

زمن الماضي البسيط / The Past Simple Tense

1. What is the Past Simple Tense?

The Past Simple tense is used to describe **completed actions** or **states** that happened at a specific time in the past. The action is finished, and the time is usually mentioned or clearly understood from the context.

2. When Do We Use the Past Simple Tense?

a) Completed Actions in the Past

We use it for actions that started and finished at a specific time in the past.

- **Example:** *I visited Paris last year.*
- **Example:** *She called me yesterday.*

b) A Series of Completed Actions

We use it to list actions that happened one after another in the past (like a story).

- **Example:** *He entered the room, turned on the light, and sat down.*

c) Habits or Routines in the Past

We use it for actions that were repeated regularly in the past but no longer happen.

- **Example:** *I played football every day when I was a child.*
- **Example:** *They always walked to school.*

d) Long-Lasting States in the Past

We use it for situations or conditions that were true for a period in the past.

- **Example:** *She lived in London for five years.* (She doesn't live there now.)
- **Example:** *I knew him very well.*

e) Past Facts or General Truths (that are no longer true)

- **Example:** *He was the president of the club.* (He is not now.)
-

3. Time Expressions Used with the Past Simple

These words are commonly used with the Past Simple because they refer to a specific finished time:

- **Yesterday** (*Yesterday morning, yesterday evening*)
- **Last...** (*last week, last month, last year, last Monday*)
- **...ago** (*two days ago, a year ago, five minutes ago*)

- **In + past year** (*in 2010, in 1995*)
 - **When + past clause** (*when I was young, when she arrived*)
 - **Just now** (meaning a very short time ago)
-

4. How to Form the Past Simple Tense

A. Affirmative (Positive) Sentences

Subject + Verb (past form) + Object

Subject	Past Verb	Object
I	visited	the museum.
She	went	to the market.
They	played	tennis.

Important: There are two types of past verbs:

- **Regular Verbs:** Add **-ed** (e.g., *play* → *played*, *walk* → *walked*).
 - **Irregular Verbs:** Change form completely (e.g., *go* → *went*, *eat* → *ate*, *see* → *saw*). You must memorize these.
-

B. Negative Sentences

Subject + did not (didn't) + base form of verb (infinitive without "to")

- **Example:** *I **did not visit** the museum.*
- **Example:** *She **didn't go** to the market.*
- **Example:** *They **did not play** tennis.*

Rule: When you use "did not," the main verb **always** returns to the base form (infinitive). We never say "She didnt went."

C. Question Forms (Interrogative)

Did + Subject + base form of verb (infinitive without "to")?

Did	Subject	Base Verb	Object?
Did	you	visit	the museum?
Did	she	go	to the market?
Did	they	play	tennis?

Short Answers:

- Yes, I **did**. / No, I **didn't**.
- Yes, she **did**. / No, she **didn't**.

Rule: In questions, the main verb is always in the base form (e.g., *go*, not *went*).

5. The Verb "To Be" in the Past Simple (Special Case)

The verb "to be" is irregular and does **not** use "did" for negatives or questions.

Forms:

- **I / He / She / It → was**
- **You / We / They → were**

Sentence Type	Example
Affirmative	I was happy. / They were at home.
Negative	I was not (wasn't) happy. / They were not (weren't) at home.
Question	Was I happy? / Were they at home?

6. Spelling Rules for Regular Verbs (+ed)

Rule	Example
Most verbs: add -ed	walk → walked, p played

Rule	Example
Verbs ending in -e : add -d	like → liked, love → loved
Verbs ending in consonant + y : change y to i and add -ed	study → studied, try → tried
Verbs ending in vowel + y : add -ed (no change)	play → played, enjoy → enjoyed
Short verbs ending in consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC): double the last letter and add -ed	stop → stopped, plan → planned

7. Pronunciation of the "-ed" Ending

The "-ed" ending is pronounced in three different ways:

Sound	Rule	Example
/t/	After voiceless sounds (p, k, f, s, sh, ch, x)	walked (/t/), washed (/t/)
/d/	After voiced sounds (b, g, v, z, m, n, l, r, vowels)	played (/d/), lived (/d/)
/ɪd/	After t or d	wanted (/ɪd/), needed (/ɪd/)

8. Common Irregular Verbs (Examples)

You don't add "-ed" to these; you change the whole word.

Base Form	Past Simple
go	went
eat	ate
see	saw
have	had

Base Form	Past Simple
do	did
say	said
get	got
make	made
know	knew
think	thought

9. Summary Table

Aspect	Rule	Example
Affirmative	Subject + Past Verb	She worked hard.
Negative	Subject + did not + Base Verb	She did not work hard.
Question	Did + Subject + Base Verb?	Did she work hard?
**Verb To Be (+) **	Subject + was/were	He was tired.
Verb To Be (-)	Subject + was/were + not	He wasnt tired.
Verb To Be (?)	Was/Were + Subject?	Was he tired?

10. Common Mistakes to Avoid

Mistake	Correction	Reason
X I didnt went .	✓ I didnt go .	After "didnt," use the base form.
X She go to school yesterday.	✓ She went to school yesterday.	You must use the past form in positive sentences.
X Did she went ?	✓ Did she go ?	In questions, use the base form.
X I was go to the park.	✓ I went to the park.	Use the correct past verb, not "was infinitive."

11. Final Example Story (Using Past Simple)

*Last weekend, I **visited** my grandmother. I **travelled** by train. When I **arrived**, she **cooked** a delicious meal. We **ate** together and **watched** an old movie. She **told** me interesting stories about her childhood. I **stayed** there for two days. I **did not want** to leave because I **was** so happy.*