

The Past Simple

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1. Structure

We use the **Past Simple** to talk about actions that happened at a specific time in the past. The actions can be short or long. There can be a few actions happening one after another.

Basic form

Subject + Verb (past form)



1.1. Positive sentences

The structure for **positive** sentences in the simple past tense is:

Subject + main verb (past form), e.g.

I worked



1.2.Negative sentences

The structure for **negative** sentences in the simple past tense is:

Subject + auxiliary verb (did) + not + verb (base form), e.g.

I didn't work



1.3. Question sentences

The structure for **question** sentences in the simple past tense is:

Auxiliary verb (did) + subject + main verb (base form), e.g.

Did you work...?



2.1.Form: regular verbs

The simple past is formed by adding -ed to the end of an infinitive and removing the *to*, for example *try* becomes *tried*



2.2.Form: irregular verbs

All the irregular verbs have different forms: *to go* becomes *went*, *to buy* becomes *bought*, *to cut* becomes *cut*, etc.



3. Use

Use 1: Past actions that are now finished

The first use of the Past Simple to express actions that happened at a specific time in the past. The actions can be short or long.

John cut his finger last week.

I went to college 3 years ago.

He ate the dinner 1 hour ago.

I slept well last night.

3. Use

Use 2: Situation in the past

Another use of this tense is talk about situations in the past.

I lived in New York for 10 years (I don't live there anymore).

3. Use

Use 3: A series of actions in the past

The Past Simple can also be used with a few actions in the past happening one after another.

He entered a room, lit a cigarette and smiled at the guests.

