Simple Past Workshop

What is the simple past tense?

The simple past (also called past simple, past indefinite or preterite) is a verb tense which is used to show that a completed action took place at a specific time in the past.

The simple past is formed using the verb + ed. In addition, there are many verbs with irregular past forms. Questions are made with did and negative forms are made with did not.

Affirmative Structure: Subject + Verb in past + complement

Negative Structure: Subject + did + Verb in present + complement

Questions: did + Subject + verb in present + complement?

E.g. :

- Affirmative: You called Debbie.
- Question: Did you call Debbie?
- Negative: You did not call Debbie.

Simple Past Uses

USE 1 Completed Action in the Past

Use the simple past to express the idea that an action started and finished at a specific time in the past. Sometimes, the speaker may not actually mention the specific time, but they do have one specific time in mind.

Examples:

- I **saw** a movie yesterday.
- I **didn't see** a play yesterday.
- Last year, I **traveled** to Japan.
- Last year, I **didn't travel** to Korea.
- **Did** you **have** dinner last night?
- She **washed** her car.
- He **didn't wash** his car.
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In English language we have two kinds of verbs: **regular** and **irregular** verbs.

With the regular verbs we only add "ed" to the verb to put it in past.

E.g : Work (conjugation in simple present)

Worked (conjugation in simple past) → As you can see we add "ED" to put in past.

I worked yesterday. (Yo trabajé ayer.)

The irregular verbs change when we conjugate them in the past.

E.g : Go (conjugation in simple present)

Went (conjugation in simple past) → As you can see the verb change completely in past.

I went to the opera last week. (Yo fui a la opera la semana pasada)

LET'S PRACTICE

EXERCISE 1

FIND THE CONJUGATION OF THE NEXT VERBS IN PAST:

REGULAR VERBS *

VERB IN PRESENT	VERB IN PAST
PLAY	PLAYED
STUDY	
WORK	
LIVE	
GRADUATE	
CHECK	
CAUSE	
USE	
PARK	
MOVE	
TALK	
DIVORCE	
WAIT	
WALK	
SAVE	
SUFFER	
MARRY	
CHANGE	
ACCEPT	

***Remember when the verb finish with "y" we have to change it for "i".**

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e.g: satisfy (present) . satisfied (past) → As you see we change "y" for "i" and we add "ed".

Remember when the verb finish with "e" we have to add only "d".

e.g: scare (present) . scared (past) → As you see we only add "d" to the verb.

IRREGULAR VERBS

VERB IN PRESENT	VERB IN PAST
MAKE	**MADE**
GO	
TAKE	
COME	
SEE	
KNOW	
GET	
GIVE	
GROW	
FIND	
THINK	
LEAVE	
FEEL	
PUT	
BRING	
BEGIN	
KEEP	
BREAK	
WRITE	
STAND	
MEET	
RUN	
PAY	
SPEAK	
LIE	
READ	
GROW	
LOSE	
FALL	
SEND	
BUILD	
UNDERSTAND	
DRAW	
BREAK	
SPEND	
CUT	

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EXERCISE 2

Put the next sentences in simple past:

We move to a new house. → They bring a sandwich. → He doesn't do the homework. → They sell cars. → Does he visit his friends? →	

EXERCISE 3

Write the sentences in simple past

Janet / miss / the bus → she / tidy / her room → Nancy / watch / not / television→ she / read / a book →	

EXERCISE 4

Put the verbs into the correct form (simple past).

1. Last year I (spend) [spent] my holiday in Ireland.
2. It (be) [ ] great.
3. I (travel) [ ] around by car with two friends and we (visit) [ ] lots of interesting places.
4. In the evenings we usually (go) [ ] to a pub.
5. One night we even (learn) [ ] some Irish dances.
6. We (be) [ ] very lucky with the weather.
7. It (not / rain) [ ] a lot.
8. But we (see) [ ] some beautiful rainbows.
9. Where (spend / you) [ ] your last holiday?

EXERCISE 5 *

Watch the next video on YouTube, then answer the questions related to the video:

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgmEPKbGeOQ

Where did Dr. Anderson travel?

Did she eat in good restaurants?

What did she do in the hotel room at night?

Did she go for vacations?

Where did she normally eat?

Did she take nice walks?

- **Remember you have to give full answers:**

E.g: **Did she visit the museums? (question)**
No, She did not visit any museums (full answer)
Yes, She visited the museums. (full answer)

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