**Grammar Mini-Lesson: The Past Simple (A1 Learners)**

**Teacher:** Hello everyone! Today, we are going to talk about the past. Not right now, not tomorrow, but **yesterday**, or **last week**, or **a long time ago**. We use something called the **Past Simple** to talk about actions that are **finished**. They are *done*. They happened, and now they are over. Think of it like a story about *what happened*.

**1. What is the Past Simple? (Explanation in Simple Words)**

**Teacher:** Imagine you did something yesterday. Maybe you ate breakfast, or you watched TV, or you walked to school. When we talk about these actions, we use the **Past Simple**.

It's for:

* **Actions that started AND finished in the past.**
* **Specific times in the past:** *yesterday*, *last night*, *two days ago*, *in 2020*.

**How do we make it?**

* **Most verbs (regular verbs):** We add **-ED** to the end of the verb.
  + *Play* becomes *Play****ED***
  + *Walk* becomes *Walk****ED***
  + *Cook* becomes *Cook****ED***
* **Some verbs (irregular verbs):** These are special! They change their form completely. You just need to learn them.
  + *Go* becomes *WENT*
  + *Eat* becomes *ATE*
  + *Have* becomes *HAD*
  + *See* becomes *SAW*

**Negative (What you *didn't* do):**

* We use **DID NOT** or **DIDN'T** (short form).
* After "did not," the main verb goes back to its basic form (no -ed, no special change).
  + *I* ***didn't play*** *football.* (NOT "I didn't played")
  + *She* ***didn't go*** *to the park.* (NOT "She didn't went")

**Questions (Asking about the past):**

* We use **DID** at the beginning of the question.
* Again, the main verb goes back to its basic form.
  + ***Did*** *you* ***watch*** *TV yesterday?* (NOT "Did you watched?")
  + ***Did*** *he* ***eat*** *pizza?* (NOT "Did he ate?")

**2. Example Sentences in Everyday Situations**

**Teacher:** Let's look at some examples of what people did yesterday or in the past!

* **Regular Verbs (-ED):**
  + "I **walked** to the shop yesterday morning." (I walk + ed)
  + "She **cooked** a delicious dinner last night." (She cook + ed)
  + "We **played** computer games on Saturday." (We play + ed)
  + "He **watched** a funny movie last weekend." (He watch + ed)
  + "They **talked** on the phone for an hour." (They talk + ed)
* **Irregular Verbs (Special ones!):**
  + "I **went** to school at 8 AM." (Go → Went)
  + "He **ate** an apple for breakfast." (Eat → Ate)
  + "She **had** a big coffee this morning." (Have → Had)
  + "We **saw** our friends at the park." (See → Saw)
  + "They **made** a cake for the party." (Make → Made)
* **Negative Sentences (What didn't happen):**
  + "I **didn't walk** to school today because it rained."
  + "She **didn't cook** dinner; she ordered pizza."
  + "We **didn't go** to the cinema last night."
* **Questions (Asking about the past):**
  + "**Did** you **play** outside yesterday?"
  + "**Did** he **eat** all the cookies?"
  + "**Did** they **visit** their family last month?"

**3. Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them**

**Teacher:** Now, let's look at some common mistakes students make and how we can avoid them!

1. **Mistake:** Forgetting "-ED" for regular verbs or using the wrong irregular form.
   * *Example:* "I *play* football yesterday." (Incorrect)
   * *Example:* "He *go* to the shop." (Incorrect)
   * **How to avoid:**
     + **For Regular Verbs:** Always remember to add **-ED**! Practice saying it: "walked," "played," "cooked."
     + **For Irregular Verbs:** These are special, so you need to learn them. Start with a few common ones like *go-went*, *eat-ate*, *have-had*. We will practice them a lot!
2. **Mistake:** Using "-ED" or the irregular form *after* "DID NOT" or "DID" in questions/negatives.
   * *Example:* "I **didn't went** to school." (Incorrect)
   * *Example:* "**Did** you **watched** TV?" (Incorrect)
   * **How to avoid:** Remember, **"DID" is the helper word for the past!** It already tells us it's the past. So, the main verb (go, watch, play, eat) must be in its **base form** (the normal form, like in Present Simple).
     + "I **didn't GO** to school."
     + "**Did** you **WATCH** TV?"
3. **Mistake:** Forgetting "did" in questions or negatives.
   * *Example:* "You played football yesterday?" (Correct, but less common for A1) or "I not played." (Incorrect)
   * **How to avoid:** Always use **DID** for questions and **DID NOT/DIDN'T** for negatives with most verbs. It's like a special key to unlock the past tense for questions and negatives!

**4. Short Practice Activities**

**Teacher:** Let's practice! We have some fun activities to help you remember the Past Simple.

**Activity 1: Fill in the Blanks (Regular Verbs - Add -ED!)**

* Complete the sentences using the past simple form of the verb in brackets.
  1. Yesterday, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (watch) a movie.
  2. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (cook) pasta last night.
  3. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (play) games at the party.
  4. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (walk) to the library this morning.
  5. They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (talk) about their holidays.

*(Expected Answers: 1. watched, 2. cooked, 3. played, 4. walked, 5. talked)*

**Activity 2: Fill in the Blanks (Irregular Verbs - Special Forms!)**

* Complete the sentences using the past simple form of the verb in brackets. Remember, these are special!
  1. Last weekend, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the beach.
  2. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (eat) a big sandwich for lunch.
  3. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (have) a lot of fun.
  4. They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (see) a bird in the garden.
  5. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (make) a new friend.

*(Expected Answers: 1. went, 2. ate, 3. had, 4. saw, 5. made)*

**Activity 3: Correct the Error!**

* Read the sentences. They have one mistake. Can you find it and correct it?
  1. I didn't **went** to the park. → I didn't \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the park.
  2. She **watch** TV yesterday. → She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TV yesterday.
  3. **Did** you **ate** breakfast? → **Did** you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ breakfast?
  4. He not **played** outside. → He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ outside.

*(Expected Answers: 1. go, 2. watched, 3. eat, 4. didn't play)*

**Activity 4: Tell Me About Yesterday!**

* **Teacher asks:** "What is one thing you did yesterday?"
* **Students answer:** (e.g., "I **studied** English." "I **ate** pizza." "I **played** football.")
* **Teacher asks:** "What is one thing you **didn't** do yesterday?"
* **Students answer:** (e.g., "I **didn't go** to the gym." "I **didn't watch** a movie.")

**Teacher:** Great job, everyone! Remember, the Past Simple is for things that are **finished**. Keep practicing the "-ED" verbs and the special irregular verbs. You are doing very well!