

Common mistakes with past tense verbs

When speaking about the past, don't use present tense verbs. Use past tense verbs.

Incorrect	Correct
Yesterday, I <u>work</u> all day.	Yesterday, I <u>worked</u> all day.

Don't add **ed** to irregular past tense verbs.

Incorrect	Correct
I <u>drinked</u> two cups of coffee yesterday.	I <u>drank</u> two cups of coffee yesterday.

Use **was** and **were** for the past tense of **to be**.

Incorrect	Correct
Laura <u>is</u> at work yesterday.	Laura <u>was</u> at work yesterday.

In negative past tense sentences, don't use a past tense verb. Use the base verb with **did not** or **didn't**.

Incorrect	Correct
We didn't <u>went</u> to Los Angeles.	We <u>didn't go</u> to Los Angeles.

Don't use **no** in negative past tense sentences.

Incorrect	Correct
I <u>no</u> buy soda.	I <u>didn't</u> buy soda.

Think about it

- If the sentence is correct, put an X in the *Correct* box.
- If the sentence is not correct, put an X in the *Incorrect* box. Then correct the sentence.

	Correct	Incorrect
1. The bus ^{was} is late yesterday.		X
2. My brother got a new computer yesterday.		
3. My sister comed to my house yesterday.		
4. I didn't has a job last year.		
5. Last year, I lived in Riyadh and work in Dammam.		

	Correct	Incorrect
6. I no call you because I was sick.		
7. Hue Park brushed his hair, but he no brush his teeth.		
8. Yesterday I leave my keys in my car.		
9. Five years ago, I didn't speak English.		
10. Derrick study English two years ago.		
11. My daughter was sick yesterday, but I didn't stayed home.		
12. I no come to class yesterday.		
13. My boss called me last night.		
14. Rawan's mother came to Malaysia seven years ago.		
15. The weather is cold and rainy last week.		
16. Two years ago I live in Riyadh.		
17. Last year Mina get very sick.		
18. Ainuo start her new job a month ago.		
19. Your class started an hour ago.		
20. My partner no come to class today.		

Practice 11.2: In this paragraph there are 10 errors with affirmative and negative past tense verbs. Correct them.

I have a great time at the park yesterday. I goed there alone. I ran around the track a few times. Then I see my friend Chad. We talk for about 15 minutes. Then we meet our friends Mike and Juan. They want to play soccer with some other friends. We had a great game. I am the goalie. My team no win. It no was close. The score was five to zero. I was tired after the game, but I haved a very good time.