



# Past Simple Tense

Grammar > Intermediate 4



# Exercise 1 – Learning

## How to Form the Past Simple Tense

To change most verbs into the past simple tense, add '-ed' to them:

**verb + -ed.**

- I **work**. → I **worked**.
- She **plays** football. → She **played** football.
- We **talk**. → We **talked**.

Irregular verbs do not follow the "verb + -ed" rule. Here are some of the most common irregular verbs:

- I **go**. → I **went**.
- He **comes**. → He **came**.
- You **give** presents. → You **gave** presents.
- They **have** a dog. → They **had** a dog.



**Tip:** Many irregular verbs change to an 'a' sound in their past tense form: **run** → **ran**; **drink** → **drank**; **swim** → **swam**.

### Past Simple Tense Usage

We use the past simple tense to talk about:

1. **A completed action in the past:** "I saw Susan two weeks ago."
2. **A repeated action in the past:** "My grandma often baked cookies for us."
3. **Things that were true in the past:** "I played football when I was a child."

We almost always use an **adverb of time** after the simple past tense:

- I worked **yesterday**.
- We talked **five minutes ago**.
- He came to Russia **in 1978**.



### Regular verbs:

I **cook** every day. → I **cooked** yesterday.

They **walk** 2 kilometers every week. → They **walked** 2 kilometers last week.

You **dance** very well. → You **danced** last night.

### Irregular verbs:

He **writes** a letter to his mother every Friday. → He **wrote** a letter to his mother on Friday.

They **sleep** in their bedroom. → They **slept** well.

She **reads** before sleeping. → She **read** a book yesterday.



## More examples:

### Specific Point in Time

- They **had** a meeting *yesterday*.
- I **got** a phone *last year*.

### Non-Specific Point in Time

- *Once upon a time*, a princess **lived** in this village.
- I **saw** Susan *the other day*.

### Frequency

- She **watched** movies *sometimes*.
- He **went** to Germany *occasionally*.

### Period of Time

- I **listened** to rock music *as a teenager*.
- We **danced** *all night long*.



## Exercise 2 – Fill in the Blanks

*Fill in the blanks with the verb in past tense form.*

1. We often \_\_\_\_\_ together when we were kids. (play)
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ for him for two hours. (wait)
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ to Spain last year. (go)
4. My uncle \_\_\_\_\_ to our house often when I was a child. (come)
5. The baby \_\_\_\_\_ the whole night. (cry)
6. She \_\_\_\_\_ beer for the first time last night. (drink)
7. We \_\_\_\_\_ a taxi home yesterday. (take)
8. Megan \_\_\_\_\_ a cat. (see)



## Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

*Use what you learned in class to transform sentences into past tense.*

**Example:** I learn English. → I learned English.

### Content:

1. He likes rain.
2. I have a party with my friends.
3. I use an umbrella.
4. She looks nice.
5. You speak German.
6. We take some pictures.