

# Past Simple (Regular/Irregular Verbs)

## Use

We use the past simple:

- for actions which happened at a definite stated time in the past, that is, we know when they happened.

They got married 15 years ago.  
(When did they get married? 15 years ago.)



- for repeated actions which happened in the past but don't happen any more. In this case we can use adverbs of frequency (e.g. always, often, usually, etc.).

My father often took me to the playground when I was little.



- for actions which happened one after the other in the past.



First, they had lunch.



Then, they met some friends.

## Time Expressions

Other time expressions used with past simple apart from those on page 51 include: last Monday/ Tuesday etc., then, when

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Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form of the past simple.

- "...Did you go... to school yesterday?"  
"No, it was Sunday." (you/go)
- He ..... an interesting book last month. (read)
- I looked for my keys but I ..... them. (not/find)
- I wasn't hungry so I ..... anything. (not/eat)
- "..... to Fred yesterday?"  
"Yes, I phoned him." (you/speak)
- "..... the ball?" "Yes, but nobody answered." (you/throw)
- "What was that noise?" "I ..... anything." (not/hear)
- "What ..... for breakfast?"  
"Bacon and eggs." (they/have)
- "How many books .....?"  
"Only one." (you/buy)
- He ..... his presents on Christmas morning. (open)
- I ..... my clothes on Sunday afternoon. (wash)

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First, put the verbs in brackets in the past simple, then match the beginning of the sentences to their endings.

- |                                                       |                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 John ...was... (be) tired, so                       | a he ..... to the dentist.         |
| 2 Peter ..... (need) some money, so                   | b he ..... (call) the police.      |
| 3 Anna ..... (not/like) the film, so                  | c I ..... (take) an aspirin.       |
| 4 Sophia and Mary ....                                | d she ..... (shout) at them.       |
| ..... (miss) the bus, so                              | e he ..... (go) to the bank.       |
| 5 Somebody ..... (steal) Mr Jones' car, so            | f he ...went... (go) to bed early. |
| 6 The children ..... (break) their mother's watch, so | g they ..... (take) a taxi.        |
| 7 I ..... (not/feel) well, so                         | h she ..... (leave) the cinema.    |
| 8 Mike ..... (have) toothache, so                     |                                    |

- |           |         |         |         |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 ...f... | 3 ..... | 5 ..... | 7 ..... |
| 2 .....   | 4 ..... | 6 ..... | 8 ..... |