

8C Simple past: regular verbs and past time expressions

We use the simple past to talk about completed actions and situations in the past.

With regular verbs, we usually add **-ed** to the base form of the verb.

My brother worked as a waiter in London for two years.

In the past, children played with traditional toys.

My brother wanted a bike for his birthday.

I finished my exams last month.

Spelling rules for regular affirmative simple past -ed endings

We usually add **-ed** to the verb.

work ⇒ *worked* *watch* ⇒ *watched*

When a verb ends in **e**, we add **-d**.

dance ⇒ *danced* *live* ⇒ *lived*

When a verb ends in consonant + **y**, we change the **y** to **i** and then we add **-ed**.

study ⇒ *studied* *try* ⇒ *tried*

When a verb ends in vowel + **y**, we add **-ed**.

play ⇒ *played* *enjoy* ⇒ *enjoyed*

When a verb ends in consonant + vowel + consonant, we usually double the final consonant and add **-ed**.

stop ⇒ *stopped* *plan* ⇒ *planned*

We make the negative form of regular verbs with *didn't* + base form.

8.12 I / you / he / she / it / we / they

I **enjoyed** the meal.

I **didn't enjoy** the movie last night.

We **watched** the movie together.

We **didn't watch** TV.

Past time expressions

We often use past time expressions with the simple past to say when an action or situation happened.

I played tennis last week.

I played tennis yesterday morning.

I moved to Spain seven years ago.

In the 1920s, clothes were very different from now.

last	evening/night/week/month/year/spring/summer/fall/winter
yesterday	morning/afternoon/evening
two days three weeks five years	ago
in	1990/the 1930s/the 18th century

Look! We can say either "yesterday evening" or "last evening."

- 1 Complete the sentences with the verbs in the box. Use affirmative simple past forms.

enjoy live play work listen watch
study want

- In his last job, Tony _____ at a bank.
- We _____ to the news on the radio.
- She _____ in Berlin in a great apartment.
- Lena _____ to go out, but her friends were busy.
- They _____ tennis in the park yesterday.
- My parents _____ a movie online last night.
- I _____ reading my new book on the weekend.
- I _____ Spanish in Mexico a few years ago.

- 2 Complete the sentences with *yesterday*, *last*, *ago*, or *in*.

- Emma called me _____ morning.
- Cameron stayed with us _____ night.
- I read four books on vacation _____ summer.
- We moved to Chicago eight years _____.
- My dad opened a restaurant _____ the 1980s.
- We watched a terrible movie on TV _____ afternoon.
- _____ 1969, a person walked on the moon for the first time.
- Carmen finished college four months _____.

- 3 Write sentences. Use the simple past and complete the time expressions.



1 I / visit / China / 2013

2 my family / live / in Australia / 1970s

3 Lucas / not finish / his homework / night

4 Sam and Ellie / celebrate / Sam's birthday / at a restaurant / two days

5 the 1990s / a lot of people / listen to / dance music

6 my brother / not want / to go to the movies / night