

Past Simple (Pasado simple)

Hay muchas maneras de hablar del pasado en inglés, pero el pasado simple es la forma más común. El pasado simple en inglés es equivalente al pretérito imperfecto y pretérito indefinido del español. Usamos el pasado simple para acciones completas en el pasado. El período de tiempo de estas acciones no es importante como en el español. En el pasado simple hay verbos regulares y verbos irregulares.

Grammatical Rules (Reglas gramaticales)

Form (Forma)

Para formar el pasado simple con verbos regulares, añadimos la terminación "-ed" al verbo. La forma es la misma para todas las personas (I, you, he, she, it, we, they).

Ejemplos:

want → wanted

learn → learned

stay → stayed

walk → walked

Excepciones:

Para verbos que terminan en una "e", sólo añadimos "-d."

Ejemplos:

change → changed

believe → believed

Si el verbo termina en una vocal corta y una consonante (excepto "y" o "w"), doblamos la consonante final.

Ejemplos:

stop → stopped

commit → committed

Con verbos que terminan en una consonante y una "y", se cambia la "y" por una "i".

Ejemplos:

study → studied

try → tried

Nota: Hay muchos verbos irregulares en inglés. Desafortunadamente, no hay una norma establecida para formarlos. A continuación tienes los tres verbos irregulares más comunes y los que actúan como verbos auxiliares.

Verb Past Simple

be was (I, he, she, it) / were (you, we, they)

do did

have had

Pronunciation (Pronunciación)

Pronunciamos la terminación "-ed" de forma diferente dependiendo de la letra que va al final del infinitivo. En general la "e" es muda.

Con los infinitivos que terminan en "p", "f", "k" o "s" (consonantes sordas, excepto "t") pronunciamos la terminación "-ed" como una "t".

Ejemplos:

1. Affirmative Sentences (Frases afirmativas)

Sujeto + verbo principal...

Ejemplos:

The keys were in the drawer. (Las llaves estaban en el cajón.)

I wanted to dance. (Quería bailar.)

He learned English. (Aprendió inglés.)

They believed him. (Le creímos.)

2. Negative Sentences (Frases negativas)

To be:

Sujeto + "to be" + "not"...

Ejemplos:

She wasn't a doctor. (Ella no era doctora.)

The keys weren't in the drawer. (Las llaves no estaban en el cajón.)

Nota: El verbo "to have got", que en el presente simple sigue las mismas reglas que el verbo "to be", no puede ser utilizado en el pasado. Para indicar la posesión en el pasado, usamos el verbo "to have".

Todos los demás verbos:

Sujeto + verbo auxiliar ("to do") + "not" + verbo principal...

Ejemplos:

I didn't want to dance. (No quería bailar.)

He didn't learn English. (No aprendió inglés)

They didn't believe him. (No le creímos.)

Nota: En frases negativas, el verbo auxiliar va en pasado ("did") y el verbo principal se queda en el infinitivo.

3. Interrogative Sentences (Frases interrogativas)

To be:

"To be" + sujeto...?

Ejemplos:

Play Was she a doctor? (¿Ella era doctora?)

Play Were the keys in the drawer? (¿Estaban las llaves en el cajón?)

Todos los verbos demás:

Verbo auxiliar ("to do") + sujeto + verbo principal...?

Ejemplos:

Did you want to dance? (¿Querías bailar?)

Did he learn English? (¿Aprendió inglés?)

Did they believe him? (¿Le creíste?)

Nota: Al igual que en las frases negativas, el verbo auxiliar va en pasado ("did") y el verbo principal se queda en el infinitivo.

Uses (Usos)

El pasado simple se utiliza para hablar de una acción concreta que comenzó y acabó en el pasado. En este caso equivale al pretérito indefinido español.

Generalmente, lo usamos con adverbios de tiempo como "last year", "yesterday", "last night"...

Ejemplos:

Tom stayed at home last night. (Tom se quedó en casa anoche.)

Kate worked last Saturday. (Kate trabajó el sábado pasado.)

I didn't go to the party yesterday. (No fui a la fiesta ayer.)
Did they walk to school this morning? (¿Han andado a la escuela esta mañana?)
Se usa el pasado simple para un serie de acciones en el pasado.

Ejemplos:

I received the good news and immediately called my husband. (Recibí la buena noticia y llamé de inmediato a mi marido.)

He studied for an hour in the morning, worked all afternoon and didn't return home until 10 at night. (Estudió durante una hora por la mañana, trabajó toda la tarde y no regresó a casa hasta las 10 de la noche.)

También lo usamos para acciones repetidas o habituales en el pasado, como se usa el pretérito imperfecto español.

Ejemplos:

We always traveled to Cancun for vacation when we were young. (Siempre viajábamos a Cancun durante las vacaciones cuando éramos jóvenes.)

He walked 5 kilometers every day to work. (Caminaba 5 kilómetros hasta el trabajo cada día.)

Lo usamos para narraciones o acciones de períodos de largo tiempo en el pasado, como el pretérito imperfecto español.

Ejemplos:

She didn't eat meat for 6 years. (No comía carne durante 6 años.)

Se utiliza para hablar de generalidades o hechos del pasado.

Ejemplos:

The Aztec lived in Mexico. (Los aztecas vivían en México)

I played the guitar when I was a child. (Tocaba la guitarra cuando era niño.)

PAST SIMPLE TENSE

We use the Past Simple to talk about a PAST and FINISHED action at a certain moment or a period in the past:

A week/ a month / a year ago

Last year / month / week

Yesterday....

In ... (past date)

RULES

In the AFFIRMATIVE FORM regular verbs add – ed or –d (if the verb ends in “e”):

Talk ----- talked

Like ----- liked

Irregular verbs need to be learned, they are in the list you can find in your grammar book:

Write ----- wrote

Go ----- went

RULES

In the NEGATIVE AND INTERROGATIVE FORMS we use the auxiliary verb “to do” at the past tense (DID), and the main verb goes in the base form (without “to”):

You didn’t write a letter

Did you write a letter?

SHORT ANSWERS

Did she go to the cinema yesterday? Yes, she **did**
No, she **didn’t**

Positive form	Negative Form	Question form
I worked	I didn't (=did not) work	Did I work?
You worked	You didn't work	Did you work?
We worked	We didn't work	Did we work?
They worked	They didn't work	Did they work?
She worked	She didn't work	Did she work?
He worked	He didn't work	Did he work?
It worked	It didn't work	Did it work?

PAST SIMPLE									
AUXILIARY VERBS: AUXILIARY VERBS + MODAL VERBS TO BE, CAN, MUST, SHOULD, etc.... The auxiliary DID to form the Past S. is not necessary .					REGULAR VERBS TO WORK, TO LIVE, TO DO, etc The auxil. DID to form the Past S. is essential .				
TO BE AFFIRMATIVE I was You were He was We were You were They were					TO WORK AFFIRMATIVE I worked You worked He worked We worked You worked They worked				
NEGATIVE I was not You were not He was not We were not You were not They were not					NEGATIVE I didn't work You didn't work He didn't work We didn't work You didn't work They didn't work				
INTERROGATIVE Was I? Were you? Was he? Were we? Were you? Were they?					INTERROGATIVE Did I work? Did you work? Did he work? Did we work? Did you work? Did they work?				
CAN AFFIRMATIVE I could You could He could We could You could They could					NEGATIVE I couldn't You couldn't He couldn't We couldn't You couldn't They couldn't				
INTERROGATIVE Could I? Could you? Could he? Could we? Could you? Could they?					INTERROGATIVE I did Yes, he did they did I didn't No, he didn't they didn't				

SIMPLE PAST TENSE (Pasado Simple)		
MODO AFIRMATIVO	MODO INTERROGATIVO	MODO NEGATIVO
I played Yo jugué	Did I play? ¿Jugué yo?	I did not play Yo no jugué
You played Tú jugaste	Did you play? ¿Jugaste tú?	You did not play Tú no jugaste
He played Él jugó	Did he play? ¿Jugó él?	He did not play Él no jugó
She played Ella jugó	Did she play? ¿Jugó ella?	She did not play Ella no jugó
It played Él/Ella jugó	Did it play? ¿Jugó él / ella?	It did not play Él / Ella no jugó
We played Nosotros jugamos	Did we play? ¿Jugamos nosotros?	We did not play Nosotros no jugamos
You played Ustedes jugaron	Did you play? ¿Jugaron ustedes?	You did not play Ustedes no jugaron
They played Ellos jugaron	Did they play? ¿Jugaron ellos?	They did not play Ellos no jugaron