

PAST SIMPLE

We use the past simple to talk about finished actions, events or situations in the past. We often use time phrases such as *yesterday*, *last year* and *two years ago*.

I looked for a new pair of shoes yesterday.

For regular verbs, we add *-ed* to the infinitive (without *to*), or *-d* if the infinitive ends in *-e*.

We change a final *-y* to *-i* and we double a final consonant.

work – worked	live – lived
try – tried	stop – stopped

There are some common irregular verbs where the form changes completely (or is the same as the infinitive).

be – was / were	go – went	put – put
-----------------	-----------	-----------

To make the negative, we use *didn't* (*did not*) with the infinitive (without *to*). We use *wasn't* / *weren't* for the verb *be*.

I didn't buy my friend a birthday present.

She wasn't very happy.

To make past simple questions, we use *did* + the infinitive (without *to*). We use *was* / *were* for the verb *be*. The word order is: (question word) + *did* + subject + infinitive (without *to*).

Where did he go yesterday?

Were you at home last night?

1 Complete the text with the past simple of the irregular verbs in brackets.

Al's day out

⌚ Last weekend, I spent (spend) an enjoyable day shopping.

I ¹ get up (get up) early and I ² catch (catch) a bus to the new shopping centre with my friend at nine o'clock. Quite soon, I ³ find (find) a great shop and ⁴ buy (buy) a jacket. I ⁵ not pay (not pay) much for it, so it ⁶ a real bargain! (a real bargain!)

My friend and I then ⁷ have (have) a delicious long lunch in an Italian restaurant.

We ⁸ not leave (not leave) the shopping centre until five o'clock.

2 Look at the answers and write the questions about Al's day out. Use the question words *what*, *who*, *when* and *where*.

⌚ What did he do last weekend? He went shopping.

1	<u>get up</u>	Early.
2	<u>catch</u>	To the new shopping centre.
3	<u>find</u>	At nine o'clock.
4	<u>buy</u>	With his friend.
5	<u>not pay</u>	A great shop.
6	<u>a real bargain!</u>	A jacket.
7	<u>have</u>	At an Italian restaurant.
8	<u>not leave</u>	

COMPARATIVES

We add *-er* to the end of short adjectives and adverbs of one syllable when we compare two things or groups of things. Note there are some spelling changes. We use *more* or *less* before two- or three-syllable adjectives and adverbs.

Racing bikes are lighter and faster than normal bikes.

Racing bikes are usually more expensive than normal bikes.

When we want to say that there is a big difference between things, we can use *much* or *a lot* before the comparative adjective / adverb. We can use *a bit* to say there is a small difference. *My new racing bike is a lot faster. My old racing bike was a bit heavier.*

To say that something is the same, we can use *as + adjective / adverb + as*. If it isn't the same, we can use *not as + adjective / adverb + as*.

My new bike is as comfortable as my old bike.

Normal bikes aren't as fast as racing bikes.

Some comparatives are irregular, for example, *good / well* – better and *bad / badly* – worse.

Write sentences comparing two things. Use the ideas in brackets.

1 Reading electronic books / reading printed books (not / enjoyable)

2 Reading electronic books isn't as enjoyable as reading printed books.

3 Tablets / laptops (much / cheap)

4 My new flat / my old one (a bit / big)

5 Shopping online / going to the shops (much / easy)

6 Jobs here / jobs in my country (not / well-paid)

7 The weather here / in my country (not / hot)

8 In the city, a bike / a car (much / good)

9 Department stores / second-hand shops (a lot / expensive)

10 The blue dress / the yellow dress (much / pretty)