

GRAMMAR

The past simple: Regular verbs

LEVEL

Beginner (A1)

NUMBER

EN_A1_2103G

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can form the past simple of some common regular verbs and their corresponding negative forms.
- I can form the past simple of the irregular verbs 'to go' and 'to do'.



I **visited** Japan and
Korea
last summer.



The past simple

- Use the **past simple** to talk about **finished actions** in the **past**.
- Add **-ed** to the infinitive of **regular verbs** to form the past simple.

infinitive	past simple
visit	visited
walk	walked
stay	stayed
enjoy	enjoyed
relax	relaxed



The past simple

- Add **-ied** to some verbs ending in **y** to form the past simple.

infinitive	past simple
carry	carried
study	studied
try	tried
cry	cried
hurry	hurried



The past simple

- **Regular verbs** in the past simple are **the same** for **all subjects**.

present simple	past simple
I play basketball on Saturdays.	I played basketball last Saturday.
You watch TV at home.	You watched TV at home last night.
He visits his grandparents.	He visited his grandparents last weekend.
She listens to music.	She listened to music yesterday.
We stay in a hotel.	We stayed in a hotel last summer.



Pronouncing the past simple

talk

watch

play

walk

listen

study

Are they all pronounced the same?



Fill in the gaps

Use a regular past simple verb to fill in the gaps.

I _____ to work this morning.

We _____ TV last night.

He _____ South America last summer.

We _____ engineering at university.

We _____ about it at the meeting.





ed or ied?

How are these words spelt in the past simple?



1

wash

2

try

3

study

4

work

5

watch

6

cry

7

carry

8

play

-ed

-ied

Past time phrases

- Use **past time phrases** to say **when** you did something.
- **Past time phrases** usually go at the **end** of a sentence.

past simple sentence

past time phrase

I **visited** Amsterdam

last year.

I **played** tennis

yesterday.

We **watched** that film

a few days ago.

” Categorise the time phrases



1

now

2

yesterday
afternoon

3

last night

4

at the moment

5

a few months
ago

6

today

7

last week

8

last year

Present

Past



Multiple choice

1 I watched TV _____ night.

- a. yesterday b. last c. now d. ago

2 I _____ the Philippines last summer.

- a. go b. vacation c. visited d. visit

3 They _____ dinner for us last night.

- a. cook b. make c. makes d. cooked

4 We _____ our vacation!

- a. enjoyed b. enjoys c. enjoy d. enjoying



Transform the sentences

Change the sentences from present to past simple and add a time phrase of your choice.

1 I cook dinner.



I cooked dinner yesterday.

2 We play basketball.



3 She visits her grandparents.



4 They study for the test.



5 He tries to call you.



6 You work hard.





Tell a partner what you did last week



last night

yesterday

worked

watched

played

visited

enjoyed

ago

studied

To do in the past simple

- One of the most important irregular English verbs is the verb **to do**. Just like regular verbs in the past simple, it has the **same conjugation** for each subject pronoun.
- The verb **to do** is important because we use it to form the **past simple negative**.

Personal Pronoun	Past Simple Positive	Past Simple Negative
I	did	didn't
you	did	didn't
he, she, it	did	didn't
we	did	didn't
they	did	didn't



Negating in the past simple

I watched TV last night.



I **did not watch** TV last night.

I stayed at home yesterday.



I **didn't stay** at home yesterday.

- What happened to the main verb in the transformation from positive to negative?
- Did the word order change?

After ***didn't*** or ***did not***, we simply put **the infinitive** of the verb that we want to negate.

This doesn't change the word order of the rest of the sentence.



Positive and negative sentences

1



I **played** football last night.

2



I **didn't play** football last night.

3



I **walked** the dog yesterday.

4



I **didn't walk** the dog yesterday.



To go in the past simple

I **go** to school every day.



I **went** to school last week.

I **don't go** to work on Saturdays.



I **didn't go** to work on Saturday.

- What is the past simple of *to go*?
- What is the past simple negative of *to go*?

Another one of the most important irregular English verbs is the verb **to go**.

In the past simple, it is **went**.

In the negative past simple, it is **didn't go**.



Negate these sentences

1 I liked chocolate when I was a child.



I didn't like chocolate when I was a child.

2 I went on holiday last summer.



3 I walked all day today.



4 He listened to music in his room last night.



5 We visited our grandparents last week.



6 They relaxed in the garden yesterday.





What happened?

**What happened in the photos?
Use as many verbs in the past
simple as you can.**



He carried...



They walked...



He asked...



They worked...



End of the lesson

Idiom

to live out of a suitcase

Meaning: to live or stay somewhere for a short amount of time with only a few of your belongings

Example: I travel a lot for work, so I live out of my suitcase.



Additional practice



Complete the table

walk	_____
_____	watched
play	
_____	listened
visit	_____
cook	_____
study	_____
try	_____
enjoy	_____





Transform to past simple

Transform the sentences to the past simple positive or negative.

1 I go to the cinema (negative)



I didn't go to the cinema.

2 She likes chocolate. (positive)



3 They go to Greece. (negative)



4 He visits his girlfriend. (positive)



5 We do our homework. (negative)



6 I call my friend. (positive)



“





About you



**What did you do
yesterday?**

**Check if what you wrote about
your partner on p.25 is true.**





Answer key

P.7: talked, walked, played, watched, listened, studied

P.8: walked, watched, visited, studied, talked

P.9: -ed: washed, worked, watched, played

-ied: tried, studied, cried, carried

P.11: Present: now, at the moment, today

Past: yesterday afternoon, last night, a few months ago, last week, last year

P.12: 1) b, 2) c, 3) d, 4) a

P.13: 2) played, 3) visited, 4) studied, 5) tried, 6) worked

P.19: 2) I didn't go., 3) I didn't walk., 4) He didn't listen., 5) We didn't visit., 6) They didn't relax.



Answer key



P.24: walked, watch, played, listen, visited, cooked, studied, stayed, enjoyed

P.25: 2) liked, 3) didn't go, 4) visited, 5) didn't do, 6) called





Summary

The past simple:

- Use the **past simple** to talk about **finished actions** in the **past**.
- Add **-ed** to the infinitive of **regular verbs** to form the past simple, e.g. *walk - walked*
- Add **-ied** to some verbs ending in **y** to form the past simple, e.g. *try - tried*

Past time phrases:

- Use **past time phrases** to say **when** you did something.
- **Past time phrases** usually go at the **end** of a sentence.
- *I walked home yesterday. I studied last night.*

To do in the past simple:

- One of the most important irregular English verbs is the verb **to do**. Just like regular verbs in the past simple, it has the **same conjugation** for each subject pronoun.
- The verb **to do** is important because we use it to form the **past simple negative**, e.g. *you didn't go, I didn't like it.*

To go in the past simple:

- Another one of the most important irregular English verbs is the verb **to go**.
- In the past simple, it is **went**.
- In the negative past simple, it is **didn't go**.
- *I went to school last week. I didn't go to school on Saturday.*



Vocabulary

to visit

to stay

to enjoy

to carry

to study

to try

to cry

to hurry

to wash



Notes

