**Simple Past Tense with Examples**

In **simple past tense,** we use the second form of the verb. The word “ago” is associated with this tense in the same way that “since” and “for” are with the present perfect. The word “ago” is a signal word for the simple past and points out a date or period measured back from the present. It is also called past indefinite tense.

## Definition

Simple past tense is used to express the act completed in the past. We also put verbs into simple past tense if we want to describe actions happening one after the other, as in a story.

## Signal Words

* Ago
* Last night
* Yesterday
* Last week/month / year

## Formula

We use, second form of verb (verb+ed or irregular verb) in simple past tense.

**Subject + Past Simple(V2) + object**

We can use regular verbs and irregular verbs in simple past.

First,

We look at example of regular verbs (verb+ed)

**He/She/It/We/They/You + watched** **+ the movie.**

Now,

We’ll see the example of irregular verb (for example, forget – forgot – forgotten)

**He/She/It/We/They/You + forgot + the date.**

The formula for affirmative, negative and interrogative sentences is given here.

### Affirmative Sentences

Formula for affirmative sentences.

Subject + Past Simple (V2) + object

**Examples**

* I **watered** the plants.
* The chef **cooked** the meal.

### Negative Sentences

Subject + did not + base form(V1) + object

**Examples**

* I **did not water** the plants.
* The chef **did not cook** the meal.

### Interrogative Sentences

Did + subject + base form(V1) + object + ?

**Examples**

* **Did** I **water** the plants**?**
* **Did** the chef **cook** the meal**?**

## Simple Past + Verb ‘to be’

Subject + to be + rest of sentence

**He/She/It/I + was +** hungry.

**You/They/We + were +** hungry

## Rules / Usage

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rules/Usage** | **Example** |
| The action that happened at some specific time in past. | He **went** to market last night. |
| Two or more consecutive actions that happened in the past. | He **entered** the room, **switched** on the light and **fell** flat on the bed. |
| The finished action of the past. | My grandmother **used to hand wash** her clothes. |
| To talk about the people who are no more in this world. | Albert Einstein **presented** the theory of relativity. |
| Time/date expressions | The manager **joined** this office **two days ago.** |

## Examples

**Affirmative Sentences**

* It **rained** heavily last week.
* I **assented** to your proposal.
* The doctor **examined** the patient thoroughly.
* They **planted** the saplings two months ago.
* My father **died** three years ago.
* He **swam** across the river.
* The academic staff of the college **arranged** a dinner.
* The gardener **mowed** the grass yesterday.
* The company **launched** a new hair-growing product last night.
* The kids **bought** the toys from the toy shop.

**Negative Sentences**

* It **did not rain** heavily last week.
* I **did not assent** to your proposal.
* The doctor **did not examine** the patient thoroughly.
* They **did not plant** the saplings two months ago.
* My father **did not die** three years ago.
* He **did not swim** across the river.
* The academic staff of the college **did not arrange** a dinner.
* The gardener **did not mow** the grass yesterday.
* The company **did not launch** a new hair-growing product last night.
* The kids **did not buy** the toys from the toy shop.

**Interrogative Sentences**

* **Did**it **rain** heavily last week**?**
* **Did** I **assent** to your proposal**?**
* **Did** the doctor **examine** the patient thoroughly**?**
* **Did** they **plant** the saplings two months ago**?**
* **Did** my father **die** three years ago**?**
* **Did** he **swim** across the river**?**
* **Did** the academic staff of the college **arrange** a dinner**?**
* **Did** the gardener **mow** the grass yesterday**?**
* **Did** the company **launch** a new hair-growing product last night**?**
* **Did** the kids **buy** the toys from the toy shop**?**

## Exercises

1. Tom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to work as a web designer. (use)
2. It \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yesterday morning. (drizzle)
3. Five girls \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the park. (to be)
4. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the rooms 10 minutes ago. (sweep)
5. The mechanic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my bike. (repair)
6. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the job last month. (get)
7. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ soundly last night. (sleep)
8. Jimmy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verbs last month. (practice)
9. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Venice last night. (leave)
10. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the kite when the storm broke. (fly)