

I looked everywhere

Pronouncing past tenses

A To make the past tense of a regular verb, you add the ending **-ed**:

look → looked explain → explained

or just **-d** if there is already a letter **e** at the end of the infinitive:

live → lived

Normally, the number of syllables stays the same.

look	(1 syllable)	looked	(1 syllable)
explain	(2 syllables)	explained	(2 syllables)
live	(1 syllable)	lived	(1 syllable)

C79 Listen.

Look at this!

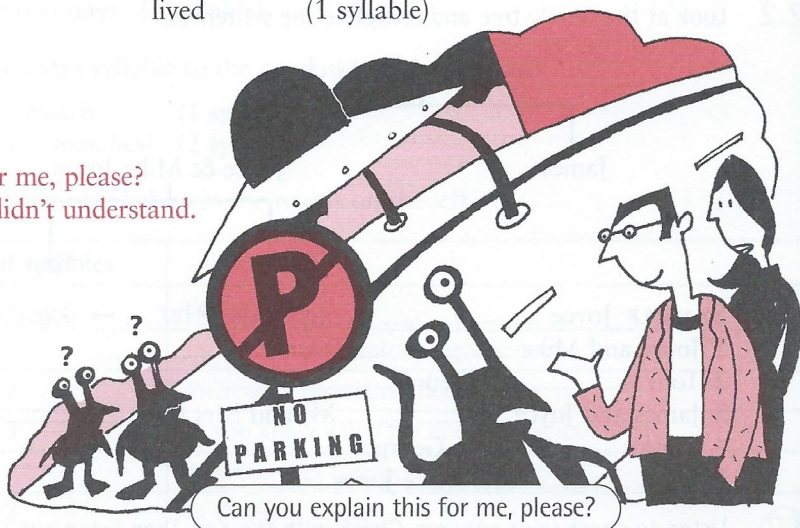
I looked everywhere.

Can you explain this for me, please?

I explained it but they didn't understand.

Where do you live?

We lived in the country.



If it's difficult for you to say the **-ed** ending without adding an extra syllable, you can imagine the **-ed** is at the start of the next word. For example, say *I looked everywhere* like this:

I look teverywhere

and say *I explained it* like this:

I explain dit

B But if the infinitive of the verb ends with **/d/** or **/t/**, the **-ed** or **-d** ending adds an extra syllable:

wait → waited

hate → hated

wait (1 syllable) waited (2 syllables)

hate (1 syllable) hated (2 syllables)

C80 Listen.

Wait here, please.

We waited half an hour.

I hate waiting.

I hated school.

C81

Sometimes you don't hear the **-ed** ending clearly. This happens when the next word starts with a consonant. Listen.

I look(ed) there.

We liv(ed) near the park.

Important
for listening

Exercises

- 43.1** Listen and mark the verbs with a tick (✓) if you can hear the *-ed* ending clearly, and a cross (X) if you can't.

C82

- 1 I watched an interesting film. ✓
- 2 I watched the news. ☐
- 3 I walked to the end of the road. ☐
- 4 The car stopped in the middle of the road. ☐
- 5 I phoned the police. ☐
- 6 They helped me a lot. ☐
- 7 They asked a lot of questions. ☐
- 8 It rained all day. ☐

Check with the Key. Then listen again and repeat.

- 43.2** Listen and circle the word you hear.

C83

- 1 They *play* / *played* very well.
- 2 We *clean* / *cleaned* all the rooms.
- 3 We always *cook* / *cooked* a big meal for the whole family.
- 4 I *need* / *needed* some help with the housework.
- 5 I *listen* / *listened* to the radio.
- 6 I *want* / *wanted* to have a word with you.
- 7 They *arrive* / *arrived* early in the morning.
- 8 I never *miss* / *missed* the lesson.

Check with the Key. Then listen again and repeat.

- 43.3** Listen and complete these sentences with the verb form you hear – present or past.

C84

- 1 We usually *finished* before the others.
- 2 You my name wrong.
- 3 I a bit of onion to the recipe.
- 4 I those people but they always too long.
- 5 I the music in the film.
- 6 We for hours and hours.
- 7 I your house on my way to work.
- 8 They by the sea.

Check with the Key. Then listen again and repeat.

- 43.4** Listen to this poem.

C85

I wanted to go to the Friday night show.
 It started at eight – didn't want to be late.
 I walked into town, found the place and sat down.
 First in the queue, and nothing to do.
 I waited for hours. It rained – a few showers.
 A friend passed and asked me, 'Why are you here?
 Come down to the pub and we'll have a few beers.'
 I remembered just then that Thursday was when
 he went for a drink, and I started to think ...
 Thursday?

Listen again and repeat. Speak with the same rhythm as the recording.

