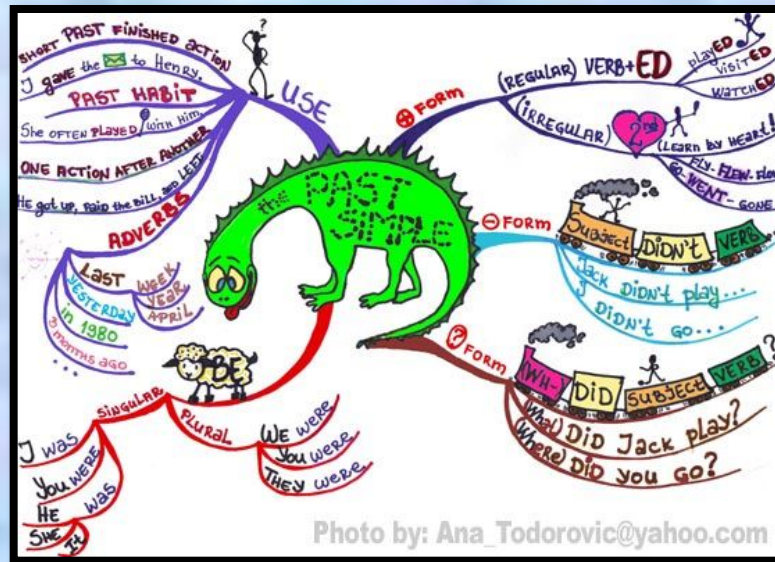


The Past Simple Tense



Usage

Use **the Past Simple** to express an action that started and finished at a specific time in the past. Sometimes, the speaker may not actually mention the specific time, but they do have one specific time in mind

Examples:

- ◆ I saw a movie yesterday.
- ◆ Last year, I traveled to Japan.
- ◆ Did you have dinner last night?
- ◆ She washed her car two hours ago.



The **Simple Past** can be used with a duration which starts and stops in the past. A duration is a longer action often indicated by expressions such as: for two years, for five minutes, all day, all year, etc

Examples:

- ❖ I **lived** in Brazil for two years.
- ❖ Ruti **studied** Japanese for five years.
- ❖ They **sat** at the beach all day.
- ❖ They **did not stay** at the party the entire time.
- ❖ We **talked** on the phone for thirty minutes.



The **Simple Past** can also be used to describe a habit which ●
stopped in the past. It can have the same meaning as “used
to.” To make it clear that we are talking about a habit, we
often add expressions such as: always, often, usually, never,
.when I was a child, when I was younger, etc

Examples:

- ◆ I studied French when I was a child.
- ◆ He played the violin.
- ◆ He didn't play the piano.
- ◆ Did you play a musical instrument when you were a kid?
- ◆ She worked at the movie theater after school.

5. **The Simple Past** can also be used to describe past facts or generalizations which are no longer true. As in USE 4 above, this use of the Simple Past is quite similar to the expression "used to."

Examples:

- ❖ She **was** shy as a child, but now she is very outgoing.
- ❖ He **didn't like** tomatoes before.
- ❖ **Did you live** in Texas when you **were** a kid?
- ❖ People **paid** much more to make cell phone calls in the past.

Time Expressions

yesterday

in 2011

last week/ month/
...year

_____ when I was

a week/ month / year
ago

suddenly

"Form: Verb "to be

was

- I : I was born in Israel.
- he: He was a doctor.
- she: She was in the USA.
- it: It was cold yesterday

were

- we: We were at home yesterday.
- you: You were right!
- they: They were in Italy last summer.

'Negative Form: Verb 'to be

I, he, she, it - was not (wasn't)

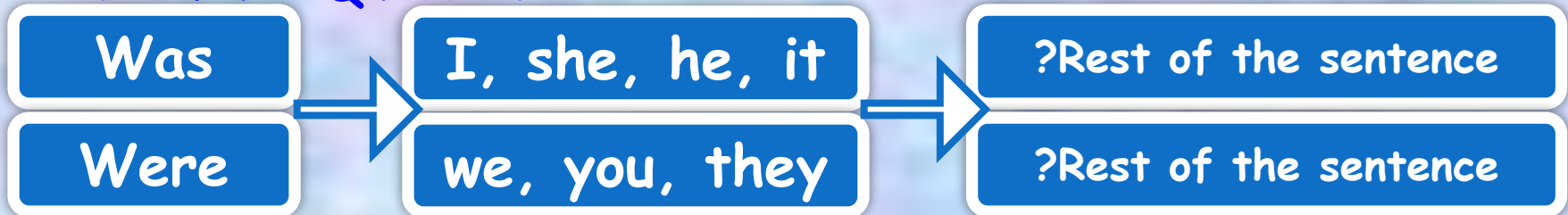
- I wasn't sick last week.
- He wasn't in Eilat last summer.
- She wasn't at school on Monday.

we, you, they - were not (weren't)

- We were not at home on Saturday.
- You weren't happy with your grades.
- They weren't angry with his behavior.

"Questions with Verb "to be

- Yes / No Question



- Wh - Non- Subject Question



- Wh- Subject Question



Past Simple: Regular Verbs

- The Past Simple tense of the most English verbs (*regular verbs*) is formed by adding "-ed"/"-d" to their base form. (*If the verb ends in "-e", we add "-d" to form the past simple*)

Examples:

- ◆ We arrived at 9:00 o'clock.
- ◆ My brother lived in London four years ago.
- ◆ When she was young, she danced beautifully.

Spelling Rules

- If a regular verb ends in consonant + y change y to i and add -ed:
carry - carr**ied**, study - stud**ied**, fry - fri**ed**, try - tri**ed**
- If a one syllable regular verb ends in **consonant + vowel + consonant** double the final consonant and add -ed -- > stop - stop**ped**, plan - plan**ned**, rob - rob**bed**, beg - beg**ged**
- If a regular verb has more than one syllable and ends in **consonant + vowel + consonant**, we double the final consonant only if the final syllable is stressed -- > pre**FER** - prefer**red**, reg**RET** - regret**ted**
- Exception: In British English verbs ending in -l have -ll before -ed whether the final syllable is stressed or not -- > travel - travel**led**

Irregular Verbs

- There are also some verbs called *irregular verbs* that have special past tense forms.

[See list of irregular verbs](#)

- ◆ We went (**go**) to school yesterday.
- ◆ The children read (**read**) that story last year.
- ◆ Tamar wrote (**write**) the letter to her friend on Sunday.
- ◆ The students forgot (**forget**) to do the homework.

Negative Form

- Negatives in the **Simple Past** are formed by adding *didn't* (informal) or *did not* (formal) before the simple form of the verb.



- ◆ The girl *didn't* come to school yesterday.
- ◆ The parents *didn't* work on Sunday.
- ◆ The baby *didn't* drink milk in the morning.

Questions

● Yes / No Question



◆ Did Nevo see his grandparents yesterday?

● Wh - Non - Subject Question



◆ Where did you spend your holidays?

● Wh - Subject Question



◆ Who wrote this beautiful poem?