

# ENGLISH GRAMMAR RULES

## WAS/WERE - LESSON 06



(fonte: Freepik)

What you will find in this class:

1. Was/were
2. Worked/got/ went (past simple)
3. I didn't... Did you ...? (past simple negative and questions)
4. I was doing (past continuous)
5. Building Vocabulary (taking a taxi)

# Was/were



Now Trixie is at work

At midnight last night she wasn't at work  
She was in bed  
She was asleep

## **Am/is (present) = was (past)**

I am tired (now)	= I was tired last night
Where is Trixie? (now)	= Where was Trixie yesterday?
The weather is good today	= The weather was good last night.

## **Are (present) = were (past)**

You are late. (now)	= You were late yesterday.
They aren't here (now)	= They weren't here last night.

## POSITIVE

- I / he / she / it = was
- We / you / they = were

## NEGATIVE

- I / he / she / it = was not (wasn't)
- We / you / they = were not (weren't)

## QUESTION

- Was = I / he / she / it ?
- Were = we / you / they ?

- a) Last year Trixie was 25, so she is 26 now.
- b) When I was a child, I was afraid of cockroach.
- c) We were hungry after the journey but we weren't tired.
- d) The hotel was comfortable but it wasn't expensive.
- e) Was the weather good when you were on holiday?
- f) Those shoes are Nice. Were they expensive?
- g) Why were you late this morning?

## SHORT ANSWERS

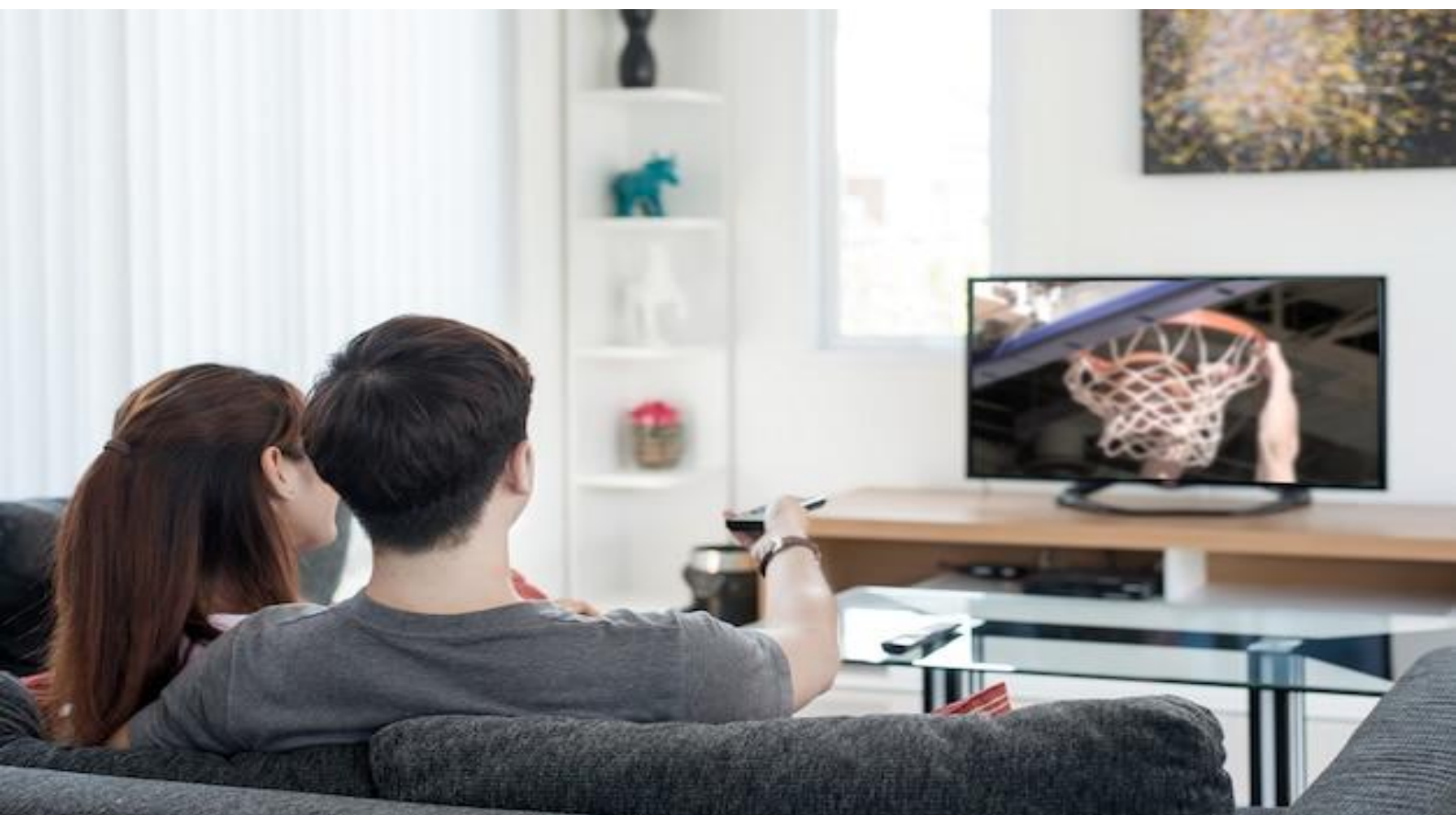
Yes, I / he / she / it = was

Yes, we / you / they = were

No. I / he / she / it = wasn't (was not)

No, we / you / they = weren't (were not)

- a) Were you late? No, I wasn't.
- b) Was Trixie at work yesterday? Yes, she was.
- c) Were Trixie and Tom at the party? No they weren't.



## Worked/got/went

(fonte: Freepik)

They watch television every evening (present simple)  
They watched television yesterday evening (past simple)

Note: watched is past simple  
I/we/you/they  
He/ she/it = watched

### Rules

The past simple is often **-ed** (regular verbs). For example:

- Work = worked
- Clean = cleaned
- Start = started
- Stay = stayed
- Arrive = arrived
- Dance = danced

- a) I clean my teeth every morning. This morning I cleaned my teeth.
- b) Trixie worked is a school from 1986 to 1999.
- c) Yesterday it rained all morning. It stopped at lunchtime.
- d) We enjoyed the party last night. We danced a lot and talked to a lot of people. The party finished at midnight.

## Regular verbs (2)

### Affirmations

The verbs in the simple past are made up of the **ED** particle at the end, and for that, you must follow some rules:

- Verbs already ending in E only gain D: dance = danced
- Verbs ending in consonant + y, lose Y and gain IED: study = studied.
- Verbs ending in a vowel + y, only win ED: play = played.
- Verbs ending in a vowel + consonant, double the last consonant and gain ED: stop = stopped

## Irregular verbs

### Irregular verbs (1)

#### Affirmations

Affirmative sentences with irregular verbs are made up of the subject + simple past of the verb:

I saw

She said

The past simple is not –ed.

- Begin = began
- Break = broke
- Do = did
- Drink = drank
- Fall = fell
- Find = found
- Forget = forgot
- Get = got
- Give = gave
- Go = went
- Have = had
- Leave = left
- Speak = spoke
- Sleep = slept
- Win = won
- Write = wrote

- a) I usually get up early but this morning I got up at 10.00
- b) We did a lot of work yesterday
- c) Trixie went to the cinema three times last week
- d) Emily came into the room, took off his coat and sat down.

## Use of the *Simple Past*

### 1.1. actions finished in the past

I visited Berlin last week.

### 1.2. series of completed actions in the past

First I **got** up, then I **had** breakfast.

### 1.3. together with the *Past Progressive/Continuous*

The *Simple Past* interrupted an action which was in progress in the past.

They **were playing** cards, when the telephone **rang**.

1st action → Past Progressive → **were playing**

2nd action → Simple Past → **rang**

## 2. Signal words

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

## 3. Form

regular verbs → infinitive + ed

irregular verbs → 2nd column of the table of the irregular verbs

## 4. Examples

### 4.1. Affirmative sentences in the Simple Past – regular verbs

#### Long forms

I cleaned my room.

You cleaned your room.

He cleaned his room.

#### Contracted forms

not possible

### 4.2. Affirmative sentences in the Simple Past – irregular verbs

#### Long forms

I went home.

You went home.

He went home.

#### Contracted forms

not possible



### 4.3. Negative sentences in the Simple Past

Do not negate a main verb in English. Always use the auxiliary did (Simple Past of to do) and the infinitive of the verb for negations.

There is no difference between regular and irregular verbs in negative sentences.

#### Long forms

I did not clean the room.

You did not clean the room.

He did not clean the room.

#### Contracted forms

I didn't clean the room.

You didn't clean the room.

He didn't clean the room.

### 4.4. Questions in the Simple Past

You need the auxiliary did and the infinitive of the verb.

#### Long forms

Did I play football?

Did you play football?

Did he play football?

#### Contracted forms

not possible

### I didn't... Did you ...? (past simple negative and questions)

We use did in past simple negatives and questions:

#### INFINITIVE:

- Play
- Start
- Watch
- Have
- See
- Do
- Go

#### POSITIVE

- I played
- We started
- You watched
- They had
- He saw
- She did
- It went

#### NEGATIVE

#### I / WE / YOU / THEY / HE / SHE / IT = did not (didn't)

- Play
- Start
- Watch
- Have

- See
- Do
- Go

## QUESTION

**Did = I / WE / YOU / THEY / HE / SHE / IT**

- Play?
- Start?
- Watch?
- Have?
- See?
- Do?
- Go?

**Do/does (present) = did (past)**

- I don't watch television very often.
- I didn't watch television yesterday.
- Does Trixie often go away?
- Did Trixie go away last week?

**We use did/didn't + infinitive (watch / play / go etc)**

I watched but  
They went  
He had  
You did

I didn't watch ( not I didn't watched)  
Did they go? (not Did they went?)  
he didn't have  
did you do?

**Word order in questions**

Did + subject + infinitive

- What did your sister phone you?
- What did you do yesterday morning?
- How did the accident happen?
- Where did your parents go their holiday?

## SHORT ANSWERS

YES, ( I / WE / YOU / THEY / HE / SHE / IT ) = DID

NO, ( I / WE / YOU / THEY / HE / SHE / IT ) = DIDN'T (DID NOT)

- Did you see Trixie yesterday? No, I didn't.
- Did it rain Sunday? Yes, it did.
- Did Meg come to the party? No, she didn't.
- Did your parents have a good holiday? Yes, they did.



## I was doing (past continuous)



(fonte: Freepik)

It is 8 o'clock now  
Trixie is at home  
She is watching television

At 5 o'clock she wasn't at home  
She was at the sports club

She was playing tennis  
She wasn't watching television

**Was/ were + ing is the past continuous**

### **POSITIVE**

I / HE / SHE / IT = was = doing / watching / playing / running / living etc  
WE / YOU / THEY = were = doing / watching / playing / running / living etc

### **NEGATIVE**

I / HE / SHE / IT = was not (wasn't) = doing / watching / playing / running / living etc  
WE / YOU / THEY = were not (weren't) = doing / watching / playing / running / living etc  
**QUESTION**

Was = I / HE / SHE / IT = doing / watching / playing / running / living ? etc  
Were = WE / YOU / THEY = doing / watching / playing / running / living ? etc

## **SHORT ANSWERS**

- a) Was I working? Yes, I was | No, I wasn't
- b) Were you working? Yes, you were | No You weren't.
- c) Was he working? Yes he was | No he wasn't
- d) Was she working? Yes she was | No she wasn't
- e) Was it working? Yes it was | No it wasn't
- f) Were we working? Yes we were | No we weren't
- g) Were you working? Yes, you were | No you weren't
- h) Were they working? No they, weren't

## **We use Past Continuous to express.**

- a) Actions that were happening at a given time in the past

Example: They were studying five minutes ago.  
(They were studying five minutes ago)

- b) An action that was taking place when another action took place

Example: He was having dinner when the phone rang  
(He was having dinner when the phone rang)

- C) Two actions that were happening at the same time in the past.

Example: She was cleaning the house while he was washing the dishes.  
(She was cleaning the house while he was doing the dishes)

## **Affirmative form**

Past Continuous is formed by the simple past of the verb to be (was / were) and the main verb in the gerund, that is, with the ending ING.

### **Example:**

- a) I was working
- b) You were working
- c) He was working
- d) She was working
- e) We were working
- f) You were working

### Negative form

The negation particle not is added after the verb to be (was / were) the contracted form is also allowed in this case.

- a) I was not working - I wasn't Working
- b) You were not working - You weren't working
- c) He was not working - He was not working
- d) She was not working - She wasn't working
- e) It was not working - It wasn't working
- f) We were not working - We were not working
- g) You were not working - You weren't working
- h) They were not working - They were not working

### Negative form

You must invert the position of the pronoun (subject) with the verb to be and include the question mark at the end of the sentence

### Verb - To stop

- a) Was I stopping?
- b) Were you stopping?
- c) Was he stopping?
- d) Was she stopping?
- e) Was it stopping?
- f) Were we stopping?
- g) Were you stopping?
- h) Were they stopping?

### SPELLING (ORTOGRAFIA)

\_ ing

#### Verbs that end in -e (make / write / drive etc ) = drop -e = ing

- a) Make = making
- b) Write = writing
- c) Come = coming
- d) Dance = dancing

#### Verbs that end in -ie = ying

- a) Lie = lying
- b) Die = dying
- c) Tie = tying

### Stop > stopped, big > bigger etc

### Vowels and consonants

Vowel letters: a / e / i / o / u

Consonant letters: b / c / d / f / g / k / l / m / n / p / r / s / t / w / y

Sometimes a Word ends is a vowel + a consonant. For example: stop, big, get  
Before – ing/ -ed / -er / -est, the consonant at the end ( -p / - g / -t etc) is doubled ( -pp / -gg / -tt etc) for example:

- a) STOP (O = VOWEL / P = CONSONANT ) P > PP = STOPPING = STOPPED
- b) RUN = RUNNING
- c) GET = GETTING
- d) SWIM = SWIMMING
- e) BIG = BIGGER > BIGGEST
- f) HOT = HOTTER > HOTTEST
- g) THIN = THINNER > THINNEST

### **This does not happen**

1.

If the word ends in two consonant letters ( C+C):

- a) HELP (L = CONSONANT / P = CONSONANT) HELPING > HELPED
- b) WORK = WORKING = WORKED
- c) FAST = FASTER = FASTEST

2.

If the Word ends in two vowel letters + a consonant letter ( V+V+C)

- a) NEED ( E = VOWEL / E = VOWEL / D = CONSONANT) = NEEDING = NEEDED
- b) WAIT= WAITING = WAITED
- c) CHEAP = CHEAPER = CHEAPEST

3.

In longer words (two syllables or more) If the last part of the word is not stressed.

- a) HAPPEN (STRESS HAP-pen > HAPPENING / HAPPENED (NOT: HAPPENNED)
- b) VISIT = VISITING / VISITED
- c) REMEMBER = REMEMBERING / REMEMBERED

- a) PREFER ( stress at the end) = PREFERRING / PREFERRED
- b) BEGIN ( stress at the end) = BEGINNING

4.

If the Word ends in –y / or –w. (at the end of words, y and w are not consonants)

Enjoy = enjoying / enjoyed  
Snow = snowing / snowed  
Few = fewer/ fewest

# Appendix

infinitive	simple past	past participle
be	was/were	been
bear	bore	borne/born (AE)
beat	beat	beaten
become	became	become
begin	began	begun
bend	bent	bent
bet*	bet	bet
bid	bid, bade	bid, bidden
bind	bound	bound
bite	bit	bitten
bleed	bled	bled
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
breed	bred	bred
bring	brought	brought
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast
build	built	built
burst	burst	burst
bust*	bust	bust
buy	bought	bought
cast	cast	cast
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
cling	clung	clung
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
creep	crept	crept
cut	cut	cut
deal	dealt	dealt
dig	dug	dug
dive	dived/dove(AE)	dived
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
flee	fled	fled
fling	flung	flung
fly	flew	flown
forbid	forbade, forbad	forbidden

forecast*	forecast	forecast
forget	forgot	forgotten
forsake	forsook	forsaken
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	got, gotten (AE)

give	gave	given
grind	ground	ground
go	went	gone
grow	grew	grown
hang	hung	hung
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hide	hid	hidden
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
know	knew	known
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lie	lay	lain
light*	lit	lit
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
pay	paid	paid
prove*	proved	proven
put	put	put
quit*	quit	quit
read	read	read
rid	rid	rid
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
seek	sought	sought
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
set	set	set
sew*	sewed	sewn
shake	shook	shaken
shear*	sheared	shorn
shed	shed	shed
shine	shone	shone
shoot	shot	shot
show*	showed	shown
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk
sit	sat	sat
slay	slew	slain



sleep	slept	slept
slide	slid	slid
sling	slung	slung
slink	slunk	slunk
slit	slit	slit
sow	sowed	sown
speak	spoke	spoken
speed*	sped	sped
spend	spent	spent
spin	spun	spun
spit	spat, spit	spat, spit
split	split	split
spread	spread	spread
spring	sprang	sprung
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
stick	stuck	stuck
sting	stung	stung
stink	stank, stunk	stunk
stride	strode	stridden
strike	struck	struck
string	strung	strung
strive	strove	striven
swear	swore	sworn
sweep	swept	swept
swell*	swelled	swollen
swim	swam	swum
swing	swung	swung
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
thrive*	throve	thrived
throw	threw	thrown
thrust	thrust	thrust
tread	trod	trodden, trod
understand	understood	understood
wake*	woke	woken
wear	wore	worn
weave	wove	woven
weep	wept	wept
wet*	wet	wet
win	won	won
wind	wound	wound
wring	wrung	wrung
write	wrote	written

## **CRÉDITOS**

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

ENGLISH CLUB

ENGLISH-HIFEN.DE

FREEPIK

NEW YORK POST

## **REFERÊNCIAS**

ENGLISH CLUB, Disponível em: <https://www.englishclub.com/> Acesso em 24 de fevereiro de 2021

ESSENTIAL GRAMMAR IN USE, MURPHY, Raymond, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
p.28, 30,32,34

Content organized for strictly educational purposes. No copyright infringement intended.  
(Conteúdo organizado com fins estritamente pedagógicos. Nenhuma violação de direitos autorais pretendida)