

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW AND ECONOMICS

Past Simple

Teacher OU THUM

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1. How do we make the Simple Past Tense?

To make the simple past tense, we use:

- **Past form** only
or
- Auxiliary **did** + **base form**

Here you can see examples of the **past form** and **base form** for irregular verbs and regular verbs:

	V1 base	V2 past	V3 past participle	Note
Regular Verb	work explode like	worked exploded liked	worked exploded liked	The past form for all regular verbs ends in -ed.
Irregular Verb	go see sing	went saw sang	gone seen sung	The past form for irregular verbs is variable. You need to learn it by heart.
You do not need the past participle form to make the simple past tense. It is shown here for completeness only.				

The structure for **positive** sentences in the simple past tense is:

Subject + Main Verb

↓
Past

The structure for **negative** sentences in the simple past tense is:

Subject + Auxiliary Verb + Not + Main Verb

↓

Did

↓

Base

The structure for **question** sentences in the simple past tense is:

Auxiliary Verb + Subject + Main Verb

↓
Did

↓
Base

The auxiliary verb **did** is not conjugated. It is the same for all persons (I did, you did, he did, etc). And the base form and past form do not change. Look at these examples with the main verbs **go** and **work**:

	Subject	Auxiliary verb		Main Verb	
+ Positive:	I			went	to school.
	You			Worked	very hard.
- Negative:	He	did	not	go	with me.
	We	did	not	work	yesterday.
? Questions:	Did	you		go	to Lyon ?
	Did	they		work	at home ?

Exception! The verb **to be** is different. We conjugate the verb to be (I was, you were, he/she/it was, we were, they were); and we do **not** use an auxiliary for negative and question sentences. To make a question, we exchange the subject and verb. Look at these examples:

	Subject	Main Verb		
+ Positive:	I/He/She/It	was		here.
	You/We/They	were		in Madrid.
- Negative:	I/He/She/It	was	not	in Prey Veng
	You/We/They	were	not	in Barcelona
? Questions:	Was	I/He/She/It		right ?
	Were	You/We/They		late ?

2. How do we use the Simple Past Tense?

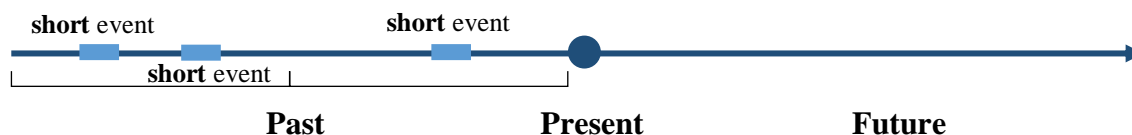
We use the simple past tense to talk about an action or a situation, an event that happened in the past, often with expressions like **ago**, **yesterday**, **last night**, **last week**, **last month**, **last year**, **in 1996**, etc...

The event can be **short** or **long**.

The **simple past tense** is sometimes called the preterit tense. We can use several tenses to talk about the past, but the simple past tense is the one we use most often.

Here are some **short** events with the simple past tense:

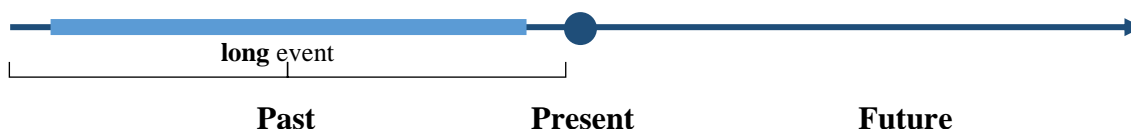
- The car **exploded** at 9.30am **yesterday**.
- She **went** to the door.
- We **did** not hear the telephone.
- **Did** you see that car?



The action is in the past.

Here are some **long** events with the simple past tense:

- I **lived** in Prey Veng for 18 years.
- Real Madrid C.F. **made** in 1902, now it 103 year ago.
- We **did** not sing at the concert.
- **Did** you watch TV last night?



Notice that it does not matter how long ago the event is: it can be a few minutes or seconds in the past, or millions of years in the past. Also it does not matter how long the event is. It can be a few milliseconds (car explosion) or millions of years (Jurassic period). We use the simple past tense when:

- the event is **in the past**
- the event is **completely finished**
- we say (or understand) the **time** or **place** of the event

Here are some more examples:

- I **lived** in that house when I was young.
- He **didn't like** the movie.
- What **did** you **eat** for dinner?
- John **drove** to London on Monday.
- Mary **did** not **go** to work yesterday.
- **Did** you **play** tennis last week?
- I **was** at work yesterday.
- We **were** not late (for the train).
- **Were** you angry?

Note that when we tell a story, we usually use the simple past tense. We may use the past continuous tense to "set the scene", but we almost always use the simple past tense for the action. Look at this example of the beginning of a story:

"The wind was howling around the hotel and the rain was pouring down. It **was** cold. The door **opened**

and James Bond **entered**. He **took off** his coat, which **was** very wet, and **ordered** a drink at the bar. He

sat down in the corner of the lounge and quietly **drank** his..."

3. Spelling Rules

Past simple affirmative

V+ -ed

With most verbs we add **-ed**: *walk > walked, finish > finished*

+ -d

With verbs ending with **-e**, we add **-d**: *live > lived, phone > phoned*

y > -ied

With verbs that end with a **consonant + -y**, we change the **-y** to **-ied**:

try > tried, apply > applied

Double consonant

With verbs that end with a vowel + one consonant, we double the consonant:

stop > stopped, plan > planned, travel > travelled

Exception!: We do not double the final consonant:

1.- When it is a **-y** or **-w** : *stay > stayed*

2.- When the last syllable is not stressed: *listen > listened, open > opened*

4. Pronunciation of the -ED

The **-ed** ending can be pronounced in 3 different ways: **/id/**, **/t/** or **/d/**.

- If the verb ends in the sound **/t/** or **/d/**, you pronounce the -ed ending **/id/**.
invite /inˈvaɪt/ ⇒ invited /inˈvaɪtɪd/
- If the verb ends in a voiceless consonant sound apart from **/t/**, you pronounce the -ed ending **/t/**.
stop /stop/ ⇒ stopped /stopt/
- If the verb ends in a voiced consonant sound apart from **/d/**, or a vowel, you pronounce the -ed ending **/d/**.

call /ko:l/ ⇒ called /ko:ld/

Some verbs are "**regular**", other are "**irregular**".

The affirmative past simple of regular verbs ends in **-ed**:

work > worked

play > played

live > lived

When we add -ed to verbs, there are sometimes changes in spelling:

stop > stopped

try > tried

travel > travelled

live > lived

Irregular verbs have different affirmative past simple forms:

List of Irregular Verbs

Base form - past simple - past participle

abide	abode	abode	cost	cost	cost
arise	arose	arisen	creep	crept	crept
awake	awoke	awoken	cut	cut	cut
be	was/were	been	deal	dealt	dealt
	e		dig	dug	dug
bear	bore	born	do	did	done
beat	beat	beaten			
beget	begot	begotten	draw	drew	drawn
begin	began	begun	dream	dreamt	dreamt
bend	bent	bent	drink	drank	drunk
bereave	bereft	bereft	drive	drove	driven
beseech	besought	besought	dwell	dwelt	dwelt
bespeak	bespoke	bespoken	eat	ate	eaten
bestride	bestrode	bestrided	fall	fell	fallen
bet	bet	bet	feed	fed	fed
bid	bade/bid	bidden/bid	feel	felt	felt
bind	bound	bound	fight	fought	fought
bite	bit	bitten	find	found	found
bleed	bled	bled	flee	fled	fled
blow	blew	blown	fly	flew	flown
break	broke	broken	forbid	forbad(e)	forbade
breed	bred	bred)	n
bring	brought	brought	forecast	forecast	forecast
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast	forget	forgot	forgotten
	st		forsake	forsook	forsaken
build	built	built	freeze	froze	frozen
burn	burnt	burnt	get	got	got
burst	burst	burst	give	gave	given
buy	bought	bought	go	went	gone
can			grind	ground	ground
could			grow	grew	grown
cast	cast	cast	hang	hung	hung
catch	caught	caught	have	had	had
choose	chose	chosen	hear	heard	heard
cling	clung	clung	hide	hid	hidden
come	came	come	hit	hit	hit

hold	held	held	sleep	slept	slept
hurt	hurt	hurt	slide	slid	slid
keep	kept	kept	sling	slung	slung
kneel	knelt	knelt	slink	slunk	slunk
know	knew	known			
lay	laid	laid			
lead	led	led			
lean	leant	leant			
leap	leapt	leapt	slit	slit	slit
learn	learnt	learnt	mell	smelt	smelt
leave	left	left			
lend	lent	lent	smite	smote	smitten
let	let	let	speak	spoke	spoken
lie	lay	lain	speed	sped	sped
lose	lost	lost	spend	spent	spent
make	made	made	spin	spun	spun
mean	meant	meant	spit	spat	spat
meet	met	met	split	split	split
pay	paid	paid	spoil	spoilt	spoilt
put	put	put	spread	spread	spread
read	read	read	spring	sprang	sprung
rend	rent	rent	stand	stood	stood
rid	rid	rid	steal	stole	stolen
ride	rode	ridden	stick	stuck	stuck
ring	rang	rung	sting	stung	stung
rise	rose	risen	stink	stank	stunk
run	ran	run	strike	struck	struck
say	said	said	string	strung	strung
see	saw	seen	strive	strove	striven
seek	sought	sought	swear	swore	sworn
sell	sold	sold	sweep	swept	swept
send	sent	sent	swim	swam	swum
set	set	set	swing	swung	swung
shake	shook	shaken	take	took	taken
shed	shed	shed	teach	taught	taught
shine	shone	shone	tear	tore	torn
shoot	shot	shot	tell	told	told
show	showed	shown	think	thought	thought
shrink	shrank	shrunk	throw	threw	thrown
shrive	shrove	shriven	thrust	thrust	thrust
shut	shut	shut	tread	trod	trodden
sing	sang	sung	wake	woke	woken
sink	sank	sunk	wear	wore	worn
sit	sat	sat	weave	wove	woven
slay	slew	slain	weep	wept	wept

win	won	won
wind	wound	wound
wring	wrung	wrung
write	wrote	written

5. Examples

- *I **talked** with my mother last night.*
- *We **enjoyed** the party on Saturday.*
- *She **finished** the test early.*
- *He **didn't listen** to the teacher's instructions.*
- *They **didn't want** to join us for coffee.*
- *Jill **didn't stay** in a hotel last summer.*
- ***Did** you **watch** the news yesterday?*
- ***Did** they **remember** to turn off the lights?*
- *What time **did** your father **arrive**?*
- *Where **were** you last month? I **was** in France.*
- *What **did** your sister **buy** at the mall? She **bought** new shoes.*
- *What time **did** he **eat** breakfast today?*
- *He **ate** breakfast at 6:00 AM.*
- *When **did** you **get** married?*
- *We **got** married in July.*

- *What **did** you **make** for dinner? I **made** some vegetable soup.*
- *When **did** you **meet** your best friend? I **met** my best friend 20 years ago.*
- *What **did** the teacher **say**? The teacher **said** that she loved our class.*
- ***Did** you **see** Bale at the football game? No, but we **saw** Ronaldo, Kroos, and James.*
- *What **did** he **wear** to the wedding? He **wore** a suit.*
- ***Did** he **write** a new book last year? No, he only **wrote** a few magazine articles.*
- *I **played** football **yesterday**.*
- *He **lived** in Lyon from 1996 to 2006.*
- ***Did** you **see** Nakavoniyoko **yesterday**? No, I **didn't**.*
- *We **didn't** go out **last night**. We **stayed** at home.*
- *They **went** to Spain on holiday **last summer**.*
- *Cristopher Colombus **discovered** America.*

6. Activities

Complete the sentences with the past simple of one of these verbs:

discover crash laugh destroy survive jump
worry need visit change travel introduce

1. Yesterday evening I _____ television.
2. I _____ my teeth three times yesterday.
3. Bernard _____ 20 cigarettes yesterday evening.
4. The concert last night _____ at 7.30 and _____ at 10 o'clock.
5. The accident _____ last Sunday afternoon.
6. When I was a child, I _____ to be a doctor.
7. Mozart _____ from 1756 to 1791.
8. We _____ our holiday last year. We _____ at a very good hotel.
9. Today the weather is nice, but yesterday it _____.
10. It was hot in the room, so I _____ the window.
11. The weather was good yesterday, so we _____ tennis.
12. William Shakespeare _____ in 1616.

What did Mr. Bird do yesterday?. Write the verbs in brackets in the past simple form.

Yesterday Mr. Bird (get up) _____ at 6.45 and (have) _____ a shower. Then he (have) _____ tea and cornflakes for breakfast. He (leave) _____ home at 7.55 and (go) _____ to work by bus. He (take) _____ the 8.05 bus and (get) _____ to work at 8.30. He (have) _____ lunch from 1.00 till 2.00 and (leave) _____ work at 6.00 in the evening. When he (get) _____ home, he (read) _____ the newspaper. Then he (have) _____ dinner at 7.15. After dinner he (take) _____ his dog out for a walk. He (go) _____ to bed at 10:30 exactly.

7. References

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