

VERBS (2)

Tenses (02) - Simple Past (2)

The Past Simple: in context
2 min-

What is the past simple?



They *worked* at the office yesterday.



We *went* to the cathedral last week.

The Past Simple: Use and Formation

13 min

We use the past simple to talk about something in the past, finished:

Completed actions in the past	Abby <i>traveled</i> to Australia 2 years ago.
Series of completed actions	I <i>left</i> work, <i>walked</i> home, and <i>had</i> dinner.
Duration in the past	He <i>worked</i> for this company for two years.
Habits in the past	I <i>played</i> basketball.
Past facts	She <i>was</i> a good child.

There are 2 types of verbs: regular verbs and irregular verbs. Regular verbs all have the same form. But there are many irregular verbs and they are all different. See the list of irregular verbs.

Affirmative form 

Regular Verbs	Irregular Verbs
to work I/he/she/it/you/we/they <i>worked</i>	to go I/he/she/it/you/we/they <i>went</i>

Negative form 

Regular Verbs	Irregular Verbs
to work I/he/she/it/you/we/they <i>did not work</i>	to go I/he/she/it/you/we/they <i>did not go</i>

Question 

Regular Verbs	Irregular Verbs
to work <i>Did</i> I/he/she/it/you/we/they <i>work?</i>	to go <i>Did</i> I/he/she/it/you/we/they <i>go?</i>

Examples:

Did you *like* this movie? (verb: to like, regular)

Yes, I *liked* this movie. = Yes, I *did*.

No, I *did not like* this movie. = No, I *did not*.

Did you see Sandy at the bar last night? (verb: to see, irregular)

Yes, I *saw* Sandy at the bar last night. = Yes, I *did*.

No, I *did not see* Sandy at the bar last night. = No, I *did not*.

For verbs ending in a consonant plus -y, we change -y to -i and add -ed

Examples:

to hurry → *hurried*

to try → *tried*

When we speak, we use contractions. A contraction is two words put together.

Examples:

didn't= did not

The Past Simple: Language Tips

15 min

Remember that the 'ed' in the end is only in the affirmative form.

Examples:

You *visited*

You *did not visit*

Did you visit?

Remember that the irregular form is only in the affirmative form.

Examples:

They *bought*

They *did not buy*

Did they buy?

In the negative form and in questions, the structure of the sentence is the same as in the present simple, with "did" instead of "do/does".

Examples:

I do not like (present simple) / I did not like (past simple)

Do you like? (present simple) / Did you like? (past simple)

There are 3 possible pronunciations of 'ed' at the end of a verb:

Verb ending in	Pronunciation	Examples
-ted, -ded	-id	visited, needed
-ch, -sh, -gh, -k, -p, -pe, -x	-t	watched, washed, laughed, asked, stopped, hoped, relaxed
other endings	-d	opened, followed

The Past Simple: Formation of 'to be'

5 min

'To be' is different:

Affirmative form ✓	Negative form ✗	Questions ?
I/he/she/it <i>was</i>	I/he/she/it <i>was not</i>	<i>Was</i> I/he/she/it?
you/we/they <i>were</i>	you/we/they <i>were not</i>	<i>Were</i> you/we/they?

Examples:

I *was* a teacher.

They *were* colleagues.

We *were not* in Paris last week.

Was it red or blue?

When we speak, we use contractions. A contraction is two words put together.

Examples:

wasn't = was not

weren't = were not

Writing Exercise

5 min

Complete with the past simple, affirmative form.

1. I _____ last weekend. (to work)
2. My grandmother _____ a very good cook. (to be)
3. We _____ an old car. (to have)
4. They _____ their family in California. (to visit)
5. You _____ with me at the museum. (to be)
6. Fred _____ his bag with him. (to take)
7. My parents _____ to see me two months ago. (to come)
8. I really _____ this movie. (to love)
9. In 2010, Jerry _____ his first house. (to buy)
10. You _____ a new phone. (to want)

Writing Exercise

5 min

Write these sentences in the past simple, negative form.

1. He smoked a lot.

2. Sandra went to a party last week.

3. Their children had many toys.

4. We thought about this problem before.

5. Ashley bought a blue dress on Monday.

6. The manager drove very fast.

7. Your intentions were very clear.

8. I knew his secret.

9. The presentation was very good.

10. The idea came as a surprise.

Writing Exercise

5 min

Write questions.

Example: Jane watched a documentary. Did Jane watch a documentary?

1. The teenagers helped their father.

2. Lynda understood the question.

3. The car stopped at the traffic light.

4. That bed was very old.

5. Anna danced with Peter.

6. You went to Africa 5 years ago.

7. The people were very nice.

8. I drank two glasses of water.

9. The accident happened last night.

10. He read that book three times.

Speaking Exercise with the Instructor

5 min

Listen to your teacher say these sentences. Then, repeat.

1. Sonia thought she understood the question.
2. My wife bought me a gift.
3. I wanted to do more research.
4. She asked for the price.
5. They followed us to the airport.
6. Alfred Nobel founded the Nobel Prizes.
7. I ate a big ham and cheese sandwich.
8. She washed the dirty shirt.
9. The dog stopped barking.
10. I saw this computer at a better price in another store.

Speaking Exercise with the Instructor

5 min

Listen to your teacher's questions. Then, answer.

Example: Did you go to Asia last year? Yes, I did. / No, I didn't.

1. Did you study *German*?
2. Did it rain yesterday?
3. Were you a manager last year?
4. Was it your birthday yesterday?
5. What did you do last weekend?

Speaking Exercise with the Instructor

5 min

Ask your teacher 3 questions.

1. Did you _____?
2. Were you _____?
3. _____?

Watch the Video!

5 min

With this slide show, you will practice the past simple.

Watch the video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Umq8AnN6Cjg&feature=channel_video_title

Watch it again and give the past of the verbs below:

1. to walk: _____
2. to think: _____
3. to go: _____
4. to see: _____
5. to build: _____

Quiz

10 min

True or False?

1. I use the simple past to speak about completed actions in the past.
2. I use the simple past to speak about an action that started in the past and is continuing today.
3. I use the simple past to speak about habits in the past.
4. I use the simple past to speak about next week.

Choose the correct answer:

1. I _____ a teacher in India. (was / were)
2. We _____ young and stupid! (was / were)
3. Walter didn't _____ to Oxford with me. (go / went)
4. _____ you hear the news? (Did / Have)
5. _____ you at home during the storm? (Was / Were)
6. The children _____ for their toys. (asked / askt)

Complete the sentences:

1. The past of 'to listen' is: _____
2. The past of 'to write' is: _____
3. The past of 'to eat' is: _____
4. The past of 'to buy' is: _____