Introduction to political science

Politics, political science, politician and policy? What is the difference?

Politics: (linguistic definition)

Politics means the activities of the government or people who try to influence the way a country is governed:

E.g.: A lot of young people just don't seem interested in politics these days.

Another definition: Politics is power in action.

Politics also means the study of the ways in which a country is governed.

E.g.: He studied Politics at university then got a job with the United Nations in New York.

Political:

The adjective form related to the noun politics is political.

E.g.: My friends and I are always having political discussions late into the night.

Not: having politic discussions.

E.g.: If I did a degree, I'd like to study Political Science.

Politician:

A person who is involved in politics (e.g.: a member of parliament or a member of the government) is a politician.

E.g.: Politicians rarely give straight answers to questions from journalists.

Policy:

Policy means a plan of action, or a set of rules agreed by a business, a political group or a government, saying what they will do in a particular situation.

E.g.: It's not company policy to sell goods to persons under the age of 18.

E.g.: The economic policy of the government is in ruins because of the global credit crisis.

Not: The economic politics of the government.

Simple past tense

The past simple is the most common way of talking about past events or states which have finished. It is often used with past time references (e.g. yesterday, two years ago).

How to form the simple past

The past simple is usually formed by adding d, ed, or ied to the base form of the verb, however, in English there are many irregular verbs that take on a completely different form in the past tense.

For **regular verbs**, add "ed" to the root form of the verb (or just "d" if the root form ends in an e):

Play→Played - Type→Typed - Listen→Listened - Push→Pushed - Love→Loved

For **irregular verbs**, things get more complicated. The simple past tense of some irregular verbs looks exactly like the root form:

Put→Put - Cut→Cut - Set→Set - Cost→Cost - Hit→Hit

For other irregular verbs, including to be, the simple past forms are more erratic:

See→Saw - Build→Built - Go→Went - Do→Did - Rise→Rose - Am/Is/Are→Was/Were

Negative form of simple past: The formula is did not + [root form of verb]

Subject	Verb *To be*	Verb *To have*	Verb *To do*
I	was	had	did
You	were	had	did
He/she/it	was	had	did
We	were	had	did
You	were	had	did
They	were	had	did

NEGATIVE FORM PAST SIMPLE

AFFIRMATIVE FORM	NEGATIVE FORM
1.I went to the supermarket.	1. I didn't go to the supermarket.
2. You lived in New York.	2. You didn't live in New York.
3. She played football.	3. She didn't play football.