



Presentation

Use the past simple to talk about actions and situations in the past.

to be

The past simple forms of *to be* are *was* and *were*:

The film was good. The actors were great.

Regular Verbs

With most other verbs add *-ed* to make affirmative forms:
want → *wanted*, *like* → *liked*

Use *did/didn't* + infinitive to form questions and negatives.

Did you like the film?

I didn't like it.

Use *did/didn't* to form short answers.

Did you like it? No, I didn't.

Irregular Verbs

Some verbs have an irregular affirmative form in the past simple:

see → *saw*, *go* → *went*

Time expressions

Here are some common time expressions often used with the past simple: *yesterday*, *last week*, *last year*, *two years ago*, *five minutes ago*

to be

I / He / She / It	was wasn't (was not)	very good.
You / We / They	were weren't (were not)	

Was	I / he / she / it	good?	Yes, I / he / she / it was. No, I / he / she / it wasn't.
Were	you / we / they		Yes, you / we / they were. No, you / we / they weren't.

Other verbs

I / You / He / She / It / We / They	liked didn't like	the film.
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Who	did	I / you / he / she / it / we / they	go	with?
Did		I / you / he / she / it / we / they	like	the film?

Yes, I / you / he / she / it / we / they	did.	No, I / you / he / she / it / we / they	didn't.
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Key spelling rules

You may sometimes need to make small changes to the spelling of the verb:

live → *lived* (not *liveed*) *cry* → *cried* (not *cryed*)

Exercises

1 Put the words in the correct order to make questions.

- 1 night what you last do did?
- 2 see you what film did?
- 3 actors were who the?
- 4 about was what it?
- 5 it you enjoy did?

2 Match the responses a–e to the questions in Exercise 1. Then listen and check.

a Yes, it was great.	<input type="checkbox"/>
b A writer and an actress who fell in love.	<input type="checkbox"/>
c An old black and white film called <i>In A Lonely Place</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/>
d We went to the cinema.	<input type="checkbox"/>
e Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame.	<input type="checkbox"/>

3 Complete the conversations with the past simple form of the verb in brackets or a short answer.

Conversation 1

A: ¹ Did you watch (you / watch) the football last night?
 B: No, I ² ³ (it / be) a good match?
 A: Yes, it ⁴ It was a very close match so you ⁵ (not / know) who would win until the end.
 B: So ⁶ (Real Madrid / win)?
 A: Yes, they ⁷ , but only just.

Conversation 2

A: I ⁸ (see) Louise and her husband last week.
 B: How ⁹ (be) they?
 A: OK, but ¹⁰ (you / hear) about her job?
 B: No, I ¹¹ What happened?
 A: She ¹² (ask) her company for a pay rise, but they ¹³ (not / give) it to her.
 So she ¹⁴ (leave).