



Simple Past Tense Review it!

Simple Past Tense

Which of the following sentences is in the simple past tense?

- a) I visit my friend.
- b) I am visiting my friend.
- c) I will visit my friend tomorrow.
- d) I visited my friend yesterday.

Simple Past Tense

Simple Past Tense

How do you form a negative sentence in the simple past for regular verbs?

- a) Add 'did not' + base form of the verb
- b) Add 'was not' + base form of the verb
- c) Add 'will not' + base form of the verb
- d) Add 'didn't' + past form of the verb

Simple Past Tense

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Which of the following is an irregular verb in the simple past tense?

- a) walked
- b) stopped
- c) went
- d) played

Simple Past Tense

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Which sentence uses the simple past tense correctly?

- a) She didn't went to the store.
- b) They was at the party.
- c) We played soccer yesterday.
- d) I am going to the park yesterday.

Simple Past Tense

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Which is a correct question in the simple past tense?

- a) Did they finish the project?
- b) Did she went to the store?
- c) Did he goes to the gym?
- d) Does she went home?

Simple Past Tense

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She _____ (go) to the store yesterday.

Simple Past Tense

They _____ (not, finish) the project on time

Simple Past Tense

He _____ (be) late for the meeting.

Simple Past Tense

Last year, we _____ (travel) to Italy.

Simple Past Tense

She _____ (study) for the test last night.

Simple Past Tense

Add -ed to the bare infinitive of the regular verb to
make sentences in the past simple.

Julie (to pass) her exams this March.

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Simple Past Tense

Use contracted forms to make negative sentences.

Julie (not to pass) her exams this March.

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Use contracted forms to make negative sentences.

Julie (not to pass) her exams this March.

Simple Past Tense

Use the past tense form of the irregular verbs to make sentences in the past simple.

Jake (to eat) tons of fast food as a kid.

Simple Past Tense

Use the past tense form of the irregular verbs to make sentences in the past simple.

Jake (to eat) tons of fast food as a kid.

Simple Past Tense

Make the correct form. Pay attention to spelling.

I forgot when was the last time I (to cry).

Pete (to stay) at home last night.

My mom (to drop) her phone into the pool.

Simple Past Tense

Make the correct form. Pay attention to spelling.

I forgot when was the last time I (to cry).

Pete (to stay) at home last night.

My mom (to drop) her phone into the pool.

Simple Past Tense

Use the past tense form of the verb to be.

I (to be) hungry and wanted to buy some Italian food,
but my friends (not to be) eager to join me.

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Simple Past Tense

Find time markers.

It felt like the party was just last night, but actually it
was 3 weeks ago.

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Find time markers.

It felt like the party was just last night, but actually it
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Definition

The Past Simple describes completed actions, events, or states at a finished time in the past. It often uses specific time markers (yesterday, last week, in 2019) and moves stories forward step by step.

Core uses

- Finished action at a specific past time: *I **called** her at six.*
- Series of completed events (narrative): *He **packed**, **left**, and **drove** home.*
- Past states or habits (neutral): *We **lived** in Rome for a year.*
- Past facts and general truths then: *Prices **were** lower in 2008.*
- Short past events interrupting longer actions: *I **heard** a noise while she was reading.*

Position rules (incl. special cases)

- **Affirmative (lexical verbs):** Subject + V₂/-ed → *She **worked** late.*
- **Negative:** Subject + **didn't** + base verb → *They **didn't** go home.*
- **Yes/No questions:** **Did** + subject + base verb → *Did you **see** it?*
- **Wh-questions:** Wh-word + **did** + subject + base → *Where did he **put** it?*
- **Verb "be" (no did):** I/He/She/It **was**; You/We/They **were**; negatives/questions: *wasn't/weren't, Was she...?*
- **Adverbs:** Frequency (*often, never*) before main verb, after **be** → *She **often visited**; She **was often** late.*
- **Time phrases:** Usually end position or initial with comma → *We left **yesterday**. / **Yesterday**, we left.*

Exceptions & caveats

- **No past form after *didn't/did* → *didn't go* (not *didn't went*).**

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- **Irregular verbs** have unique V₂ forms (*go* → *went*, *see* → *saw*); memorize.
- **Finished-time words** (*yesterday*, *in 2020*) → use Past Simple, not Present Perfect.
- **“Be” is special:** *was/were* for statements, questions, negatives (no *did*).
- **Stative verbs** (*know*, *believe*, *want*) commonly use simple, not continuous, for past states.
- **Spelling notes:** *study* → *studied*; *stop* → *stopped*; *travel* → *traveled/travelled* (both).

Mini table of forms

Form	Pattern	Example
Affirmative (regular)	S + V-ed	<i>They finished early.</i>
Affirmative (irregular)	S + V ₂	<i>She wrote a note.</i>
Negative	S + didn't + base	<i>I didn't call him.</i>
Yes/No question	Did + S + base + ... ?	<i>Did you find it?</i>
Wh-question	Wh + did + S + base + ... ?	<i>Where did he park?</i>
“Be” statements	S + was/were + ...	<i>We were tired.</i>
“Be” questions/negatives	Was/Were + S ... ? / wasn't/weren't	<i>Was it expensive? / It wasn't cheap.</i>
Short answers	Yes, I did. / No, I didn't.	<i>Did she call? — Yes, she did.</i>

10 high-frequency items

Item	Meaning	Typical placement	Example (≤12 words)
be (was/were)	exist/state	after subject	We were hungry.
go	move to another place	after subject	They went home early.
have	possess/experience	after subject	I had a cold.

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do	perform/complete	after subject	She did her homework.
make	create/produce	after subject	He made dinner.
get	receive/become	after subject	I got your email.
say	speak/remark	after subject	She said hello.
take	remove/carry	after subject	He took the bus.
see	perceive visually	after subject	We saw a comet.
come	move toward speaker	after subject	They came late.

6 Do/Don't tips

1. **Do** use Past Simple with finished times (*last night, in 2019*).
2. **Don't** add *-ed* after **did/didn't** (*didn't play*, not *played*).
3. **Do** invert with **did** for questions (*Did you call?*).
4. **Don't** use **did** with **was/were** (*Were you at home?*).
5. **Do** place time phrases at the end or sentence start.
6. **Don't** use continuous for stative past (*I knew the answer*).

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Rank	Item	Brief gloss (≤6 words)	CEFR	Typical placement	Example (≤12 words; bold target)
1	be → was/were	exist/state	A2	after subject; initial in questions	We were tired after work.
2	did/didn't (aux.)	question/negative helper	A2	questions: initial; negatives: after subject	I didn't call you yesterday.
3	go → went	move to another place	A2	after subject	They went home after dinner.
4	have → had	possess/experience	A2	after subject	She had a meeting at nine.
5	make → made	create/produce	A2	after subject	He made dinner for everyone.
6	take → took	remove/carry/choose	A2	after subject	We took the earlier train.
7	get → got	receive/become	A2	after subject	I got your message this morning.
8	say → said	speak/remark	A2	after subject	She said it was fine.
9	come → came	move toward speaker	A2	after subject	He came late to class.
10	see → saw	perceive visually	A2	after subject	We saw a rainbow after rain.
11	give → gave	hand/offer	A2	after subject	She gave me helpful advice.
12	find → found	discover/locate	A2	after subject	I found my keys at last.
13	think → thought	believe/consider	B1	after subject	They thought the test was difficult.

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14	tell → told	inform/say to someone	A2	after subject	He told me the news.
15	leave → left	go away/depart	A2	after subject	We left early to avoid traffic.
16	feel → felt	sense/emotion	A2	after subject	I felt better after rest.
17	put → put	place/position	A2	after subject	She put the book on top.
18	bring → brought	carry to here	B1	after subject	They brought snacks for everyone.
19	show → showed	display/demonstrate	A2	after subject	He showed us the new plan.
20	meet → met	come together	A2	after subject	We met at the station.
21	pay → paid	give money	A2	after subject	She paid the bill quickly.
22	write → wrote	compose text	B1	after subject	I wrote three emails this morning.
23	speak → spoke	talk/communicate	B1	after subject	They spoke briefly after lunch.
24	drive → drove	operate a car	B1	after subject	He drove home after midnight.

Past Simple - Example Bank (Graded)
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- A2 | Yesterday, I **bought** an umbrella near the station. | Finished past action.
A2 | She **called** her mother after dinner. | Completed action, past time.
A2 | We **went** to the park yesterday afternoon. | Finished movement in past.
A2 | They **saw** a rainbow after the storm. | Completed perception event.
A2 | He **made** a sandwich before work. | Completed creation.
A2 | I **took** a photo at the museum. | Single past event.
A2 | We **had** a cold last winter. | Past state, finished time.
A2 | He **came** home late last night. | Completed arrival.
A2 | She **gave** me a small gift. | Completed transfer.
A2 | I **found** my keys under the sofa. | Completed discovery.
B1 | We **left** the office early because of traffic. | Reason for past action.
B1 | They **brought** snacks for everyone at lunch. | Completed contribution.
B1 | She **explained** the problem clearly in the meeting. | Past reporting.
B1 | He **chose** a quieter route to work. | Completed choice.
B1 | I **kept** my promise to call back. | Fulfilled commitment.
B1 | She **paid** the bill without complaint. | Completed transaction.
B1 | He **broke** the screen during practice. | Past accident.
B1 | We **sent** the package on Monday. | Completed dispatch.
B1 | They **invited** the neighbors to a barbecue. | Finished invitation.
B1 | I **decided** to cancel my gym membership. | Past decision.
B2 | The team **negotiated** better terms after several calls. | Multi-step past action.
B2 | We **implemented** the policy across all departments. | Completed rollout.
B2 | She **verified** the data before publication. | Past verification.
B2 | Finance **allocated** extra budget to research. | Completed allocation.
B2 | They **postponed** the briefing due to storms. | Past schedule change.
B2 | Auditors **audited** the accounts last quarter. | Past review.
B2 | Lawyers **defended** the design during review. | Past defense.
B2 | We **resolved** the conflict without arbitration. | Completed resolution.
B2 | Analysts **forecast** lower demand for summer. | Past projection.
B2 | She **documented** the process with screenshots. | Completed documentation.
C1 | Investigators **ascertained** causality after extensive testing. | Precise past conclusion.
C1 | The firm **contested** the ruling in appellate court. | Past legal challenge.
C1 | She **synthesized** the literature into a cohesive framework. | Abstract synthesis, past.
C1 | Management **orchestrated** the rollout across five regions. | Complex coordination, past.
C1 | Auditors **scrutinized** the contracts for irregularities. | Intensive examination, past.
C1 | He **repudiated** the claim during the hearing. | Formal denial, past.
C1 | The board **commissioned** an independent study. | Formal past action.
C1 | They **disseminated** the findings through multiple channels. | Wide distribution, past.
C1 | We **recalibrated** the strategy after unexpected outcomes. | Strategic adjustment, past.
C1 | Ministers **ratified** the agreement without reservations. | Formal approval, past.

Past Simple - Fill-In Drills (30 Gaps)
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1. [A2] Yesterday, I ____ (buy) a bus pass.
2. [A2] She didn't ____ (call) me last night.
3. [A2] ____ you finish the report yesterday?
4. [A2] We ____ (be) late for the movie.
5. [A2] They ____ (arrive) on time yesterday.
6. [A2] It didn't ____ (rain) last weekend.
7. [B1] Where ____ he put the backup files last night?
8. [B1] I ____ (forget) my password twice last month.
9. [B1] The meeting ____ (start) at 9 and ended at eleven.
10. [B1] We ____ (move) offices in 2022.
11. [B1] She ____ (lend) me her notes yesterday.
12. [B1] The parcel ____ delivered on Monday.
13. [B1] They didn't ____ (agree) with the proposal.
14. [B1] How many tickets ____ you buy yesterday?
15. [B1] I ____ (hear) a crack, then everything went silent.
16. [B2] They ____ (call off) the launch at the last minute.
17. [B2] No witnesses ____ (come) forward after the incident.
18. [B2] We ____ (rely) on proxies; they failed unexpectedly.
19. [B2] The keynote ____ (begin) on time despite delays.
20. [B2] She ____ (overhear) them discussing the merger.
21. [B2] The results ____ (contradict) our earlier assumptions.

Past Simple - Fill-In Drills (30 Gaps)
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22. [B2] Why ____ they ignore the safety protocol yesterday?
23. [C1] Not only ____ he apologize, he reimbursed everyone.
24. [C1] The audit findings ____ (transform) our strategy overnight.
25. [C1] Her remarks ____ (undermine) the committee's confidence.
26. [C1] Under pressure, the minister ____ (resign) immediately.
27. [C1] What ____ you infer at trial yesterday?
28. [C1] The evidence ____ (point) to a coordinated scheme.
29. [B2] By contrast, the rival ____ (deliver) ahead of schedule.
30. [B2] After negotiations, both sides ____ (concede) key points.

Answer Key

1. Yesterday, I bought a bus pass.
2. She didn't call me last night.
3. Did you finish the report yesterday?
4. We were late for the movie.
5. They arrived on time yesterday.
6. It didn't rain last weekend.
7. Where did he put the backup files last night?
8. I forgot my password twice last month.
9. The meeting started at 9 and ended at eleven.
10. We moved offices in 2022.
11. She lent me her notes yesterday.

Past Simple - Fill-In Drills (30 Gaps)
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12. The parcel was delivered on Monday.
13. They didn't agree with the proposal.
14. How many tickets did you buy yesterday?
15. I heard a crack, then everything went silent.
16. They called off the launch at the last minute.
17. No witnesses came forward after the incident.
18. We relied on proxies; they failed unexpectedly.
19. The keynote began on time despite delays.
20. She overheard them discussing the merger.
21. The results contradicted our earlier assumptions.
22. Why did they ignore the safety protocol yesterday?
23. Not only did he apologize, he reimbursed everyone.
24. The audit findings transformed our strategy overnight.
25. Her remarks undermined the committee's confidence.
26. Under pressure, the minister resigned immediately.
27. What did you infer at trial yesterday?
28. The evidence pointed to a coordinated scheme.
29. By contrast, the rival delivered ahead of schedule.
30. After negotiations, both sides conceded key points.

A) Add — Past Simple (5)

1. **Base:** Yesterday, I ____ (**buy**) a new umbrella.
Task: Add the Past Simple of the verb in parentheses.
2. **Base:** We ____ (**arrive**) at the station at six.
Task: Add the Past Simple of the verb in parentheses.
3. **Base:** She ____ (**lose**) her keys last night.
Task: Add the Past Simple of the verb in parentheses.
4. **Base:** They ____ (not / **attend**) the meeting on Monday.
Task: Add the correct Past Simple negative.
5. **Base:** What time ____ (you / **leave**) the office yesterday?
Task: Add the correct Past Simple question form.

B) Move — Past Simple to correct position (5)

6. **Base:** When you did arrive?
Task: Move the Past Simple auxiliary to the correct position.
7. **Base:** You finished did the report yesterday?
Task: Move the auxiliary to front and fix verb form.
8. **Base:** Where you went yesterday?
Task: Move the auxiliary to form a correct question.
9. **Base:** Why she called you?
Task: Move the auxiliary to form a correct question.
10. **Base:** How long you stayed there?
Task: Move the auxiliary to form a correct question.

C) Replace — weak/incorrect form with better Past Simple (5)

11. **Base:** I was going to the bank yesterday.
Task: Replace with a simple, finished Past action.

12. **Base:** He did write the report last night.
Task: Replace "did + base" with Past Simple.
13. **Base:** They were having lunch at noon yesterday.
Task: Replace with simple completed action in the past.
14. **Base:** She did a presentation last week.
Task: Replace with a better verb collocation in Past Simple.
15. **Base:** He did a mistake yesterday.
Task: Replace incorrect collocation with correct Past Simple.

D) Correct — misuse of Past Simple (5)

16. **Base:** I didn't went to class yesterday.
Task: Correct the Past Simple negative form.
17. **Base:** She seen that movie last month.
Task: Correct the irregular Past Simple form.
18. **Base:** We was tired after the trip.
Task: Correct the Past Simple of "be".
19. **Base:** Have you finished the report yesterday?
Task: Use Past Simple with a finished-time expression.
20. **Base:** He costed me twenty euros.
Task: Correct the Past Simple of a stative verb.

Answer Sheet

1. Yesterday, I **bought** a new umbrella.
2. We **arrived** at the station at six.
3. She **lost** her keys last night.
4. They **didn't attend** the meeting on Monday.
5. What time **did you leave** the office yesterday?

Past Simple - Transformations (20 Items)
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6. When **did you arrive**?
7. **Did you finish** the report yesterday?
8. Where **did you go** yesterday?
9. Why **did she call** you?
10. How long **did you stay** there?
11. I **went** to the bank yesterday.
12. He **wrote** the report last night.
13. They **had** lunch at noon yesterday.
14. She **gave** a presentation last week.
15. He **made** a mistake yesterday.
16. I **didn't go** to class yesterday.
17. She **saw** that movie last month.
18. We **were** tired after the trip.
19. **Did you finish** the report yesterday?
20. He **cost** me twenty euros.

Text 1 (email)

Hi Maria, thanks for the meeting yesterday. I didn't attend the afternoon session because the client moved the call. Also I have sent yesterday the revised timeline, but the numbers may need another look. What you did decide about the pilot scope? I'll update the notes later.

Text 2 (review)

We tried the café last weekend. The waiter was friendly, but the kitchen did forget our order. After thirty minutes, I didn't think it would come. How long you waited for drinks? For us, twenty minutes. Finally, it arrived and the pasta matched our request from last time.

Text 3 (message)

Hey, we got back from Valencia on Monday. We were exhausted after the night bus. I did book tickets months ago, but the hostel changed our room. Have you seen the photos I uploaded yesterday? The beach was windy, yet the sunsets looked incredible.

Text 4 (incident report)

During the deployment yesterday at 14:00, the API failed for new users. Engineers checked logs and then rolled back at 14:25. The hotfix did restore sign-ups, and a few transactions were pending. Did we complete the data replay afterwards? Please confirm for the incident report.

Text 5 (travel diary)

Last winter in Hokkaido, I am renting a small cabin near the lake. The owner gave us maps and said the trail was safe. We didn't see any bears, but we hiked carefully every day. At night we cooked ramen and watched snow fall.

Text 6 (news brief)

City council announces new parking rules in 2019, but drivers complained immediately. Enforcement officers didn't issue many tickets on the first day. According to the spokesperson, they implement the plan after consulting businesses. Residents said traffic improved slightly near schools.

Text 7 (support log)

Thanks for contacting us. I checked your order and did find the delay. Our warehouse didn't ship the package on Friday because the label printed incorrectly. When you received the item, did you notice any damage? We'll refund shipping once the return arrives.

Text 8 (social post)

Remember that festival we visited last July? I have danced near the main stage until the rain started. The DJ played classics, and people was cheering loudly. Later, we did take shelter under a tent and shared fries. Best night!

Answer Sheet

Text 1 (email)

- Correction: *I didn't **attend**... I **sent** the revised timeline yesterday... What **did you decide**...*
- Reasons:
 - didn't attended → **didn't attend** (base after didn't)
 - have sent yesterday → **sent** (finished-time → Past Simple)
 - What you did decide → **What did you decide** (question word order)

Text 2 (review)

- Correction: *...the kitchen **forgot**... I didn't **think**... How long **did you wait**...*
- Reasons:
 - did forgot → **forgot** (remove redundant did)
 - didn't thought → **didn't think** (base after didn't)
 - How long you waited → **How long did you wait** (auxiliary before subject)

Text 3 (message)

- Correction: *We **were** exhausted... I **booked** tickets... **Did you see** the photos...*
- Reasons:
 - We was → **were** (Past Simple of be, plural)

Past Simple - Error-Hunt (8 Short Texts)
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- did booked → **booked** (remove redundant did)
- Have you saw → **Did you see** (finished-time → Past Simple)

Text 4 (incident report)

- Correction: *the API **failed**... The hotfix **restored** sign-ups... Did we **complete**...*
- Reasons:
 - fail → **failed** (Past Simple form)
 - did restored → **restored** (remove redundant did)
 - Did we completed → **Did we complete** (base after did)

Text 5 (travel diary)

- Correction: *I **rented** a small cabin... The owner **gave** us maps... We didn't **see** any bears...*
- Reasons:
 - am renting → **rented** (finished past action)
 - give → **gave** (irregular Past Simple)
 - didn't saw → **didn't see** (base after didn't)

Text 6 (news brief)

- Correction: *City council **announced**... officers didn't **issue**... they **implemented** the plan...*
- Reasons:
 - announces → **announced** (dated event → Past Simple)
 - didn't issued → **didn't issue** (base after didn't)
 - implement → **implemented** (Past Simple needed)

Text 7 (support log)

- Correction: ...and **found** the delay... warehouse didn't **ship**... did you **notice** any damage...
- Reasons:
 - did found → **found** (remove redundant did)
 - didn't shipped → **didn't ship** (base after didn't)
 - did you noticed → **did you notice** (base after did)

Text 8 (social post)

- Correction: I **danced** near the main stage... people **were** cheering... we **took** shelter...
- Reasons:
 - have danced → **danced** (finished-time → Past Simple)
 - people was → **were** (Past Simple of be, plural)
 - did take → **took** (remove redundant did)