

Past simple: regular and irregular

Look at the sentences:

I **booked** the flights yesterday.

When I was young, I **watched** TV every day.

Did you **work** yesterday? Yes, I **did**.

Did you **watch** the match last night? No, I **didn't**.

- We use the past simple to talk about **finished actions** in the past, either recently, or a long time in the past.
- We form the **positive** form of the past simple by adding **-ed** to the **base form** of regular verbs. It's the same form in all persons.
Work + ed → *worked*
- Some verbs have the following spelling variations:
 - Verbs which end in -e: add only -d;
Arrive → arrived use → used
 - Some verbs which end in consonant + vowel + consonant: double the final consonant and add -ed;
Stop → **stopped** travel → travelled
 - Verbs which end in consonant + -y: remove the -y and add -ied;
Study → studied tidy → tidied
 - Verbs which end in vowel + -y: add -ed.
Stay → stayed play → played
- Irregular verbs have their own forms (e.g.: go – went; do – did);
- To form the **negative** form, we use **did not/didn't** + **base form** in all persons;
Didn't/did not play
- To form the **interrogative** form, we use **did** + **subject** + **base form** + ? in all persons.;
Did you play tennis yesterday? Yes, I did. No, I didn't.

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE

VISIT (regular)	GO (irregular)
I/you/she/we/you/they VISITED	I/you/he/we/you/they WENT
I/you/she/we/you/they DIDN'T VISIT	I/you/he/we/you/they DIDN'T GO

QUESTIONS AND SHORT ANSWERS

DID I/you/he/we/you/they VISIT/GO?	DID I/you/he/we/you/they VISIT/GO?
Yes, I/you/he/we/you/they VISIT/GO DID	No, I/you/he/we/you/they DID NOT/DIDN'T VISIT/GO

Past time expressions

To indicate when something happened in the past, we use past time expressions:

- With **ago**: three minutes, two hours, five days, two weeks, ten years + AGO
I called Sally two days ago.
- We can also use:
Yesterday + morning/afternoon/evening → *He came to my house yesterday afternoon.*
Last + night/Sunday/weekend/week/month/year → *I went to the cinema last night.*

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1 SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

Complete the rules and write your own example for each rule.

+ regular verbs: base form + _____. ex: _____

X All verbs: _____ + base form. ex: _____

Be

? (Question word +) was/_____ + subject (+adjective)? Ex:

☐ Yes, + subject pronoun + ____/were. Ex: _____

☐ No, + subject pronoun + wasn't/_____. Ex: _____

Other verbs

? (Question word +) _____ + subject + base form? Ex:

☐ Yes, + subject pronoun + _____. Ex:

☐ No, + subject pronoun + didn't. Ex:

2 Write the past simple form of the following regular verb.

1 Ask → _____

6 Study → _____

2 Cry → _____

7 Travel → _____

3 Dance → _____

8 Rain → _____

4 Plan → _____

9 Enjoy → _____

5 Open → _____

10 Miss → _____

3 Complete the dialogue with the Past Simple of the verbs in brackets.

A Is this your first time in the UK, Anna?

B No, I _____ (visit) Scotland last year.

A Really? I love Scotland! Where _____ (you/stay)?

B We _____ (stay) in Edinburgh. We _____ (book) a hotel online, but unfortunately when we _____ (arrive) we _____ (not/like) it. So, we _____ (change) our plans. I _____ (look) on a travel website and there was an apartment in the middle of the city. I _____ (phone) the number and a very nice woman _____ (answer). Good news! The apartment was free for the week. It was great! What about you? When _____ (you/go) to Scotland?

A Oh, a long time ago. I _____ (start) a university course there. I _____ (not/finish) the course, but I _____ (love) Scotland!

4 Write the past simple form of the following irregular verb.

1 Go → _____

6 Make → _____

2 Come → _____

7 Hear → _____

3 Put → _____

8 Find → _____

4 Take → _____

9 Drink → _____

5 Write → _____

10 Fly → _____

5 Complete the dialogue with the correct form of the Past Simple of the verbs in brackets.

A I _____ (not/see) you at work yesterday morning. _____ (you/miss) your bus?



- B No, I _____ (get up) very late. I _____ (have) a bad night and I _____ (not/get) much sleep.
- A Oh! _____ (you/eat) something bad?
- B No, my daughter _____ (have) a bad headache.
- A _____ (you/take) her to the doctor?
- B No, we _____ (call) the doctor and he _____ (come) to our house. But she's fine now. She _____ (not/want) to stay in bed and she _____ (go) to school at lunchtime.
- A Oh, that's good. _____ (you/write) that email to NEC this morning?
- B No, sorry, I _____ (forget). But it's OK. The manager is sick today.

6 Rewrite the sentences in the negative (-) or interrogative (?) form.

- 1 Armstrong landed on the moon in 1967. (?)
- 2 She dived into the swimming pool. (?)
- 3 The passengers came from Russia. (-)
- 4 Our children played in the garden all afternoon. (?)
- 5 I had a bad experience on the journey. (-)
- 6 Lucy ate a delicious meal in the restaurant. (?)
- 7 We got tired after running 5 kilometres. (-)
- 8 They spent the afternoon watching tennis. (-)

7 For each sentence, write a question and a short answer, positive (+) or negative (-).

- 1 She went to work at 7 o'clock. _____ (-) _____
- 2 Danny and Ryan worked hard. _____ (+) _____
- 3 He lost his cat. _____ (+) _____
- 4 You left early yesterday. _____ (-) _____
- 5 The shop closed at 3 p.m. _____ (+) _____

8 Match the sentences with the time expressions.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 He posted the letter on ... | |
| 2 We bought a new car last ... | |
| 3 I first met Sandra three years ... | a) 20 minutes. |
| 4 The journey only took ... | b) 1936 to 1939 |
| 5 The Spanish Civil War lasted from ... | c) Monday |
| 6 The accident happened at ... | d) About ten o'clock. |
| | e) Ago. |
| | f) Month |

9 Correct the mistakes in the following sentences.

- 1 Adam died ago four years.
- 2 My grandfather had got green eyes
- 3 John Lennon sung with the Beatles.
- 4 I didn't kept the letter.
- 5 When first did you meet Sophie?
- 6 My grandfather haved a job in a factory.
- 7 A lot of people not worked in 1930s.
- 8 Julia playd tennis last Saturday.
- 9 I didn't go out yesterday night.
- 10 You went to the stadium on Monday?