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The **Past Simple** is the basic form of past tense in English. We use Past Simple to say what we did **in the past**. The time of the action can be in the recent past or the distant past and action duration is not important. We use it for **finished** actions:



via

<http://antonioenglishblog.blogspot.com/2016/02/25-ejercicios-del-pasado-simple-de-los.html>

- *I **lived** in Madrid last year.*
- *She **went** on holiday last week.*
- *I **studied** music at school.*

How to form Past Simple

The verb 'be'

In Past Simple, the verb '**be**' has two forms — **was** and **were**:

Singular	Plural
<i>I was</i>	<i>We were</i>
<i>You were</i>	<i>You were</i>
<i>He/She/It was</i>	<i>They were</i>

- *Jack and Tom **were** late this morning.*
- *It **was** cold yesterday.*
- *She **was** sad last week.*

Regular verbs

In Past Simple, we add '**-ed**' to most verbs. These verbs are called regular:

- *To work* → I **worked** in a shop last year.
- *To play* → I **played** basketball on Monday.
- *To cook* → She **cooked** fish yesterday.

There are some rules to remember when adding '-ed' to certain verbs.

Spelling rules for adding '-ed'

a) For regular verbs ending in '**-e**', add '**-d**':

- *To live* → John **lived** in Brazil.
- *To close* → She **closed** the door.

b) For regular verbs ending in one consonant + '**-y**', change the '**-y**' to '**-ied**' (y + ed = ied):

- *To study* → They **studied** German.
- *To try* → I **tried** to be kind.

c) For regular verbs that end in one vowel + one consonant, **double** the consonant and add '**-ed**':

- *To stop* → They **stopped** the car.
- *To plan* → Nick **planned** a business trip.

d) We do not double the consonants '**y**' or '**w**':

- *To play* → She **played** piano.
- *To row* → He **rowed** 3km yesterday.

e) We do not double the consonant when the last syllable is not stressed:

- *To listen* → I **listened** to the radio.
- *To visit* → Margaret **visited** her mother on Tuesday.

Irregular verbs

3. Some verbs in English are irregular. They have different past forms:

break → broke have → had
go → went take → took
leave → left know → knew
make → made send → sent
write → wrote run → ran

Let's summarize:

Past Simple Tense



Verb + ed or Irregular V2.

via <https://www.learnathome.ru/grammar/past-simple-tense.html>

When to use Past Simple

We use the Past Simple tense to talk about:

1) completed actions **in the past**:

- We **saw** him last Sunday.
- They **got** home very late last night.

2) actions that happened **again and again in the past (habitual actions)**:

- I always **did** my homework on time when I was a student.
- We **swam** a lot while we were on holiday.

3) something that was **true for some time** in the past (action as a fact):

- I **lived** abroad for ten years.
- He **enjoyed** being a student.

4) **series of completed actions** in the past:

- I **woke** up, **washed** my face, **got** dressed and **left** home.
- I **visited** my grandma, **stayed** for a couple of hours and then **went** home.

Time expressions

To say **when** something happened, we often use certain past time expressions:

1. **frequency**: *often, sometimes, always*

- I sometimes **walked** home at lunchtime.
- I often **brought** my lunch to school.

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

- Yesterday, I **arrived** in Geneva.
- She **finished** her work at seven o'clock.

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

- People **lived** in caves a long time ago.
- She **played** the piano when she was a child.

Watch this video from Crown Academy of English to learn about how to form and when to use Past Simple tense:

Read more about Past Simple:

[Past Simple: Negative & Questions](#)

[Present Perfect or Past Simple?](#)

[Past Simple Passive](#)