

Past Simple (Pasado simple)

Hay muchas maneras de hablar del pasado en inglés, pero el pasado simple es la forma más común. El pasado simple en inglés es equivalente al pretérito imperfecto y pretérito indefinido del español. Usamos el pasado simple para acciones completas en el pasado. El período de tiempo de estas acciones no es importante como en el español. En el pasado simple hay verbos regulares y verbos irregulares.

Grammatical Rules (Reglas gramaticales)

Form (Forma)

Para formar el pasado simple con verbos regulares, añadimos la terminación "-ed" al verbo. La forma es la misma para todas las personas (I, you, he, she, it, we, they).

Ejemplos:

want → wanted

learn → learned

stay → stayed

walk → walked

Excepciones:

Para verbos que terminan en una "e", sólo añadimos "-d".

Ejemplos:

change → changed

believe → believed

Si el verbo termina en una vocal corta y una consonante (excepto "y" o "w"), doblamos la consonante final.

Ejemplos:

stop → stopped

commit → committed

Con verbos que terminan en una consonante y una "y", se cambia la "y" por una "i".

Ejemplos:

study → studied

try → tried

Nota: Hay muchos verbos irregulares en inglés. Desafortunadamente, no hay una norma establecida para formarlos. A continuación tienes los tres verbos irregulares más comunes y los que actúan como verbos auxiliares.

Verb Past Simple

be was (I, he, she, it) / were (you, we, they)

do did

have had

Pronunciation (Pronunciación)

Pronunciamos la terminación "-ed" de forma diferente dependiendo de la letra que va al final del infinitivo. En general la "e" es muda.

Con los infinitivos que terminan en "p", "f", "k" o "s" (consonantes sordas, excepto "t") pronunciamos la terminación "-ed" como una "t".

Ejemplos:

1. Affirmative Sentences (Frases afirmativas)

Sujeto + verbo principal...

Ejemplos:

The keys were in the drawer. (Las llaves estaban en el cajón.)

I wanted to dance. (Quería bailar.)

He learned English. (Aprendió inglés.)

They believed him. (Le creímos.)

2. Negative Sentences (Frases negativas)

To be:

Sujeto + "to be" + "not"...

Ejemplos:

She wasn't a doctor. (Ella no era doctora.)

The keys weren't in the drawer. (Las llaves no estaban en el cajón.)

Nota: El verbo "to have got", que en el presente simple sigue las mismas reglas que el verbo "to be", no puede ser utilizado en el pasado. Para indicar la posesión en el pasado, usamos el verbo "to have".

Todos los demás verbos:

Sujeto + verbo auxiliar ("to do") + "not" + verbo principal...

Ejemplos:

I didn't want to dance. (No quería bailar.)

He didn't learn English. (No aprendió inglés)

They didn't believe him. (No le creímos.)

Nota: En frases negativas, el verbo auxiliar va en pasado ("did") y el verbo principal se queda en el infinitivo.

3. Interrogative Sentences (Frases interrogativas)

To be:

"To be" + sujeto...?

Ejemplos:

Play Was she a doctor? (¿Ella era doctora?)

Play Were the keys in the drawer? (¿Estaban las llaves en el cajón?)

Todos los verbos demás:

Verbo auxiliar ("to do") + sujeto + verbo principal...?

Ejemplos:

Did you want to dance? (¿Querías bailar?)

Did he learn English? (¿Aprendió inglés?)

Did they believe him? (¿Le creíste?)

Nota: Al igual que en las frases negativas, el verbo auxiliar va en pasado ("did") y el verbo principal se queda en el infinitivo.

Uses (Usos)

El pasado simple se utiliza para hablar de una acción concreta que comenzó y acabó en el pasado. En este caso equivale al pretérito indefinido español.

Generalmente, lo usamos con adverbios de tiempo como "last year", "yesterday", "last night"...

Ejemplos:

Tom stayed at home last night. (Tom se quedó en casa anoche.)

Kate worked last Saturday. (Kate trabajó el sábado pasado.)

I didn't go to the party yesterday. (No fui a la fiesta ayer.)
Did they walk to school this morning? (¿Han andado a la escuela esta mañana?)
Se usa el pasado simple para un serie de acciones en el pasado.

Ejemplos:

I received the good news and immediately called my husband. (Recibí la buena noticia y llamé de inmediato a mi marido.)

He studied for an hour in the morning, worked all afternoon and didn't return home until 10 at night. (Estudió durante una hora por la mañana, trabajó toda la tarde y no regresó a casa hasta las 10 de la noche.)

También lo usamos para acciones repetidas o habituales en el pasado, como se usa el pretérito imperfecto español.

Ejemplos:

We always traveled to Cancun for vacation when we were young. (Siempre viajábamos a Cancun durante las vacaciones cuando éramos jóvenes.)

He walked 5 kilometers every day to work. (Caminaba 5 kilómetros hasta el trabajo cada día.)

Lo usamos para narraciones o acciones de períodos de largo tiempo en el pasado, como el pretérito imperfecto español.

Ejemplos:

She didn't eat meat for 6 years. (No comía carne durante 6 años.)

Se utiliza para hablar de generalidades o hechos del pasado.

Ejemplos:

The Aztec lived in Mexico. (Los aztecas vivían en México)

I played the guitar when I was a child. (Tocaba la guitarra cuando era niño.)

PAST SIMPLE TENSE

We use the Past Simple to talk about a PAST and FINISHED action at a certain moment or a period in the past:

A week/ a month / a year **ago**

Last year / month / week

Yesterday....

In ... (past date)

RULES

In the AFFIRMATIVE FORM *regular verbs* add – **ed** or –**d** (if the verb ends in “e”):

Talk ----- talked

Like ----- liked

Irregular verbs need to be learned, they are in the list you can find in your grammar book:

Write ----- wrote

Go ----- went

RULES

In the NEGATIVE AND INTERROGATIVE FORMS we use the auxiliary verb “to do” at the past tense (DID), and the main verb goes in the base form (without “to”):

You didn't write a letter

Did you write a letter?

SHORT ANSWERS

Did she **go** to the cinema yesterday? Yes, she **did**
No, she **didn't**

Positive form	Negative Form	Question form
I worked	I didn't (=did not) work	Did I work?
You worked	You didn't work	Did you work?
We worked	We didn't work	Did we work?
They worked	They didn't work	Did they work?
She worked	She didn't work	Did she work?
He worked	He didn't work	Did he work?
It worked	It didn't work	Did it work?

PAST SIMPLE									
AUXILIARY VERBS:					REGULAR VERBS				
AUXILIARY VERBS + MODAL VERBS TO BE, CAN, MUST, SHOULD, etc...					TO WORK, TO LIVE, TO DO, etc				
The auxiliary DID to form the Past S. is not necessary					The auxil. DID to form the Past S. is essential				
TO BE			CAN			TO WORK			
AFFIRMATIVE			AFFIRMATIVE			AFFIRMATIVE			
I	was		I	could			I	work	ed
You	were		You	could			You	work	ed
He	was		He	could			He	work	ed
We	were		We	could			We	work	ed
You	were		You	could			You	work	ed
They	were		They	could			They	work	ed
NEGATIVE			NEGATIVE			NEGATIVE			
I	was	not	I	could	not	I	did	not	work
You	were	not	You	could	not	You	did	not	work
He	was	not	He	could	not	He	did	not	work
We	were	not	We	could	not	We	did	not	work
You	were	not	You	could	not	You	did	not	work
They	were	not	They	could	not	They	did	not	work
INTERROGATIVE			INTERROGATIVE			INTERROGATIVE			
Was	I	?	Could	I	?	Did	I	work	?
Were	you	?	Could	you	?	Did	you	work	?
Was	he	?	Could	he	?	Did	he	work	?
Were	we	?	Could	we	?	Did	we	work	?
Were	you	?	Could	you	?	Did	you	work	?
Were	they	?	Could	they	?	Did	they	work	?
	I was			I could			I did		
	Yes, he was			Yes, he could			Yes, he did		
	they were			they could			they did		
	I wasn't			I couldn't			I didn't		
	No, he wasn't			No, he couldn't			No, he didn't		
	they weren't			they couldn't			they didn't		

SIMPLE PAST TENSE (Pasado Simple)		
MODO AFIRMATIVO	MODO INTERROGATIVO	MODO NEGATIVO
I played Yo jugué	Did I play? ¿Jugué yo?	I did not play Yo no jugué
You played Tú jugaste	Did you play? ¿Jugaste tú?	You did not play Tú no jugaste
He played Él jugó	Did he play? ¿Jugó él?	He did not play Él no jugó
She played Ella jugó	Did she play? ¿Jugó ella?	She did not play Ella no jugó
It played Él/Ella jugó	Did it play? ¿Jugó él / ella?	It did not play Él / Ella no jugó
We played Nosotros jugamos	Did we play? ¿Jugamos nosotros?	We did not play Nosotros no jugamos
You played Ustedes jugaron	Did you play? ¿Jugaron ustedes?	You did not play Ustedes no jugaron
They played Ellos jugaron	Did they play? ¿Jugaron ellos?	They did not play Ellos no jugaron