, there are some **irregular verbs**

Some Common Irregular Verbs

Nr.crt	Infinitive V ₁	Past Simple V ₂	Past participle V ₃	Romanian translation
1.	become /bɪ 'kʌm/	became /bɪ 'keɪm/	become /bɪ 'kʌm/	
2.	begin /bɪ 'gɪn/	began /bɪ 'gæn/	begun /bɪ 'gʌn/	
3.	blow /blou/	blew /blu:/	blown /bloun/	
4.	break /breɪk/	broke /brɔ:k/	broken /'brɔ:kən/	
5.	bring /brɪŋ/	brought /brɔ:t/	brought /brɔ:t/	
6.	build /bɪld/	built /bɪlt/	built /bɪlt/	
7.	burn /bɜ:rn/	burnt /bɜ:rnt/	burnt /bɜ:rnt/	

8.	buy /baɪ/	bought /bɔ:t/	bought /bɔ:t/	
9.	catch /kætʃ/	caught /kɔ:t/	caught /kɔ:t/	
10.	choose /tʃu:z/	chose /tʃoʊz/	chosen /'tʃoʊzən/	
11.	come /kʌm/	came /keɪm/	come /kʌm/	
12.	cost /kɒst/	cost /kɒst/	cost /kɒst/	
13.	cut /kʌt/	cut /kʌt/	cut /kʌt/	
14.	do /du:/	did /dɪd/	done /dʌn/	
15.	draw /drɔ:/	drew /dru:/	drawn /drɔ:n/	
16.	dream /dri:m/	dreamt /dremt/	dreamt /dremt/	
17.	drink /drɪŋk/	drank /dræŋk/	drunk /drʌŋk/	
18.	drive /draɪv/	drove /drouv/	driven /'drɪvən/	
19.	eat /i:t/	ate /eɪt, et/	eaten /'i:tn/	
20.	fall /fɔ:l/	fell /fel/	fallen /'fɔ:lən/	
21.	feel /fi:l/	felt /felt/	felt /felt/	
22.	find /faɪnd/	found /faʊnd/	found /faʊnd/	
23.	fly /flaɪ/	flew /flu:/	flown /floun/	
24.	forget /fər 'get/	forgot /fər 'gɒt/	forgotten /fər 'gɒtn/	
25.	forgive /fər 'gɪv/	forgave /fər 'geɪv/	forgiven /fər 'gɪvən/	
26.	freeze /fri:z/	froze /frouz/	frozen /'frouzən/	
27.	get /get/	got /gɒt/	got /gɒt/	
28.	give /gɪv/	gave /geɪv/	given /'gɪvən/	
29.	go /gou/	went /went/	gone /gɒn/	
30.	grow /grou/	grew /gru:/	grown /groun/	

31.	have /hæv/	had /hæd/	had /hæd/	
32.	hear /hɪər/	heard /hɜ:rd/	heard /hɜ:rd/	
33.	hit /hɪt/	hit /hɪt/	hit /hɪt/	
34.	hurt /hɜ:rt/	hurt /hɜ:rt/	hurt /hɜ:rt/	
35.	keep /ki:p/	kept /kept/	kept /kept/	
36.	know /nou/	knew /nu: /	known /noun/	
37.	learn /lɜ:rn/	learnt /lɜ:rint/	learnt /lɜ:rint/	
38.	leave /li:v/	left /left/	left /left/	
39.	let /let/	let /let/	let /let/	
40.	lose /lu:z/	lost /lɒst/	lost /lɒst/	
41.	make /meɪk/	made /meɪd/	made /meɪd/	
42.	meet /mi:t/	met /met/	met /met/	
43.	pay /peɪ/	paid /peɪd/	paid /peɪd/	
44.	put /pʊt/	put /pʊt/	put /pʊt/	
45.	read /ri:d/	read /red/	read /red/	
46.	ride /raɪd/	rode /roud/	ridden /'rɪdn/	
47.	ring /rɪŋ/	rang /ræŋ/	rung /rʌŋ/	
48.	run /rʌn/	ran /ræn/	run /rʌn/	
49.	say /seɪ/	said /sed/	said /sed/	
50.	see /si:/	saw /sɔ:/	seen /si:n/	
51.	sell /sel/	sold /sould/	sold /sould/	
52.	send /send/	sent /sent/	sent /sent/	
53.	sing /sɪŋ/	sang /sæŋ/	sung /sʌŋ/	

54.	sit /sɪt/	sat /sæt/	sat /sæt/	
55.	sleep /sli:p/	slept /slept/	slept /slept/	
56.	speak /spi:k/	spoke /spouk/	spoken /'spoukən/	
57.	spend /spend/	spent /spent/	spent /spent/	
58.	stand /stænd/	stood /stʊd/	stood /stʊd/	
59.	steal /sti:l/	stole /stoul/	stolen /'stoulən/	
60.	strike /straɪk/	struck /strʌk/	struck /strʌk/	
61.	swim /swɪm/	swam /swæm/	swum /swʌm/	
62.	take /teɪk/	took /tʊk/	taken /'teɪkən/	
63.	teach /ti:tʃ/	taught /tɔ:t/	taught /tɔ:t/	
64.	tell /tel/	told /tould/	told /tould/	
65.	think /θɪŋk/	thought /θɔ:t/	thought /θɔ:t/	
66.	throw /θrou/	threw /θru:/	thrown /θroun/	
67.	understand /ʌndər'stænd/	understood /ʌndər 'stʊd/	understood /ʌndər 'stʊd/	
68.	wake /weɪk/	woke /wouk/	woken /'woukən/	
69.	wear /weəɹ/	wore /wɔɹ/	worn /wɔɹn/	
70.	win /wɪn/	won /wʌn/	won /wʌn/	
71.	write /raɪt/	wrote /rou/	written /'rɪtɪn/	

Irregular verbs examples for Past Simple Tense

I **wrote** some letters **last night**.

She **had** a nice party **last Saturday**.

Rule: S + V₂

↪ In the **negative** both verbs (regular or irregular) use 'did not (didn't) + infinitive':

Rule: S + did + not + V₁ : We **did not play** football, **yesterday**.

I **did not cook** any cake last **weekend**.

I **did not write** any letters **last night**.

She **did not have** a nice party **last Saturday**.

↪ **Questions** are also very easy. Just put 'did' before the subject, and the infinitive after it.

Did you **play** football **yesterday**?

Did you **write** any letters **last night**?

☞ In English, the simple past tense is used for finished actions or situations that began and ended before now. There are three ways to make simple past tense.

☞ In order to show **when** an action or situation happened in the past, particular words and phrases (time adverbials) are often used. Here are some of the most common ones:

1. **yesterday**

This refers to the day before today, but not at any specific time.

2. **last _____**

This time adverbial is similar to **yesterday**, but it can be used with many different time references:

- ✧ last night
- ✧ last week
- ✧ last month
- ✧ last year
- ✧ last Tuesday
- ✧ last summer

3. **a / an / one _____ ago**

A singular noun phrase showing a period of time follows **a**, **an**, or **one**:

- ◆ a / one minute ago
- ◆ an / one hour ago
- ◆ a / one week ago
- ◆ a / one week ago
- ◆ a / one month ago
- ◆ a / one year ago

4. **(plural number or expression) _____ ago**

A plural noun phrase showing a period of time is used before **ago**:

- two minutes ago
- three hours ago
- several days ago
- a few weeks ago

Practice

Past Simple with 'be'

A) Make the past simple (use positive / negative or question):

1. (I / be / at the cinema last night.)

2. (the children / be / naughty?)

3. (we / be / in a cafe when you called.)

4. (I / be / late?)

5. (she / be / a teacher when she was young.)

6. (where / we / be?)

7. (you / be / okay?)

8. (we / be / too tired?)

9. (how / the party / be?)

10. (they / be / late for the interview.)

Past Simple Form Other Verbs

B) Make the past simple, positive, negative or question:

1. I _____ (not / drink) any beer last night.
2. She _____ (get on) the bus in the centre of the city.
3. What time _____ (he / get up) yesterday?
4. Where _____ (you / get off) the train?
5. I _____ (not / change) trains at Victoria.
6. We _____ (wake up) very late.
7. What _____ (he / give) his mother for Christmas?
8. I _____ (receive) £300 when my uncle _____ (die).
9. We _____ (not / use) the computer last night.
10. _____ (she / make) good coffee?
11. They _____ (live) in Paris.
12. She _____ (read) the newspaper yesterday.
13. I _____ (not / watch) TV.
14. He _____ (not / study) for the exam.
15. _____ (he / call) you?
16. _____ (I / forget) something?
17. What time _____ (the film / start)?
18. He _____ (have) a shower.

19. Why _____ (you / come)?
20. _____ (he / go) to the party?

1. She _____ (go) home.
2. We _____ (watch) a film.
3. When _____ (he / arrive)?
4. I _____ (buy) a new car.
5. Where _____ (you / live)?
6. I _____ (play) tennis.
7. Where _____ (you / work) before?
8. _____ (they / come) for lunch?
9. _____ (we / study) this last year?
10. They _____ (drink) coffee.
11. _____ (you / see) that film?
12. We _____ (eat) dinner.
13. You _____ (not / go) out last night.
14. He _____ (study).
15. What _____ (you / watch)?
16. We _____ (not / call) you yesterday.
17. They _____ (not / arrive) on time.
18. It _____ (not / rain).
19. We _____ (not / drink) beer.
20. You _____ (clean) the kitchen.

