06 Past simple
I played; he made

1 Two examples of the **past simple**:
*I **went** to London with two friends last summer.*
*We **stayed** in a hotel near Hyde Park.*

2 To make the positive form of the **past simple** we add **-ed** to **regular verbs**:

POSITIVE	
I/you he/she/it we/you/they	**asked**

→ For **-ed** spelling changes (e.g. try/tried), see p. 128.

3 But many common verbs have **irregular past simple** forms. Look at these examples:

break/broke	buy/bought	catch/caught
come/came	do/did	drink/drank
eat/ate	find/found	forget/forgot
go/went	have/had	know/knew
leave/left	lose/lost	make/made
meet/met	pay/paid	run/ran
read/read	see/saw	sell/sold
send/sent	speak/spoke	spend/spent
take/took	win/won	write/wrote

The verb **be** has two past forms: **was** and **were.**

BE: POSITIVE			
Singular	I/he/she/it **was**	**Plural**	we/you/they **were**

*Chris and I **were** in Scotland at the weekend, and it **was** very cold!*

→ For a full list of irregular past participles, see p. 129.

4 We use the **past simple** for finished past actions:
*Liz **lived** in Madrid for two years. She **had** a fantastic time there.* (Liz doesn't live in Madrid now.)

*When Mike **was** a child, he **spent** every summer holiday in Cornwall.* (Mike isn't a child now.)

5 We often use **expressions for a finished time** with the past simple to talk about when things happened in the past:
*I lost my watch **last week**, but I found it in the bathroom **this morning**.*
*Josie phoned about **ten minutes ago**.*

6 We use the **past simple** to talk about recent actions in finished time periods, to talk about our past, to tell stories and to talk about history.

→ For **past simple negatives** and **questions**, see p. 24.

Grammar in action

1 We use the **past simple** to talk about recent actions in finished time periods – things we did last week, at the weekend, yesterday or this morning:
I went to Brighton last Sunday with Katie. We had a picnic on the beach. It was really nice.



2 We use the **past simple** to tell people about our lives in the past:
I studied music at college, and we started a band. We played at parties.

We often describe holidays and trips:
My brother travelled by bus from Brazil to Chile when he was a student. He spent a month in Santiago and met a lot of interesting people.

3 We use the **past simple** to tell true stories (lists of past actions) about ourselves, our families and friends:
I heard a loud noise, so I went downstairs, and I saw a big black dog in the kitchen.

We also tell fictional stories (children's stories and novels):
A long time ago, an old man lived with his beautiful young daughter in a small house.



A Talking about things we did last week

Tim and Greta meet at the photocopier at work. Make forms of the past simple.

GRETA Did you have a good weekend, Tim?
TIM Not bad, thanks. My brother and his wife arrived [1] (My brother and his wife/arrive) from Scotland on Friday evening, and ..... [1] (they/stay) with us until Sunday lunchtime.

WORD FOCUS
To take it easy means 'to relax', e.g. 'I'm tired. I'm taking it easy today.'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GRETA Really? What did you do?

TIM Not much. ..... [2] (We/talk) a lot, of course, and ..... [3] (we/see) a film on Saturday night. Then ..... [4] (we/eat) at that French restaurant, 'Serge's'. What about you? Did you have a good weekend?

GRETA Yes, ... [5] (it/be) OK, thanks. ..... [6] (I/go) into town on Saturday morning and ..... [7] (I/meet) Dave, and ..... [8] (we/do) some shopping. Then ..... [9] (we/watch) United in the afternoon. ..... [10] (They/lose) again, of course. And on Sunday, ... [11] (I/take) it easy.

TIM Well, you need a rest now and again.

B Telling people about a holiday

In this email message, choose the right verb, and make forms of the past simple.

Hi Ed,

Thanks for your message. I think you're working too hard. You need a long holiday. Last year, Barry, the kids and I spent [0] (spend/live) four weeks in Cornwall. It ..... [1] (have/be) great! We ..... [2] (find/stay) a really nice little house near the sea. We ..... [3] (go/get) for walks, and we ..... [4] (buy/make) food from the local farms. We ..... [5] (cook/clean) dinner at home most nights, we ..... [6] (read/look) books instead of watching TV, and the kids ..... [7] (run/play) games in the garden. It rained sometimes, of course, but we ..... [8] (spend/enjoy) every day. I ..... [9] (take/watch) a few photos the day before we ..... [10] (leave/miss). I'll send you them, and give you the address of the house!

Best wishes, Stephanie

C Telling true stories about our family

Graham is writing about his Italian grandfather. Add these verbs in the past simple form:

wake stay wear lose tell go marry come
sell spend catch become drink

My grandfather, Alfredo, borrowed £70 and went [0] to Egypt when he was twenty. He wanted to make money. He studied Arabic. He ..... [1] Arabic clothes. He spoke to the old men in the markets. He ..... [2] tea with them. When he was hungry, he ..... [3] fish. Sometimes he washed dishes in restaurants. Then one day an old man ..... [4] him to buy coffee. He travelled about, and bought all the coffee he could find from farmers. He ..... [5] about £50. Then he waited. The following year, 1947, the price of coffee increased by 200%. So he ..... [6] his coffee and made his first profit. After that, he worked hard. He ..... [7] every morning at 6 a.m. He bought things when they were cheap, and he sold them if they ..... [8] expensive! Sometimes he ..... [9] money, of course, but in the end he became very rich. In 1955, he ..... [10] my grandmother, the daughter of an Egyptian farmer. He ..... [11] in Egypt for another 15 years. Then he returned to Italy with my grandmother and a baby son, my father. He built a factory in Naples. But his son, Davide, ... [12] to England, where I was born.

WORD FOCUS

Before you begin, make sure you know the meaning of these three business words: *to borrow*, *a profit*, and *a factory*.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

06 Past simple
We didn't go; did they see?

7 Look at this dialogue:

***Did** you **see** Stella yesterday? ~ No, she **didn't come** to college.*

8 We make the **negative form** of the **past simple** like this:

subject + did not/didn't + verb

***I didn't go** to the game.*

NEGATIVE	
I/you he/she/it we/you/they	**did not/didn't wait**

9 We normally make the question form of the **past simple** like this:

YES/NO QUESTIONS Did + subject + verb
Did I/you/he/she/it/we/you/they **write** to Tim?

QUESTIONS WITH QUESTION WORDS Question word + did + subject + verb
When did I/you/he/she/it/we/you/they **arrive**?

***When did** Shakespeare **die**? (The answer is 1616.)*

TIP

We must use **did/didn't/Did...?** with the verb **do** too:

*Did they **do** their homework? ~ Yes, but they **didn't do** the dishes.*

10 With **be**, we don't use **did not/didn't** or **Did...?**:

BE: NEGATIVE	
Singular	*I/you/he/she/it **was not/wasn't** in the garden.*
Plural	*You/we/they **were not/weren't** at home.*

BE: QUESTIONS	
Singular	***Was** I/you/he/she/it late?*
Plural	***Were you**/we/they right?*

Grammar in action

4 We use the **past simple** to talk about national and world history:

Tony Blair was the British Prime Minister from 1997 to 2007. He won three general elections in 1997, 2001 and 2005.



D Sunday evening

Maggie, Dave and Pete are students. Maggie is returning to their flat on Sunday evening. Use the words in brackets to make questions or negative forms.

MAGGIE I'm back! Hi Dave. Did you finish your essay [0] ? (you/finish your essay)

DAVE No, I'm tired today. ..... [1] (I/not do anything) this afternoon. ..... [2] ? (you see Jenny)

MAGGIE No, ... [3] . (she/not be at home) But I met Joanna, the new American student, in town.

PETE Oh. ..... [4] ? (she/be OK)

MAGGIE I think so, but ..... [5] (she/not talk very much).

DAVE ..... [6] (you/invite her to our party) next weekend?

MAGGIE Yes. I'm sure she'll come. ..... [7] (What/you do all afternoon,) Pete? ..... [8] (you/make a wonderful dinner) for us?

PETE No I didn't, I'm afraid. But my parents arrived at two o'clock with a fantastic new TV for the flat.

MAGGIE Well, that's kind of them. ..... [9] (When/they leave?)

PETE About an hour ago. Do you want a cup of coffee, Maggie?

DAVE Oh. ..... [10] (I/not get any milk this morning,) Pete.

MAGGIE Black coffee is fine. What's on TV?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

E Going on holiday

John and Liz are driving to the airport for a two-week holiday. Put the words in brackets in the right order to make questions and negative forms of the past simple. Use capital letters to start your answers.

JOHN Did you lock the front door, Liz [0] (lock/you/the front door, Liz/did)?

LIZ Yes, definitely. But I didn't make any sandwiches [0] (make/I/any sandwiches/didn't).

JOHN ..... [1] (forget/you/did)?

LIZ No, ... [2] (didn't/I/time/have). We'll get something at the airport. ..... [3] (your passport/under the bed/was)?

JOHN Yes. *(Later)* ..... [4] (you/email Sally/did)?

LIZ Yes, last night. She's going to feed the cat every day. ..... [5] (a key/did/you/give her)?

JOHN Of course. But I forgot one thing. ..... [6] (didn't/the windows upstairs/check/I). Oh dear. ..... [7] (open/were/they)?

LIZ No, I closed them. *(Later)* Are you going to work on holiday this time?

JOHN ..... [8] (my laptop/pack/no,/didn't/I).

LIZ Good. We both need a break.

WORD FOCUS

Put the correct verb next to the definitions:

to check *to feed* *to lock*

A to close with a key .....

B to give food to an animal or a baby .....

C to look at something to see if it's OK .....

F An accident in the mountains of Iran

Julie is telling Brad about her trip to Iran with two friends. Add these words to the conversation:

broke stayed walk ~~have~~ carried was were didn't made arrived what fixed put

BRAD Hi Julie! Did you have [0] a good trip? What's wrong with your leg?

JULIE I'll tell you. We ..... [1] in Esfahan by train, but we ..... [2] want to spend all our time in the city.

BRAD So ..... [3] did you do?

JULIE We took a taxi one afternoon to the village of Hafeshjan in the Zagros mountains. The local people ..... [4] very friendly. We found a small hotel, and we ..... [5] the night there.

BRAD And ..... [6] hotel comfortable?

JULIE Yes, the hotel wasn't the problem. Next morning we started our walk in a forest outside the village. We didn't ..... [7] fast, because it was already hot. Soon we saw some rocks and a cave. Then I ..... [8] a big mistake. I went into the cave. I couldn't see anything, and I ..... [9] my foot on a wet rock. I fell and ..... [10] my leg. Jim and Daniel ..... [11] me back to the village. When we got to the hotel, they phoned for a taxi, and they ..... [12] my leg in the hospital in Esfahan!



OVER TO YOU Now go to page 123.

LIVEWORKSHEETS