

The past simple: be, have and regular verbs



When we form the past simple, we add **-ed** or **-d** to most regular verbs. Here are some more rules:

Verb	Example	Change	Past simple	Negative
ends vowel + consonant	stop	double the last consonant + -ed	stopped	didn't stop
ends consonant + -y	tidy	y + -ied	tidied	didn't tidy
irregular verbs	be have	—	was/were had	wasn't/weren't didn't have

In questions we change the word order.

*Did Molly **act** in the play?*

Be is different.

*Were you excited? Was the play **good**?*

1 Circle the correct answer.

- There was / were a piano on the stage.
- Ethan's voice weren't / wasn't very loud.
- We were / was excited about the concert.
- Why was / were Anna and Kate tired?
- Was / Were you at home?
- All our friends were / was in the audience.
- Leo and Seb wasn't / weren't at the concert.
- What was / were the name of the play?

2 Complete Harry's diary. Write was, were or had.

We¹ had a school
play this week. Charlie²
_____ in it and
our friends and family³
_____ in the
audience. Last week, we⁴
_____ a concert
at school. Mum and Dad⁵
_____ there, but
our friends⁶_____.

Everyone⁷_____ a
programme about the concert.
Molly played the piano, and
her friends Suzy and Jane
recorders. It⁸ _____
very good, but Molly, Suzy
and Jane¹⁰ _____
all very tired at the end.

3 Complete the sentences and questions. Use the past simple of be or have.

- 1 Phil's very happy because the exam wasn't very difficult.
- 2 I'm very hungry. I _____ breakfast.
- 3 _____ Louise _____ cake at the café?
- 4 The people in the audience _____ a great time.
- 5 He _____ ten yesterday.
- 6 _____ you at Emily's birthday party?
- 7 My grandparents _____ rich. They lived in a very small house.
- 8 I _____ a baby when we moved to London.
- 9 _____ the film good? Did you like it?
- 10 The homework _____ hard. We all got good marks.

4 Complete the text. Use the past simple of the verbs in brackets.

It¹ was (be) George's birthday party on Friday. We²
_____ (have) a great time. George³ _____ (invite)
all his friends and everyone⁴ _____ (enjoy) it. The lights⁵
_____ (sparkle), we⁶ _____ (listen) to music and⁷
_____ (dance) all evening. We and⁸ _____ (play)
games. I⁹ _____ (clap) when George¹⁰ _____ (open)
his presents. We all¹¹ _____ (tidy) up when the party¹²
_____ (end) and I¹³ _____ (not want) to go home!

Past time expressions

I've got a lot to tell you. There was a school play **last Saturday** and **two weeks ago** I played in a concert.



We use these expressions to talk about when something happened in the past:

last + night / Friday / week / month / year

*I watched a good film **last Saturday**.*

ago after a period of time

*We went to London **three years ago**.*

yesterday + morning / afternoon / evening

*I emailed her **yesterday evening**.*

Time expressions can go at the beginning or end of a sentence.

*I played in a concert **last week**. **Last week**, I played in a concert.*



5 Tick (✓) the correct sentences.


- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Last week, Jane had a party. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 2 Ago two weeks it was my birthday. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jane had a party week last. <input type="checkbox"/> | Two weeks ago it was my birthday. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Frank's birthday was yesterday. <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 We had yesterday a big party. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yesterday Frank's birthday was. <input type="checkbox"/> | We had a big party yesterday. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Tina had dinner evening yesterday. <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 We played tennis ago two hours. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tina had dinner yesterday evening. <input type="checkbox"/> | We played tennis two hours ago. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 I had an exam yesterday afternoon. <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 I phoned you a Friday ago. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I had an exam last afternoon. <input type="checkbox"/> | I phoned you last Friday. <input type="checkbox"/> |


6 Complete the sentences. Use the verb in brackets and a time expression from the box. Then rewrite each sentence with the time expression at the end.


Today is Saturday 15th November.


~~Last Saturday~~ Last month Yesterday evening
Last Monday Yesterday Last Thursday

- 1  Last Saturday, Clare played (play) tennis.
Clare played tennis last Saturday.
- 2  _____, it _____ (be) my birthday.

- 3  _____, Jason _____ (play) badminton with Henry.

- 4  _____, I _____ (tidy) my room.

- 5  _____, we _____ (watch) a play at the theatre.

- 6  _____, Dad _____ (phone) Roger.

7 Look at the things that happened in exercise 6. Write when they happened. Use time expressions with **ago and the words from the box.**

Remember, today is Saturday 15th November. It is 9 a.m.

~~one week~~ fourteen hours two days five days a month a day

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| 1 <u>one week ago</u> | 2 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 4 _____ |
| 5 _____ | 6 _____ |