

The simple past tense: spelling rules for regular verbs

Form the past tense of most verbs by adding -ed to the base form.

play → played

For verbs ending in -e or -ie, add -d.

smile → smiled

tie → tied

For one-syllable verbs ending in one vowel + one consonant, double the consonant and add -ed.

stop → stopped

plan → planned

For two-syllable verbs ending in one vowel + one consonant: If the first syllable is stressed, add -ed.

vi - sit → visited

If the second syllable is stressed, double the consonant and add -ed.

pre - fer → preferred

For verbs ending in a consonant and -y, change the -y to -i and add -ed.

study → studied

Be careful! Do not use -ed for irregular verbs.

See page 122 for a list of irregular verbs in the simple past tense form.

A Write the simple past tense form of the verbs.

- 1 return
- 2 like
- 3 change
- 4 cry

- 5 try
- 6 stay
- 7 travel
- 8 arrive

- 9 rain
- 10 wait
- 11 offer
- 12 hurry

B Write the simple past tense form of these irregular verbs.

- 1 eat
- 2 drink
- 3 swim
- 4 go

- 5 write
- 6 meet
- 7 run
- 8 begin

- 9 buy
- 10 read
- 11 pay
- 12 understand

The simple past tense: usage and form

Use the simple past tense to talk about completed actions in the past.

My grandparents **went** to Paris in April.

Last year, we **played** tennis and **did** aerobics every day.

Negative forms

Use **didn't** + the base form of a verb.

He **didn't go** out last weekend. NOT He didn't **went** out last weekend.

They **didn't have** a good time. NOT They didn't **had** a good time.

Questions

Begin **yes / no** questions with **Did**. Use the base form of the verb.

Did you **go** swimming every day? NOT Did you **went** swimming every day?

Begin information questions with a question word followed by **did**. Use the base form of the verb.

Where **did** you **go** shopping? When **did** he **arrive**? What **did** they **eat** every day?

C On a separate sheet of paper, change each affirmative statement into a negative statement.

- 1 I slept all night.
- 2 We went swimming.
- 3 She ate a lot of food.

- 4 They drank a lot of coffee.
- 5 We had dinner at eight.
- 6 He bought postcards.

D On a separate sheet of paper, unscramble the words to write questions. Use the simple past tense.

- 1 you / go / where / on vacation last summer
- 2 you / from vacation / get back / when
- 3 they / a good flight / have

- 4 in London / you / do / what
- 5 your parents / their trip / enjoy
- 6 stay / how long / in Paris / Alicia