

FORM

Past Simple

Positive: past simple form of verb: *I arrived*, etc. (regular)
I came, etc. (irregular)

Negative and question form: **did** + infinitive

Short answer: **did**

USE

- Completed actions.

To talk about events and actions in the past that are now finished.

The past simple refers to the complete event. The time or approximate time that the event took place is stated or is understood from the context. It may be in the very recent past:

Your mother phoned a few minutes ago.

Who opened this window?

or it may be in the more distant past:

I never learnt to swim as a child.

- Past habit or regular event.

To talk about a regular, repeated or habitual event:

We went out for a meal every evening on holiday.

He got up at 7 o'clock every morning to go to work.

or a past habit or situation of some duration:

He smoked for most of his life.

She worked there for twenty years.

- Past situation at a point in time.

With stative verbs, to talk about a situation that existed at a certain time in the past:

In 1950, there were fewer than 50 million cars in use around the world.

At the time, I had a poorly-paid job in the local shop.