Simple Past

(verb + -ed or past form of irregular verb)

Actions that happened in the past

(Past simple is often time specific; last week, yesterday, on Monday etc)

- I my tooth last week. (break)
- Last year he only two candles on his cake. (has)
- He very dirty until he had a bath. (is)
- They very hard for this. (work)
- Yesterday she for some money. (ask)

Past habits or states which are now finished.

(In such cases we can use the expression 'used to')

- When he was young **he used** to ride his bike to school.
- In my younger days, I suffer from asthma.

Completed past actions, not connected to the present, with a stated or an implied time reference.

- John Lennon made lots of records. (He is deceased and won't be making any more records – implied time reference. As opposed to: Paul McCartney has made lots of records. (Present perfect) He has made lots of records and will probably make more.)
- My uncle passed away last week.
  He was a keen traveller who many countries. (visit)
  (If he was still alive we would say 'he has visited many countries'.)
- My father many books before he died. (write)
- My mother many books and is busy working on another. (write)

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