# The Past Simple

Performed:

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# Contents

# 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 ofter 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 <u>cut</u> his finger last week.

I <u>went</u> to college 3 years ago.

He <u>ate</u> the dinner 1 hour ago.

I <u>slept</u> well last night.

# 3. Use

**Use 2: Situation in the past**

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

I <u>lived</u> 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 <u>entered</u> a room, <u>lit</u> a cigarette and <u>smiled</u> at the guests.