

## Simple past tense

Bonnie: I stayed at my cousin's place last weekend.

Kate : Did you have fun?

Bonnie: Yes, I had a great time. First we watched a funny cartoon and made some cookies. Then we tidied the kitchen together.



We use the **simple past tense** to talk about things that happened in the past.

## simple past tense verbs

## regular verbs

+ ed  
cook → **cooked**      play → **played**

+ d  
dance → **danced**      hope → **hoped**

change y → i

try → tried      cry → cried

short vowel + consonant → double consonant  
chat → **chatted**      drop → **dropped**

## irregular verbs

be → **was / were**

buy → **bought**

go → **went**

have → had



## Let's Learn!

Use the simple past tense when you see these words:

- yesterday
  - last night
  - a month ago
  - in 2010



Underline the time phrases. Fill in the blanks with the simple past tense form of the verbs given.

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  - 1 The baby \_\_\_\_\_ (cry) last night.
  - 2 Jack \_\_\_\_\_ (drop) his wallet last Sunday.
  - 3 We \_\_\_\_\_ (be) hungry so we ate a lot yesterday.
  - 4 Miss Lee \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very busy last week.
  - 5 Denise \_\_\_\_\_ (pick) some flowers an hour ago.
  - 6 The children \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a picnic last month.
  - 7 Mr and Mrs Cheng \_\_\_\_\_ (move) to Chai Wan ten years ago.
  - 8 Uncle Johnny \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to England in 2013.



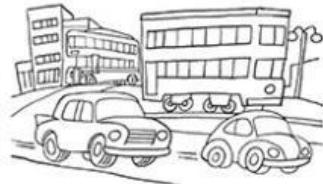
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**Simple past tense**  **There was / were****Hong Kong in the 60s**

When I was a little boy, I went to school by bus. There **were** cars, trams and ferries too but there **weren't** any MTR trains then.

I lived in Kowloon City. There **was** an airport near my home. It was very noisy. I went to the market with my mum on Sundays. We never went to a shopping centre because there **wasn't** one nearby.

Ken Wong, 60 years old

We use **there was / were** to say something existed in the past.

**wasn't** = **was not**  
**weren't** = **were not**

~~There had~~There **was** an airport.There **wasn't** a theme park.~~There had~~There **were** buses.There **weren't** any MTR trains.**Practice**

Fill in the blanks with 'was', 'wasn't', 'were' or 'weren't'.

- 1 There \_\_\_\_\_ a fun fair in the park yesterday.
- 2 There \_\_\_\_\_ any tall buildings 60 years ago.
- 3 There \_\_\_\_\_ an airport in Kowloon when Mum was a girl.
- 4 There \_\_\_\_\_ any cable cars in Hong Kong 80 years ago.
- 5 There \_\_\_\_\_ a supermarket near my home when I was young.
- 6 There \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of people outside the department store this morning.

