**Unit Nine / Tenses – The Past Simple Tense**

The simple past is a verb tense that is used to talk about actions, activities, or things that happened and finished in the past**. The adverbs of time** that indicate the time of the past are**:**

**ago / last week / last month / last year / last ……. / once / yesterday / ..**

OR we can use **expressions of time** that indicate **the time of the past:**

the day before **/** the previous day **/** the day before yesterday **/** in **1990s** **/** in 1988 **/** in the past / once upon a time …. / etc.,

**Note 1 /** You can also use **the simple past** to talk about a past state of being, such as the way someone felt about something. This is often expressed with the **simple past tense of the verb to be.**

**Examples:** He **was** proud of his hula hoop victory.

The contest **was** the highlight of his week**.**

**How to Formulate (or form) the Simple Past?**

In order to derive the form of the verb in the past we have to know that the English verbs can take **two main forms**, regular and irregular.

**1. A regular verb –**  is any verb whose conjugation follows the typical pattern:

For regular verbs, add -**ed** to the root form of the verb (or just -**d** if the root form already ends in an e):

**a.** The children **entered** a hula hoop contest.

**b.** The worker **finished** his work yesterday.

**c.** Dinosaurs **lived** millions of years ago**.**

**Note 2 /** with verbs end in the letter ( -y ) – if the letter (y) is preceded by one of the five basic vowels (a / e / i / o / u), add the **–ed** directly at the end of the verb:

play ……played / stay ……stayed /

**But** if the letter (**y**) is preceded by a consonant letter, change the letter (y) into (i)**,** then add (-ed):

hurry – hurried / carry – carried / study – studied / …..

**Note 3 /** When the verb of one syllable has a short vowel and consonant**,** double the consonant. Then we add (-ed):

stop – **stopped /** ship – **shipped** / admit – **admitted / occur – occurred / …**

**Note 4 /** In British English, when the verb ends with a vowel and a single “l”, double the **“l”:**

trave**l** – travelled / label – labelled / cancel – cancelled

**(This is not the case in American English, when the “l” is not doubled.)**

**2. An irregular verb** – A verb whose conjugation follows a different pattern.

Here are some other irregular verbs:

become – became / begin – began / break – broke / bring – brought

buy – bought / catch – caught / choose – chose / come – came / cost – cost do – did / drink – drank / drive – drove / have – had / hear – heard get – got / give – gave / go – went / do , does – did

**Questions in past simple tense**

To make the question form, use “did” as the auxiliary verb.

a. They **lived** in the UK last year. Did they livein the UK last year**?**

**Negative in past simple tense**

a. He **studied** for the exam. He **did not** study for the exam**.**

b. He **was** in the library. He **was not** in the library**.**

**Q. 1 /** Put the verb in bracket in its **correct tense**.

1. I ……………………. a movie yesterday. **(see)**

2. She didn't …………………. a play yesterday. **(see)**

3. He ………………………to Japan last year. **(travel)**

4. She ………………………shy as a child. **(be)**

5. Did she live in Texas when she ……………. a kid? **(be)**

6. I …………………… all night yesterday. **(study)**

**Q. 2** / Choose the correct answer.

1. ………………he go to university**?** (**a**. Do **b.** Did **c.** was **d.** were **e.** Are)

2. They ……………to the concert. **(a.** didn’t go **b.** didn’t went **c.** not go **d.** isn’t go)

3. Did you ………………dinner last night**?** (**a.** has **b.** have **c.** had **d.** will have)