Unit 3: Past Simple (I did) A. Study this example situation: Imagine yesterday, after school or work, you went home.

You are not going home now. (You are here.)

But you went home yesterday. You finished that action.

We use the Past Simple to talk about things that finished in the past.

B. How we make the Past Simple For most verbs, we add -ed to the end:

I/we/you/they/he/she/it

Examples

worked

I worked yesterday

played

You played tennis

started

It started to rain

watched

We watched a movie

But some common verbs are irregular – they change their form:

Base Form

Past Simple

Example

go

went

I went to the park.

have

had

She had a good time.

do

did

They did their homework.

see

saw

We saw a beautiful bird.

eat

ate

He ate breakfast this morning.

be

was / were

I was happy. You were busy.

We use the Past Simple for actions that are finished and happened at a specific time in the past.

I finished my homework an hour ago.

They visited Paris last year.

The concert started at 8 PM.

C. Questions and Negative Sentences To make questions and negative sentences, we use did or didn't (did not).

When you use did or didn't, the main verb goes back to its base form (the simple present form, without -ed or the irregular past form).

Questions

Negative Sentences

Did I/you/we/they/he/she/it work?

I/you/we/they/he/she/it didn't work

Did you go?

I didn't go

Did he have fun?

He didn't have fun

What did you do?

I didn't do anything.

Did you watch TV last night? (Not: Did you watched?)

I didn't go to the party. (Not: I didn't went.)

Where did she live before?

D. Time Expressions for the Past Simple We often use these words with the Past Simple to show when something happened:

yesterday (yesterday morning, yesterday afternoon)

last (last night, last week, last month, last year, last Tuesday)

ago (an hour ago, two days ago, a long time ago)

in (in 2023, in March, in the summer)

when (When I was a child...)

I played football yesterday.

She traveled last month.

They bought a new car two years ago.

He lived in London in 2020.

E. Talking About What Happened When we simply want to say what happened or what we did in the past, we use the Past Simple.

I woke up early this morning.

We ate pasta for dinner yesterday.

She called her friend.

They visited their grandparents.