

# Irregular verbs in the past simple

GRAMMAR

LEVEL  
Lower-intermediate

NUMBER  
EN\_BE\_2227G

LANGUAGE  
English






## Goals

- Can correctly use the main irregular verbs in the past simple.
- Can engage in conversation using the main irregular verbs.





We **went** to the focus group last week.  
It **was** a big success.

I **got** all the information we needed.  
We then **began** our campaign officially.



## Warm-up

In this lesson, you will learn the main **irregular verbs** in the past simple.



We **went** out for dinner last night.



## Brainstorm

Brainstorm as many verbs in the past simple as you can remember





## Forming the past simple



I **worked** at the office last week.

We **didn't like** their marketing campaign.



**Did** you **see** their latest video?



## Categorise the sentences

**Organise the sentences into examples of past simple in affirmative, negative and interrogative sentences**

I worked last week.

I didn't like the poster.

I didn't work in marketing.

I didn't see the ad.

Did you enjoy the commercial?

Did you see the billboard?

Did you write the print ad?

I finished the job.

I asked the focus group.

Affirmative

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Negative

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Interrogative

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## Past simple with *to go*

- A key **irregular verb** in past simple is **to go**:

Present	Past simple
I go to work.	I <b>went</b> to work.
You go to school every day.	You <b>went</b> to school every day.
He goes to the office on Mondays.	He <b>went</b> to the office on Mondays.
We never go to company events.	We never <b>went</b> to company events.
They go home at 5pm.	They <b>went</b> home at 5pm.





## Past simple with *to be*



- The verb **to be** is completely irregular in the **past simple**
- You should learn it off by heart:

I was

You were

He/She/It was

We were

They were



I **was** at the coffee shop reading a newspaper.



## Irregular verbs in the past simple

- Irregular verbs in the past simple **do not** take **'-d'** or **'-ed'** endings.
- Some verbs **change one vowel** for another, others have **more irregular spelling** changes.

Present simple	Past simple
begin	<b>began</b>
bring	<b>brought</b>
build	<b>built</b>
come	<b>came</b>
get	<b>got</b>





## Irregular verbs in the past simple



- Irregular verbs are only irregular in the **past simple** in **affirmative sentences**.
- In **questions** they follow the same formula as regular verbs.
- In **negative** phrases, they also follow the same structure as regular verbs.

- **Did** you go to the party last night?
- **Did** he bring lunch with him?

- I **didn't** go to the party last night.
- He **didn't** bring lunch with him.



- The exception to this rule is the verb **to be**:
  - It forms questions without **did**: **Were** you at the party on Saturday?
  - Likewise, it forms negatives without **didn't**: He **wasn't** at the conference.



## Some examples



He **began** work at eight o'clock.

**Did** you **bring** an example of a poster?





## Some examples



We **built** a new program for the computer.

I **wasn't** at the meeting.



He **got** a promotion last month.

She **went** to the focus group.





## Put the sentences in past simple

1. I get my salary on Tuesday.

→ I got my salary on Tuesday.

2. He's going to the meeting.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Does she always bring a laptop?

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. I am not at work today.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. They begin at midday.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Speaking

**Discuss the following questions with a partner**



1

What did you bring to work for lunch yesterday?

2

When did your last meeting begin?

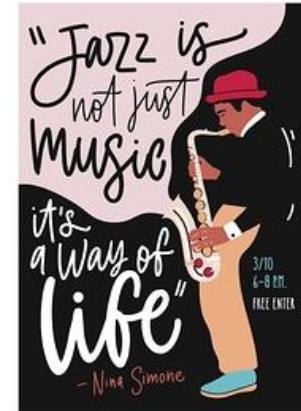
3

Who didn't come to the last work social event?





Tell a partner about this campaign you created







## More irregular verbs in the past simple

- Here are some more common irregular verbs

Present simple	Past simple
say	<b>said</b>
see	<b>saw</b>
sell	<b>sold</b>
know	<b>knew</b>
fall	<b>fell</b>





## Some examples



We **sold** more products last year.

I **saw** their ad in the newspaper.





**We knew social media marketing was important.**



He **saw** the advert on TV last night  
for the first time.





## Put the sentences in past simple

1. I know my boss well.

→ I knew my boss well.

2. They sell very expensive soaps.



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. The sales fall every month.



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. He says hello to me every day.



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. We see a problem.



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Discuss with a partner

Something you **saw**  
this morning on the  
journey to work

Something you **knew**  
how to do when you  
were younger

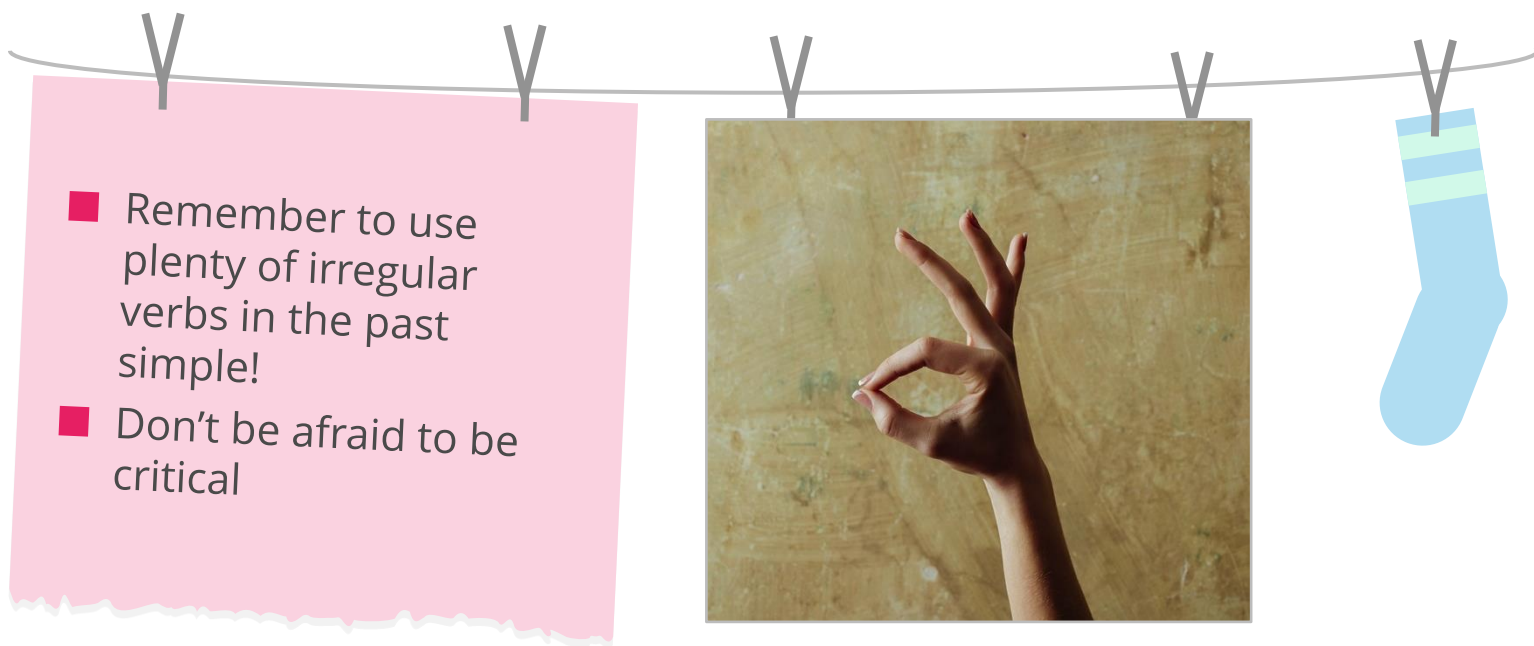
Something your  
mother **said** to you a  
lot

The last thing you  
**sold** online



Imagine you are...

...responsible for an unsuccessful social media marketing campaign at work. What went well, what went badly? Discuss with your team





## Now inform your boss

**Write a reply to your boss' email. Explain to her what went wrong with the campaign and why.**

	-	□	×
To: Me			
Subject: Last Campaign			
<p>Hello,</p> <p>The last campaign was a total disaster! Our sales fell and it brought us a lot of problems.</p> <p>What happened?</p> <p>Please provide me with answers asap.</p> <p>Best regards, Kirsty</p>			



## Big question

**What was the most memorable ad campaign you saw as a child?**





## Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





## Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.  
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over  
the most difficult slides again



## Answer key

### Exercise 1, p.7

1. Affirmative: I worked last week, I finished the job, I asked the focus group
2. Negative: I don't like the poster, I didn't work in marketing, I didn't see the ad
3. Interrogative: Did you enjoy the commercial? Did you see the billboard? Did you write the print ad?

### Exercise 2, p.14

1. He went to the meeting
2. Did she always bring a laptop?
3. I wasn't at work today.
4. They began at midday.

### Exercise 3, p.20

1. They sold very expensive soaps.
2. The sales fell every month.
3. He said hello to me every day.
4. We saw a problem





## Unscramble the sentences

A



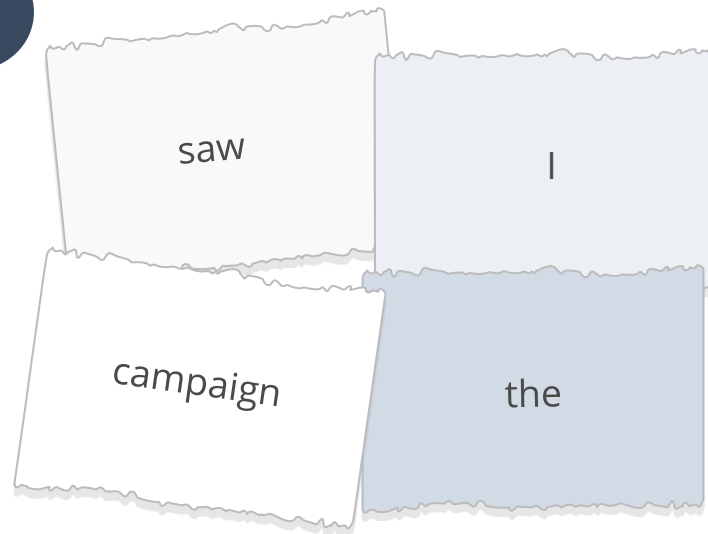
B



C



D





## Homework e-mail writing activity

**Write an informal e-mail to a colleague congratulating them on their ad campaign that you saw and liked. What was good about it?**

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□

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To:

Subject:

Hi,

I saw your ad campaign and really liked it!..



## Homework answer key

Homework exercise, pp 26

A. I worked last week  
B. We went to a meeting  
C. He was the manager  
D. I saw the campaign



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