

SECOND PARTIAL

PAST SIMPLE 'BE' POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE

PAST SIMPLE of “BE” – POSITIVE & NEGATIVE: Full Explanation

What is the verb "be"?

The verb “**be**” is one of the most important and common verbs in English. In the present, it is:

- **am / is / are**

In the **past**, it becomes:

- **was / were**
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What is the Past Simple of “be” used for?

We use the **Past Simple of "be"** to talk about:

1. **Situations or facts** in the past
 2. **States and feelings** (not actions)
 3. **Identity, location, or condition** in the past
 4. **Descriptions** of people, things, or events in the past
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POSITIVE FORM of “BE” in the past

Structure:

Subject + was/were + (complement)

Subject Verb (past)

I was

He/She/It was

You were

We/They were

Examples (Positive):

1. **I was at the park yesterday.**
(I was located at the park in the past.)
 2. **He was a doctor in 2015.**
(He had that profession in the past.)
 3. **She was very happy after the concert.**
(She felt that emotion in the past.)
 4. **We were late for the meeting.**
(Our situation was being late.)
 5. **They were in New York last summer.**
(They were located in New York.)
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NEGATIVE FORM of “BE” in the past

Structure:

Subject + was not (wasn't) / were not (weren't) + (complement)

Subject Verb (negative)

I wasn't

He/She/It wasn't

You weren't

Subject Verb (negative)

We/They weren't

✖ Examples (Negative):

1. **I wasn't at home last night.**
(I was somewhere else.)
 2. **He wasn't tired after work.**
(He felt fine.)
 3. **She wasn't a student in 2020.**
(She had a different role or job.)
 4. **We weren't ready for the test.**
(We didn't prepare.)
 5. **They weren't in the office.**
(They were somewhere else.)
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⌚ Positive vs. Negative Comparison:

Positive Sentence Negative Sentence

I was hungry. I wasn't hungry.

He was at school. He wasn't at school.

They were excited. They weren't excited.

We were friends. We weren't friends.

🔎 When do we use “was” and “were”?

Subject Past of “be”

I was

He / She / It was

You were

We / They were

Time Expressions Used with Past Simple of "be":

- yesterday
- last night / last week / last year
- two days ago
- in 2000
- when I was a child
- at that time

Example:

She was sick two days ago.

Common Mistakes to Avoid:

 Incorrect	 Correct	Explanation
I were late.	I was late.	Use “was” with “I”.
You was my teacher.	You were my teacher.	Use “were” with “you”.
He weren’t at school.	He wasn’t at school.	Use “wasn’t” with “he”.
They was happy.	They were happy.	Use “were” with “they”.

What's the difference between "was/were" and "did"?

- “Was / were” → used for **states, feelings, situations**.
 - Example: *He was tired.*
 - “Did” → used for **actions**.
 - Example: *He did his homework.*
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Practice Exercise (with Answers):

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

1. I _____ at school yesterday.
2. They _____ tired after the trip.
3. He _____ a teacher in 2010.
4. She _____ happy about the news.
5. We _____ at the party last night.

Answers:

1. was
 2. were
 3. was
 4. wasn't
 5. were
-

❖ Summary Chart:

Type	Subject	Verb	Example
Positive	I / He / She	was	She was at home.
Positive	You / We / They	were	They were tired.
Negative	I / He / She	wasn't	He wasn't happy.
Negative	You / We / They	weren't	We weren't there.

EXERCISE

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-simple-exercise-1.html>

PAST SIMPLE "BE" QUESTIONS

▣ PAST SIMPLE “BE” – QUESTIONS: Full Explanation

◆ What is the verb “be”?

The verb “be” is one of the most important and most used verbs in English. It changes form depending on the tense and the subject.

- **Present Simple:**
 - am / is / are
- **Past Simple:**
 - was / were

Subject Past form of "be"

I was

He / She / It was

You / We / They were

What is the Past Simple “Be” Question form used for?

We use **Past Simple "be" questions** to ask about:

- **Conditions** in the past
- **Locations or places** where someone or something was
- Someone's **feelings, mood, or health** in the past
- Someone's **identity, job, or role**
- **Situations, events, or descriptions** of the past

Types of Questions with “Be” in the Past

There are two main types of questions:

1 Yes / No Questions with "Was" and "Were"

Structure:

Was / Were + subject + complement?

- Use “**was**” for **I / he / she / it**
- Use “**were**” for **you / we / they**

✓ Examples (Yes/No Questions):

1. **Was she at the meeting yesterday?**
→ Yes, she was. / No, she wasn't.
 2. **Were they late to school this morning?**
→ Yes, they were. / No, they weren't.
 3. **Was your brother sick last week?**
→ Yes, he was. / No, he wasn't.
 4. **Were you tired after the trip?**
→ Yes, I was. / No, I wasn't.
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Short Answers:

Question	Positive Answer	Negative Answer
Was he at the office?	Yes, he was.	No, he wasn't.
Were you happy with the result?	Yes, I was.	No, I wasn't.
Were they on vacation last week?	Yes, they were.	No, they weren't.

2 'Wh-' Questions with "Was" and "Were"

These questions start with a **question word** (who, what, when, where, why, how) and are used when you want **specific information**, not just "yes" or "no".

✓ Structure:

Wh-word + was / were + subject + (complement)?

✓ Examples (Wh- Questions):

Wh-word	Question Example	Example Answer
Where	Where were you last night?	I was at a restaurant.
Why	Why was she sad?	Because she lost her phone.
When	When was the concert?	It was last Saturday.
Who	Who was your first teacher?	Mr. Thomas was my first teacher.

Wh-word	Question Example	Example Answer
What	What was the problem?	The power was out.
How	How were they after the accident? They were okay.	

💡 Why Use Past “Be” Questions?

We ask these questions to:

- **Find out facts** about the past
 - *Was she your classmate in high school?*
- **Understand someone’s condition or situation**
 - *Were you tired after work?*
- **Ask about where someone or something was**
 - *Where was the book?*
- **Ask about people or roles**
 - *Who was your favorite actor as a child?*

! Grammar Tips:

Rule	Correct Example	Incorrect Example
Use was with I, he, she, it	Was he angry?	Were he angry?
Use were with you, we, they	Were you at home?	Was you at home?
Don't use did with “was/were”	Was she happy?	Did she was happy?
Keep correct word order in questions	Where were they?	Where they were?

📝 Practice Activity: Make Questions

A. Turn these into Yes/No questions:

1. She was at the store.
→ **Was she at the store?**
2. They were tired.
→ **Were they tired?**
3. I was sick yesterday.
→ **Was I sick yesterday?**

B. Turn these into Wh- questions:

1. I was in the kitchen.
→ **Where was I?**
 2. He was late because of traffic.
→ **Why was he late?**
 3. Our trip was amazing.
→ **How was your trip?**
-

⌚ Compare Present vs. Past:

Present (Is/Are) **Past (Was/Were)**

Is she your teacher? Was she your teacher?

Are they ready? Were they ready?

Where are you? Where were you?

❖ In Summary:

The **Past Simple "Be"** Questions are used to **ask about states, feelings, situations, identity, and locations in the past**.

They are formed with **was/were** (no “did”) and can be either **Yes/No questions** or **Wh-questions**.

EXERCISE

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-simple-exercise-2.html>

Great question! Here's a **clear and extended explanation in English** of what **Irregular Verbs in the Past Simple** are used for — including their purpose, how they work, examples, and grammar tips.

What are Irregular Verbs in the Past Simple used for?

Purpose:

Irregular verbs in the **Past Simple** are used to talk about **actions or events that happened and finished in the past**, just like regular verbs.

However, unlike regular verbs, **they do not follow the rule of adding "-ed"** at the end.

 **Regular verb:** walk → walked

 **Irregular verb:** go → went

Why do we use Irregular Verbs?

We use **irregular verbs** in the **Past Simple** to:

- Talk about completed actions in the past
- Describe what someone **did, saw, ate, made**, etc.
- Form clear and natural past tense sentences

They are essential in English because many common verbs are irregular.

Structure (Affirmative Sentences):

Subject + irregular verb (past form) + complement

Examples:

- **I went** to the market yesterday.
- **She ate** pizza last night.
- **They saw** a movie on Friday.
- **We made** a cake for her birthday.

Common time expressions:

- yesterday
 - last week / last night
 - two days ago
 - in 2020
 - when I was a child
-

Common Irregular Verbs (Base Form → Past Simple):

Base Form Past Simple

go went

eat ate

see saw

make made

take took

have had

come came

do did

get got

say said

Examples in Sentences:

1. **He went** to school early.
 2. **She had** a big breakfast.
 3. **We took** a taxi.
 4. **They did** their homework.
 5. **I saw** a rainbow yesterday.
-

! Important Notes:

- Irregular verbs **must be memorized** because they don't follow a rule.
- You still use the **base form** after “**did**” in negative and question forms:

- ✗ *Did you went?* → Incorrect
 - ✓ *Did you go?* → Correct
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? Do Irregular Verbs change in questions and negatives?

Yes — but in questions and negatives, you **do not use the past form** of the verb. You use “**did**” and the **base form** of the verb.

Sentence Type	Example
Affirmative	I ate pasta.
Negative	I did not eat pasta.
Question	Did you eat pasta?

EXERCISE

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/irregular-verbs-exercise-1.html>

PAST SIMPLE - NEGATIVE

🧠 What is the Past Simple - Negative used for?

🧱 Structure of Past Simple - Negative:

Subject + did not (didn't) + base form of the verb

✓ "Did not" is the negative form of the auxiliary verb "did".

⚠ The **main verb stays in its base form** (not in past form).

💡 Examples:

1. **I did not go to school yesterday.**
(This means: I stayed home or went somewhere else — but I didn't go to school.)
 2. **She didn't watch the movie last night.**
(The action of watching the movie did *not* happen.)
 3. **They did not play football last weekend.**
(Playing football did not happen during the weekend.)
-

❗ Important Notes:

- Even if the subject is **he/she/it**, we still use "**did not**" + **base form** (not the past form).
 - ✗ *He didn't went to the party.* → This is incorrect.
 - ✅ *He didn't go to the party.* → This is correct.
 - You can use **didn't** as a contraction of **did not**:
 - **She did not eat breakfast.** = **She didn't eat breakfast.**
-

⌚ Time expressions often used with Past Simple:

- yesterday
- last night/week/month/year
- in 2020
- two days ago
- when I was a child

💡 Example:

- *I didn't study for the test last week.*
-

🔁 Summary:

The **Past Simple - Negative** helps you talk about things that **did NOT happen** at a specific time in the past. It uses "**did not**" (**or "didn't"**) followed by the **base verb**.

Let me know if you'd like a practice exercise!

EXERCISE

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-simple-exercise-4.html>

PAST SIMPLE - 'YES / NO' QUESTIONS

PAST SIMPLE – YES/NO QUESTIONS: Complete Explanation

◆ What is the Past Simple Tense?

The **Past Simple Tense** is used to describe **completed actions** that happened at a specific time in the past.

◆ What are Yes/No Questions?

Yes/No questions are questions that can be answered with a simple “Yes” or “No.”

When using the **Past Simple tense**, these questions ask if something **happened or not in the past**.

✓ Purpose / Use:

The **Past Simple – Yes/No Question** form is used to:

- Ask if someone **did something in the past**.
 - Find out whether an action **happened** at a specific time.
 - Start a conversation about **past experiences or events**.
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Structure:

The formula is:

Did + subject + base form of the verb + (rest of the sentence)?

Question	Short Answers
Did you watch the movie?	Yes, I did. / No, I didn't.
Did she go to school today?	Yes, she did. / No, she didn't.
Did they finish their work?	Yes, they did. / No, they didn't.

A B C Breakdown of the Structure:

- “**Did**” → This auxiliary verb shows the sentence is in the past tense.
 - **Subject** → The person or thing doing the action.
 - **Base verb** → The main verb in its base form (not past tense).
 - **Rest of sentence** → Additional information (optional).
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! Important Grammar Rule:

⚠ The main verb never takes the past form in a Past Simple Yes/No question because “**did**” already shows the past.

- ✗ *Did she went to school?* → Incorrect
 - ✅ *Did she go to school?* → Correct
-

💬 Examples of Yes/No Questions in the Past Simple:

1. **Did you study for the test?**
→ Yes, I did. / No, I didn't.
 2. **Did he clean his room yesterday?**
→ Yes, he did. / No, he didn't.
 3. **Did they arrive on time?**
→ Yes, they did. / No, they didn't.
 4. **Did we forget something?**
→ Yes, we did. / No, we didn't.
 5. **Did it rain last night?**
→ Yes, it did. / No, it didn't.
-

⌚ Time Expressions Often Used with Past Simple:

These help place the action in time.

- Yesterday
- Last night / last week / last year
- Two days ago
- In 2021
- On Monday
- When I was a child

💡 Example:

- *Did she visit her grandmother last weekend?*
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💬 Short Answers:

When answering Yes/No questions in the past, use:

Answer Type	Format	Example
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Affirmative Yes, + subject + did. Yes, I did.

Negative No, + subject + didn't. No, she didn't.

🔍 Common Mistakes to Avoid:

✗ Incorrect	✓ Correct	Why?
Did she went to the store?	Did she go to the store?	"Did" is already past, so use base verb.
Did you was happy?	Were you happy?	Use "was/were" for the verb to be , not "did".
Did they played soccer yesterday?	Did they play soccer yesterday?	Use the base form "play".

🌐 How to Practice This:

1. Turn positive sentences into questions

- Sentence: *She ate breakfast at 8 AM.*
 - Question: *Did she eat breakfast at 8 AM?*
2. **Turn negative questions into yes/no**
- Sentence: *He didn't finish the project.*
 - Question: *Did he finish the project?*
3. **Answer with short responses:**
- Question: *Did you see the movie?*
 - Answer: *Yes, I did.* or *No, I didn't.*
-

Practice Exercise:

Change these statements into **yes/no questions**:

1. You visited Spain last summer.
2. She studied English yesterday.
3. They played basketball last night.

Answers:

1. **Did you visit Spain last summer?**
 2. **Did she study English yesterday?**
 3. **Did they play basketball last night?**
-

In Summary:

- **Past Simple Yes/No questions** are used to ask **if an action happened in the past**.
 - Use **Did + subject + base verb**.
 - Do **not** use the past form of the main verb.
 - Short answers use “**Yes, I did**” or “**No, I didn’t**.”
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EXERCISE

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-simple-exercise-5.html>

PAST SIMPLE - 'WH' QUESTIONS

PAST SIMPLE – 'WH' QUESTIONS: Complete Explanation

◆ What are 'Wh' Questions?

'Wh' questions are questions that begin with a **question word** like:

- **What** – asks about a thing or action
- **Where** – asks about a place
- **When** – asks about time
- **Why** – asks about a reason
- **Who** – asks about a person
- **Whose** – asks about possession
- **Which** – asks about choices
- **How** – asks about a method, amount, or way

These questions are used when you want **specific information**, not just “yes” or “no.”

◆ What is the Past Simple Tense?

The **Past Simple** is used to talk about **actions that happened and finished in the past**. It often uses time expressions like:

- yesterday
 - last week
 - two days ago
 - in 2020
 - when I was a child
-

✓ What is the Past Simple – ‘Wh’ Question form used for?

The Past Simple – ‘Wh’ Questions are used to **ask for detailed information** about something that **happened in the past**. You use these when you want to know **what, where, when, why, who**, etc., in relation to a past event.

Structure of ‘Wh’ Questions in the Past Simple:

Wh-word + did + subject + base form of the verb + (rest of the sentence)?

- ✓ The verb after “**did**” must always be in its **base form**.
 - ✗ Don’t use the past tense form of the main verb (because “**did**” already indicates past).
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Examples by Question Word:

Wh-Word	Example Question	Example Answer
What	What did you do last night?	I watched a movie.
Where	Where did she go yesterday?	She went to the mall.
When	When did they arrive?	They arrived at 7 p.m.
Why	Why did he cry?	Because he lost his phone.
Who	Who did you see at the party?	I saw my cousin.
How	How did you travel to school?	I walked.

Why do we use ‘Wh’ Questions in Past Simple?

We use these questions to:

- Get **more information** about a past action.
 - Ask about **details** like time, place, reason, people, or method.
 - Have more meaningful conversations about past events.
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! Important Grammar Rules:

1. Use “**did**” to indicate past tense (except when the question word is the subject — more on that below).
 2. Use the **base form** of the main verb.
 - ✗ *What did you ate?* → Incorrect
 - ✓ *What did you eat?* → Correct
 3. Keep word order correct: Wh-word + did + subject + base verb
-

🔍 Special Case – When the Wh-word Is the Subject

Sometimes, the **Wh-word is the subject** of the sentence (often with **who** or **what**). In that case, **we do not use “did.”**

❖ Example:

- **Who called you yesterday?**
→ *Anna called me.* (Here, “Who” is the subject)
- **What happened last night?**
→ *A power outage happened.* (No “did” needed)

◇ Structure in this case:

Wh-word (as subject) + verb in past form

✖ Common Mistakes to Avoid:

✖ Incorrect

✓ Correct

Why?

What did you went? What did you go? Use base verb after “did”

Why did she was late? Why was she late? Use “was/were” for the verb “to be”

When you did arrive? When did you arrive? Use correct word order

⌚ Common Time Expressions Used with Past Simple:

- yesterday
- last night / week / month / year
- two days ago
- on Monday
- in 2010
- when I was a child

❖ Example:

Where did you go last night?

Practice Exercise (with Answers):

Turn these statements into Wh-questions:

1. I visited my grandmother.
2. He went to the cinema.
3. She studied English at night.
4. They arrived at 10 a.m.
5. We traveled by train.

Answers:

1. Who did you visit?
 2. Where did he go?
 3. When did she study English?
 4. What time did they arrive?
 5. How did you travel?
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Compare: Yes/No vs. Wh-Questions

Yes/No Question	Wh-Question
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Did you go to school? Where did you go?

Did she call you? Who did she call?

In Summary:

- **Wh- questions in the Past Simple** are used to get **specific information** about an event or action that happened in the past.
 - The standard structure is:
Wh-word + did + subject + base verb + rest of sentence?
 - Use the **base form** of the verb.
 - Do **not** use “did” when the **Wh-word is the subject**.
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EXERCISE

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-simple-exercise-6.html>