



there was(n't), there were(n't)

Affirmative	Negative
Singular There was a stadium.	There wasn't a swimming pool.
Plural There were a lot of spectators.	There weren't any swimmers.

There was and *there were* are the past simple forms of *there is* and *there are*. We use *there was* with singular forms and *there were* with plural forms. *There wasn't* and *there weren't* are the negative forms.

There was a big battle here 2,000 years ago.

There were different events in the Olympics.

There wasn't a cinema here before.

There weren't many cars thirty years ago.

was(n't), were(n't)

Affirmative	Negative
I was hungry. You were hungry. He / She / It was hungry. We / You / They were hungry.	I wasn't thirsty. You weren't thirsty. He / She / It wasn't thirsty. We / You / They weren't thirsty.

The past simple affirmative form of the verb *be* is *was* or *were*.

I was very quiet in class.

We were tired after the game of football.

The past simple negative form is *was not* or *were not*.

We usually use the contractions *wasn't* or *weren't*.

I wasn't very fit last year.

We weren't in the library yesterday morning.

Past simple: affirmative

Regular	Irregular
I played volleyball. You played basketball. He / She / It played rugby. We / You / They played hockey.	I won a competition. You won a gold medal. He / She / It won a match. We / You / They won a medal.

We make the affirmative form of past simple regular verbs by adding *-ed* to the base form of the verb. Note that the past simple has only one form for all persons of the verb.

I played football. *You played* golf. *She played* tennis.

Irregular verbs each have their own past simple form.

come → came

do → did

go → went

run → ran

see → saw

swim → swam

win → won

Usage

We use the past simple to talk about finished actions in the past and actions that happened at a specific time.

We watched that football match last week.

She won an Olympic medal in 2016.

Spelling Rules: past simple affirmative

With the majority of verbs, add *-ed*.

watch → watched

check → checked

With verbs that end in *-e*, add *-d*.

like → liked

live → lived

With verbs that end in a vowel + single consonant, double the consonant and add *-ed*.

stop → stopped

travel → travelled

Past time expressions

We can use the past simple with a number of time expressions:

last week / month / year / weekend / Monday

in the 18th century

in 1995 / July 1825

yesterday

four days / three weeks / 200 years ago

The time expressions usually go at the end of a sentence or phrase, but they can also go at the beginning.

We visited London last year.

Last year, we visited London.