

PAST SIMPLE TENSE

TO BE

VERBS

+

S + Was/were
They were friends.

S + V-ed
She worked yesterday.

-

S + was not/were not + ...
They weren't friends.

S + did not + verb (base form)
She didn't work yesterday.

?

Was/Were + S + ...?
They weren't friends.

Did + S + verb (in base form)?
Did she work yesterday?

Usage

Example

To express completed action in the past

I saw a ghost last Friday.

To describe a series of completed actions in the past

I finished work, walked to the beach, and found a nice place to swim.

To express habits in the past

When I was young, I watched lots of television every day after school.

For stative verbs (have (own), be, think (believe), know, dislike, need, owe, wish

He had a small cottage in the woods.