



The simple past

1. Formation of the simple past:

1.1. Regular verbs

Affirmative: **subject + infinitive form of the verb + ED**

Question: **Did/Did not + subject + infinitive**

Negative: **subject + did not (or didn't) + infinitive**

AFFIRMATIVE	QUESTION (+)	NEGATIVE*	QUESTION (-)**
I wanted	Did I want?	I didn't want	Didn't I want?
he/she entered	Did he/she enter ?	he/she didn't enter	Didn't he/she enter?
we played	Did we play?	we didn't play	Didn't we play?

1.2 Irregular verbs

- to be

Affirmative (you cannot contract this form!)	Negative
I, he, she, it was	I, he, she, it wasn't (or was not)
you, we, they were	you, we, they weren't (or were not)

Question:	Answer:
Was she here last month?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes, she was.



The simple past

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No, she wasn't (or was not).
Were you here last month?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Yes, you were.No, you weren't (or were not).

- study the list of the irregular verbs! Look at these examples of irregular verbs:

Infinitive	Past simple
to come	came
to drink	drank
to begin	began
to bring	brought
...	...

2 Use of the simple past

2.1 Use the simple past to talk about things that started and finished in a specific time in the past. The simple past is used when a definite time is stated, known or presumed known.

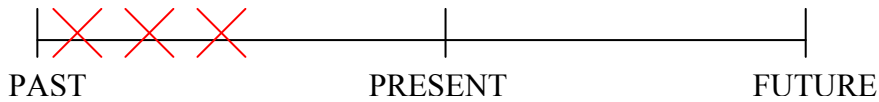


Eg: He died in 1990.
You didn't call last night!
She went to Paris three years ago.
Adam arrived in London a week ago.

You can use the simple past with **time expressions** like: in the nineteenth century, by 1840, last week, five years ago,...



2.2 Use the simple past to describe a past habit.



Eg: When I was a boy, I played the guitar every day.

I studied French when I was a child.

They always stole chocolate.

She usually wrote him letters.

A past habit can be described by some **expressions** like: always, never, when I was a child, frequently, sometimes, generally,...

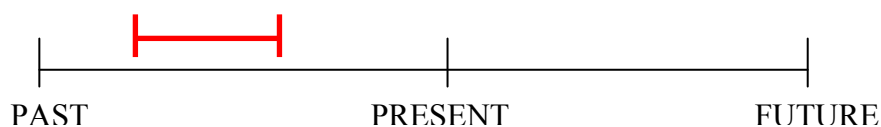
2.3 Use the simple past to describe consecutive actions.



Eg: I had a bath, I watched TV and I went to sleep.

You finished work and then you had lunch.

2.4 Use the simple past to describe the duration of something that starts and finishes in the past





Eg: **When you were in the USA**, did you see the Statue of Liberty?
I lived in Paris **for two years**.
I watched TV **all day**.

2.4 Use the simple past with *when*?

Eg: **When** did they go to Australia?
When did you arrive?

2.5 Use the simple past with “*when clauses*”

Eg: I remember the day **when** I met him.
I was eating **when** she called. = **When** she called, I was eating.
When he **arrived**, I kissed him. = I kissed him **when** he arrived.

2.6 Use the simple past in stories

Once upon a time in mid winter, when the snowflakes were falling like feathers from heaven, a beautiful queen **sat** sewing at her window, which **had** a frame of black ebony wood. As she **sewed**, she **looked up** at the snow and **pricked** her finger with her needle. Three drops of blood **fell** onto the snow. The red on the white **looked** so beautiful, that she **thought**, "If only I had a child as white as snow, as red as blood, and as black as this frame." Soon afterward she **had** a little daughter who **was** as white as snow, as red as blood, and as black as ebony wood, and therefore they **called** her Little Snow-White. (Grimm Brothers, *Little Snow-White*, 1812)