

# **PAST SIMPLE**

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# PAST SIMPLE

The Simple past describes a completed action in a time before now and things that happen one after another in the past.

## 1. Examples:

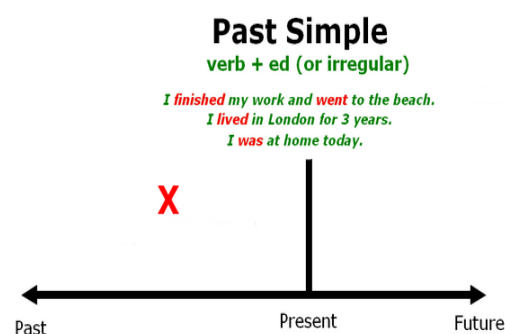
First Bob **read** a book, then he **went** to bed yesterday night. Last week I **came** to a church and then I **took** the road right.

## 2. Actions at a specific time

Simple Past: Actions that happened at a specific time in the past.

## 3. Examples simple past tense:

I got a present yesterday. I had in great time in America last year.



## 4. Simple past regular verbs

Add -ed to the regular verb. look - looked, watch - watched, Some verbs you need to change a bit.

| Verb ending in...     | Add ...                      | Example                           |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| -e                    | only add - d                 | live - lived<br>date - dated      |
| Consonant +y          | Change y to i an add -ed     | carry -<br>carried cry -<br>cried |
| 1 vowel + 1 consonant | Double consonant and add -ed | stop - stopped                    |

## 5. Simple Past regular verbs – examples

Add -ed to the regular verb.

cook - cooked, play - played, wash - washed

-e at the end of the verb: only add -d.

love - loved, live - lived, close - closed, live – lived

## 6. Simple past irregular (not regular) verbs

Some verbs are not regular. You have to learn them by heart.

| Example: Simple Past tense - irregular verbs:                  |  |
|--|--|
| begin - began<br>break - broke<br>come - came<br>drink - drank | fall - fell<br>forget - forgot<br>get - got<br>speak - spoke |

## 7. To be - Simple past

| Example: Simple Past tense - irregular verbs: to be                                       |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Simple present</b><br>I am<br>you are<br>he/she/it is<br>we are<br>you are<br>they are | <b>Simple past</b><br>I was<br>you were<br>he/she/it was<br>we were<br>you were<br>they were |

## 8. Simple past signal words

Use the simple past when you say when something **happened**. See the following signal words:

**frequency:** *often, sometimes, always*

We sometimes **had** no school.

**a definite point in time:** *last week, when I was a child, yesterday, six weeks ago*

They **were** in London *last week*.

He **learned** English *when he was* young.

More simple past signal words: ago, in 2011, in 1999, ... last month, last week, last year, yesterday.

### **Examples: Simple Past signal words**

I ate oranges last year.

We went to school every day in 1999. He took his dog for a walk a month ago.

### **9. Simple past - questions**

To form a question: 'did' + subject + infinitive.

### **Examples: questions Simple Past**

I ate oranges in 2011. Did I eat oranges in 2011?

We went to school last week. Did we go to school last week?

He took his dog for a walk last week. Did he take his dog for a walk last week?

### **10. Questions with was/were**

Sentences with 'to be' (**was/were**). Questions with was/were -Simple Past.

She was in London.  
were at the station.

**Was** she in London? They  
**Were** they at the station?

### **11. Simple past negative**

Negative sentences Simple Past: examples

I knew Covent Garden?

I didn't know Covent Garden.

We went to school every day.

We didn't go to school every day. He

took his dog for a walk.

He didn't take his dog for a walk.

**an indefinite point in time:** *the other day, ages ago, a long time ago*

# PAST SIMPLE - WORKSHEET

## A – FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE **PAST SIMPLE** OF THE VERBS IN BRACKETS:

- ✓ When I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in Japan I \_\_\_\_\_ (find) everything very different.
- ✓ Two years ago, my parents \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new car.
- ✓ Last summer Peter \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) his holidays in a summer camp with his friends.  
They \_\_\_\_\_ (go) swimming, they \_\_\_\_\_ (play) football and golf they \_\_\_\_\_  
(visit) many interesting places.
- ✓ My sister \_\_\_\_\_ (get) a good job in a bank.
- ✓ Susan and her cousins \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to Portugal ten years ago.

## B – COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH THE **PAST SIMPLE (AFFIRMATIVE / NEGATIVE / INTERROGATIVE)** OF THE VERBS IN BRACKETS:

- ✓ My sister and her husband \_\_\_\_\_ (come) from Greece.
- ✓ I \_\_\_\_\_ (not like) the U2 concert.
- ✓ My cousin \_\_\_\_\_ (phone) from France yesterday evening.
- ✓ On Monday Johann \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to school on foot.
- ✓ (they / leave) \_\_\_\_\_ the country last Saturday?
- ✓ (you / like) \_\_\_\_\_ the film?
- ✓ They \_\_\_\_\_ (not finish) the homework yesterday.
- ✓ (she / go) \_\_\_\_\_ to the cinema with her parents last night?

No, she didn't. She \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) at home. She \_\_\_\_\_ (get) a cold.

- ✓ We \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Spain y car.
- ✓ I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a wonderful holiday with my family last July.
- ✓ (you / travel) \_\_\_\_\_ to Madrid by car or by plane?
- ✓ Many years ago it \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very difficult to live without electricity.
- ✓ Last year they \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a house at the seaside.
- ✓ I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) him the day before yesterday.

**C – CHOOSE THE BEST OPTION FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:**

- ✓ Mrs. Harris \_\_\_\_\_ the last train.  
a) Take                      b) took                      c) did take
- ✓ There \_\_\_\_\_ many people here last night.  
a) Was                      b) were                      c) wasn't
- ✓ He \_\_\_\_\_ at home with me yesterday evening.  
a) Were                      b) was                      c) be
- ✓ She \_\_\_\_\_ with her family on holidays.  
a) Go                      b) did go                      c) went
- ✓ He \_\_\_\_\_ some books and CDs.  
a) Brought                      b) bought                      c) did buy
- ✓ They \_\_\_\_\_ their passports at home.  
a) Leave                      b) did leave                      c) left
- ✓ She \_\_\_\_\_ some interesting photos.  
a) Take                      b) taken                      c) took
- ✓ It \_\_\_\_\_ a good present.  
a) Were                      b) was                      c) is
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ (she /arrive) home at 5:30?  
a) Did she arrived                      b) did she arrive                      c) arrived

# PAST TENSE

Give the past tense for each verb bellow:



sleep



eat



go



see



make



drink

## References

Ward, S., H. (2014). New Headway Plus:Beginner Student's Book. Oxford University Press.

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