*Study this example*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was an Austrian musician and composer. He **lived** from 1756 to 1791. He **started** composing at the age of five and **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music. He **was** only 35 years

old when he **died**.

*Lived*, *started*, *wrote*, *was*, and *died* are all past simple.

**A / Form**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Affirmative | Question | Negative |
| I worked  you worked  he/she/it worked  We / you / they worked | did I work?  did you work?  did he/she/it work?  did we/ you /they work ? | I did not work  you did not work  he/she/it did not work  we/you/they did not work |

**Notes**

- Contracted negatives : *I didn't work, you didn't work* etc.

- Negative questions : *did I not work?* or *didn't I work?* etc.

- Questions and negatives of irregular verbs are made in the same way as those of regular verbs (with *did* + infinitive).

*Irregular verbs*

Irregular verbs have the same form for all persons (I, **you, *he, she,*** etc)

I/ he/she/ it/ we/ you/ they left, went, etc.

Irregular verbs are irregular in the past simple in the positive only (not in the negative or question form)

*go — went She* ***went*** *home yesterday,*

*sit* — *sat I* ***sat*** *down,*

*write* -- *wrote She* ***wrote*** *for hours.*

- Remember to use the infinitive without *ed* for questions and negatives.

**B . Spelling of regular affirmative past tense forms**

* Most regular verbs: add *- ed*

*work* - *worked stay* - *stayed show* -*showed wonder* - *wondered visit* - *visited*

*gallop* - *galloped*

* Verbs ending in *-e:* add *-d : hope* - *hoped decide*- *decided*
* Verbs ending in one stressed vowel+ one consonant (except *w* or *y)* double the consonant and add *-ed*

*Shop* - *shopped plan* - *planned refer* – *referred re'gret* - *regretted*

But (last syllable not stressed): *'offer* - *offered 'visit* – *visited*

* Verbs ending in consonant + -y: change y to *i* and add *- ed:*  *hurry* - *hurried cry* – *cried study* - *studied*

But (vowel + *-y): play* - *played*

* Verbs ending in -c have *ck* in the past (e.g. *picnic* - *picnicked ).*
* In British English, *-l* is doubled in the past after one short vowel even if the vowel is not stressed:

*'travel* - *travelled.*

**C. Pronunciation of *-ed***

The regular past ending *-ed* is pronounced as follows:

• /d/after vowels and voiced consonants (except /d/): *tried* , *lived* , *used* , *failed*

• / t /after unvoiced consonants (except / t /): *stopped , passed , laughed ,watched , worked*

* /Id/ after */d/* and / t / : *Ended* , *started*

**D / Use**

**1/ completed actions:** We use the simple past to talk about events, actions or situations which happened in the past and are now finished.

* The time or approximate time that the event took place is stated (e.g. I played tennis yesterday) or is understood from the context (e.g. I didn’t eat any breakfast).
* Some typical expressions with the past simple are : *yesterday, this morning/evening, last week/year, a year/month ago, that day/afternoon, the other day/week, at eleven o’clock, on Tuesday, in 1990, just, recently, once, earlier, then, next, after that, etc.(* A phrase with «***ago*** » means a finished time. It doesn’t include the present (I saw that film two days ago))
* The action may be in the very recent past. (your mother phoned a few minutes ago) Or it may be in the more distant past. (When I was younger I played football most days).
* It may be a short action (Pam phoned this morning) or a long one (I painted the kitchen yesterday. It took all day).
* We use the past simple to talk about a single event (I went out last night) or repeated events (I went out three times last week).

**2/ We can also use the past simple for past states and situations.**

Example : I was at home all last night.

The Romans had a huge empire.

In 1950, there were fewer than 50 million car in use around the world.

We lived in Scotland until I was fifteen.

**3/ Past habits, routines, or regular events .**

Examples : We went out for a meal every evening on holiday.

He got up at 7 o’clock every morning to go to work.

*Notes :*

There are other ways of expressing repeated actions and habits in the past.

A/ ***Used to*** : we use « used to » to talk about past habits and states that do not occur now or no longer exist.

Examples : we used to walk to school, but now we get the bus.

He used to be really shy, but he’s much more confident since he started his new job.

* Used to is not used to say how often things happened or how long they took.
* Be careful not to confuse « used to » with « be/get used to + noun/gerund » which means « be/become accustomed to something » because you have been doing it for a while.

Example : I am used to working nights.

B/ ***Would*** : would is also used to talk about past habits and repeated actions BUT not about past states.

Example : when I was little, I would dress up in out mother’s old clothes.

* Would to talk about past habits and routines is rarely used in a negative or question form. (we didn’t use to get much homework at school NOT we ~~wouldn’t get~~..)

**4/ The simple past is used in narrative**- when we tell stories and when we tell people about past events.

Examples : Once upon a time a princess went into a wood and sat down by a stream…

I saw John this morning, he told me…

**5/ With present or future meaning**

A past tense doesn’t always have a past meaning. In some kinds of sentences we can use verbs like « I had, you went or I wondered » to talk about the present or future.

A***/ after if, unless, supposing, etc***. : after if, unless and words with similar meanings, we often use past forms to refer to th present or future.

Examples/ If I had the money now, I’d buy a car.

If you caught the 10 o’clock train tomorrow, you could be in Edinburgh by supper-

time, unless the train was delayed, of course.

You look as if you were just about to scream.

Supposing we didn’t go on holiday next year ?

B/ ***After it’s time, would rather and wish*** : after these expressions, too, past forms can have present or future meanings.

Examples : Ten o’clock- it’s time you went home.

Don’t come and see me today- I’d rather you came tomorrow.

I wish I had a better memory.

C/ ***Distancing in questions, requests, etc***. : we can make questions, requests and offers less direct ( and so more polite) by using past tenses. Common formulae are I wondered, I thought, I hoped, Did you want, etc. Past progressive forms (I was wondering etc.) make sentences even less direct.

Examples : I wondered if you were free this evening.

I thought you might like some flowers.

Did you want cream with your coffee, sir?

D/ ***Past models***: the past model forms could, might, would, and should usually have present or future reference ; they are used as less direct, « distanced » forms of can.

Examples : Could you help me for a moment ?

Would you come this way, please?