



Mustansiriyah University College of Pharmacy

English Lecture 2
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Grammar : Simple Past Tense

When do we use the **Simple Past** tense?

We use the **Simple Past** to express the idea that an action started and finished at a specific time in the past.

What are some common time expressions used with the past tense?



Time expressions of Past simple

- In 1980
- Yesterday
- Last month
- :Last week
- Last year
- Ago

I saw Maria **yesterday**.

Last Friday, the students took their spelling and vocabulary tests.

They got married **two years ago**.

These actions are over, finished!



English has two types of verbs in the past tense:

- Regular verbs
- Irregular verbs

Look at the following list of past tense verbs...
which verbs are regular, and which are irregular?

taught

walked

studied

gave

became

cried

lived

did



Regular verb in simple past

Simple Form

Walk

Study

Cry

Live

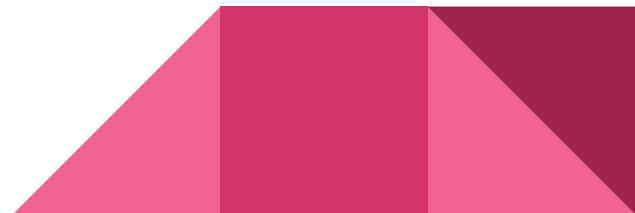
Past Tense

Walk**ed**

Stud**ied**

Cri**ed**

Liv**ed**



Irregular verb in simple past

some irregular verbs have a vowel change in the past tense:

<u>Simple Form</u>	<u>Past Tense</u>
• be <u>o</u> me	bec <u>a</u> me
• g <u>i</u> ve	g <u>a</u> ve
• dr <u>i</u> ve	dr <u>o</u> ve
• for <u>e</u> t	for <u>o</u> t



- other irregular verbs have different kind of changes

Simple Past

teach **taught**

Sam bought a new computer last weekend.

Bring **brought**

Leave **left**

Hear **heard**

Buy **bought**



- And some irregular verbs don't change at all

Simple

Past

hit

hit

put

put

set

set

The children set the table every Sunday.

The children set the table last night.



Simple past in negative

- For negative sentences, use:

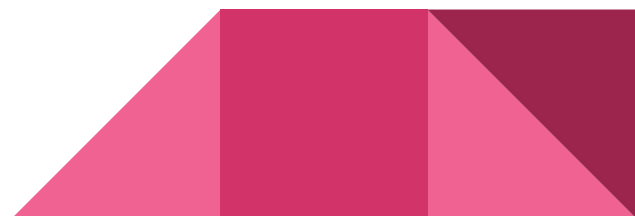
Did not / Didn't + Verb (infinitive form)

I went to work yesterday.

positive


I didn't go to work yesterday.

negative



The verb be is special.

Never use DID NOT or DIDN'T with the verb BE. Instead, just use:

- Was/ Were + not
 - We were not/ weren't at work last week.
- 

- For Yes/No questions, USE
- **Did+ subject + verb (infinitive)**

Did you go to work yesterday?

Did you come yesterday?

Thank You

