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The **Past Simple** is used to talk about things that happened or existed *before now*.



via <https://ell3shank.weebly.com/simple-past.html>

Negative sentences

We use negative forms of Past Simple to talk about *what we did not do in the past*.

Regular and irregular verbs

To make Past Simple negative sentences, we use:

did not (didn't) + base form of the verb ([infinitive](#) without 'to')

Singular

Plural

I did not (didn't) go

We didn't go

You did not (didn't) go

You didn't go

He/she/It did not (didn't) go

They didn't go

Past Simple – NEGATIVES

He **went** to the shops.

He **didn't go** to the shops.

She **had** a piano lesson.

She **didn't have** a piano lesson.

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via <https://slideplayer.com/slide/256848/>

- I **didn't go** to school on Monday.
- Stefany **didn't like** the meal.
- He **didn't talk** to me yesterday.

The verb 'be'

In Past Simple negative, the verb 'be' has two forms — **was not (wasn't)** or **were not (weren't)**:

Singular

Plural

I **was not (wasn't)** happy

We **weren't** happy

You **were not (weren't)** happy

You **weren't** happy

He/she/it **was not (wasn't)** happy

They **weren't** happy

- I **wasn't** at home last night.
- Mary **wasn't** at school.
- They **weren't** happy.

Questions in Past Simple

We use **Past Simple** tense to ask and answer questions about actions or events in the past.

Yes/No questions

To create a question that will be answered with a 'yes' or 'no', use '**did**' (or '**didn't**' for a negative question) + base form of the verb ([infinitive](#) without 'to').

Regular and irregular verbs

To ask questions using Past Simple, we use:

(question word) did + subject + verb

Singular	Plural
Did I go?	Did we go?
Did you go?	Did you go?
Did he/she/it go?	Did they go?

- **Did you go** to the supermarket? - No, I **didn't**.
- **Did he play** football? - Yes, he **did**.
- **Did they watch** a film? - No, they **didn't**.

Note: we must use did / didn't with the verb do as well.

- *Did she do her homework?*
- *Yes, she did, but she didn't do the dishes.*

The verb 'be'

To ask questions using the verb '**be**', we use:

was / were + subject + the rest of the sentence

Singular	Plural
Was I late?	Were we late?
Were you late?	Were you late?
Was he/she/it late?	Were they late?

- **Was** *she* happy?
- **Was** *Tom* cold?
- **Were** *they* upset?

Special questions

Special questions (also known as wh-questions) are questions that require more information in their answers. They are made using [wh- words](#) such as **what, where, when, why, which, who, how, how many, how much**.

To make a special question, use the same word order as with yes-no questions but put a wh-word before the verb 'did'. The structure is:

wh-word + did + [subject] + verb

- *When* **did** *you* **arrive**?
- *Where* **did** *she* **go**?
- *Why* **did** *they* **leave**?
- *How* **did** *it* **happen**?

To sum up:

- ❑ **Past Simple questions are made with:**
 - ❑ ***Did* + person + base verb**
 - *What **did** you **study**?*
 - *Where **did** you **buy** this PC from?*
 - ***Did** she **enjoy** the class?*
 - ❑ **Questions with was or were don't need did**
 - *Who **was** your favorite teacher?*
 - *Why **were** they late?*
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via <https://slideplayer.com/slide/4355307/>

Here's a good video from GoEnglish explaining how to form and use negative and interrogative sentences in Past Simple:

Read more about Past Simple:

[Past Simple: Statements](#)

[Present Perfect or Past Simple?](#)

[Past Simple Passive](#)