

First year S2

Teacher: Ms M Boughedda

Unit 5: Politics, Voting, and Government

Lecture 2: Grammar (Past simple tense)

1. Form of the Past Simple

The past simple is used to talk about actions that happened and finished in the past.

There are two types of verbs:

- Regular verbs → add -ed
- Irregular verbs → change form

Examples:

- play → played
- watch → watched
- go → went
- eat → ate

1.a. Positive Form

Structure: Subject + Verb (past form) + complement

Examples:

- I visited my grandmother yesterday.
- She watched TV last night.
- They went to school early.
- We studied English last week.

1.b. Negative Form

To make negatives, we use:

did not (didn't) + stem

Structure: Subject + did not (didn't) + stem

Examples:

- I **did not visit** my grandmother yesterday.
- She **didn't watch** TV last night.
- They **didn't go** to school early.
- We **didn't study** English last week.

1.c. Yes / No Questions

To form questions, we use:

Did + subject + stem?

Structure: Did + subject + stem?

Examples:

- **Did you visit** your friend yesterday?
- **Did she watch** TV last night?
- **Did they go** to school early?

Short Answers:

- Yes, I did.
- No, I didn't.

1.d. Wh- Questions

These questions ask for specific information.

Examples of Wh- words:

- What
- Where
- When
- Why
- Who
- How

Structure: Wh-word + did + subject + stem?

Examples:

- **Where did you go** yesterday?
- **When did she finish** her homework?
- **Why did they leave** early?
- **How did he travel** to school?

2. Uses of the Past Simple

The past simple is used in several situations.

Use 1: Completed Actions in the Past

Actions that started and finished in the past.

Often used with:

- yesterday
- last night
- last week
- in 2020
- two days ago
- etc.

Examples:

- I visited my aunt yesterday.
- They finished the project last week.
- She bought a new dress two days ago.

Use 2: A Series of Completed Actions

Used to describe actions that happened one after another.

Examples:

- I woke up, brushed my teeth, and went to school.
- She opened the door, walked inside, and sat down.

Use 3: Past Habits

Used to describe habits or repeated actions in the past.

Often used with:

- always
- often
- sometimes
- every day

Examples:

- I played football every weekend when I was young.
- She visited her grandmother every summer.

Use 4: Past Facts or States

Used to describe situations that were true in the past.

Examples:

- He lived in London in 2015.
- They were very happy last year.

3. Time Expressions Commonly Used with Past Simple

Example:

- yesterday
- last night
- last week
- last year
- ago
- in + past year (in 2010)
- when

Examples:

- I saw her yesterday.
- We travelled to Paris last year.
- He finished the task two hours ago.

4. Spelling Rules for Adding -ed

Regular verbs form the past simple by adding -ed, but spelling changes sometimes occur.

Rule 1: Most verbs → add -ed

Verb + ed

Examples:

- play → played
- watch → watched
- clean → cleaned
- open → opened

Rule 2: Verbs ending in -e → add -d

Verb + d

Examples:

- live → lived
- move → moved
- love → loved
- close → closed

Rule 3: Verbs ending in consonant + y → change y to i + ed

Examples:

- study → studied
- carry → carried
- try → tried
- hurry → hurried

If there's a vowel before y, just add -ed:

- play → played
- enjoy → enjoyed

Rule 4: Short verbs (CVC pattern) → double the final consonant

(CVC = consonant-vowel-consonant)

Examples:

- stop → stopped
- plan → planned
- drop → dropped
- admit → admitted

Do not double if the verb ends in:

- w
- x
- y

Examples:

- play → played
- fix → fixed
- snow → snowed

5. Pronunciation of -ed

/t/: when the verb ends in a voiceless sound: p, k, f, s, sh, ch, x

Examples:

- helped → /helpɪt/
- washed → /wɒʃt/
- watched → /wɒtʃt/
- laughed → /lɑ:ft/
- fixed → /fɪkst/

/d/ when the verb ends in a voiced sound: (b, g, v, z, m, n, l, r, etc.) and vowels

Examples:

- played → /pleɪd/
- cleaned → /kli:nd/
- opened → /əʊpənd/
- lived → /lɪvd/
- answered → /ɑ:nsəd/
- agree → /əgri:d/

/ɪd/ when the verb ends in: t or d

Examples:

- wanted → /wɒntɪd/
- needed → /ni:dɪd/
- started → /stɑ:tɪd/
- decided → /dɪsaɪdɪd/

Practice

Task one: Put each verb into the past simple, then write it in the correct column according to the spelling rule used.

play clean live move stop plan study try cry prefer travel open watch
wash fix enjoy rain close carry drop

Just add -ed	Add -d (verbs ending in -e)	Change y → ied	Double consonant + -ed

Task two: Here are some regular past verbs. Write their past forms, then put them in the columns below according to their pronunciation:

The Past	Like	Wash	Live
	Walk	Play	Watch
	Look	Try	Enjoy
	Listen	Pay	Jump
	Talk	Paint	Faint
	Chat	Study	Borrow
	Arrive	Dance	Answer
	Travel	Pick	Touch

/t/	/d/	/ɪd/

Task three: Write the *past simple* form of the following irregular verbs.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| go → _____ | begin → _____ |
| take → _____ | break → _____ |
| come → _____ | choose → _____ |
| see → _____ | drink → _____ |
| eat → _____ | drive → _____ |
| give → _____ | fall → _____ |
| make → _____ | forget → _____ |
| buy → _____ | hear → _____ |
| think → _____ | know → _____ |
| bring → _____ | write → _____ |

Task four: Make the past simple: positive, negative or question.

1. I _____ (work) in a bank for ten years.
2. Where _____ (you / live) when you were young?
3. She _____ (not / study) French at university.
4. He _____ (travel) through the Middle East last year.
5. _____ (they / visit) the Louvre in Paris?
6. She _____ (not / watch) TV yesterday.
7. We _____ (buy) a new car last weekend.
8. Where _____ (you / teach) before you came here?
9. He _____ (not / think) that he was right.
10. I _____ (cook) steak last night.
11. _____ (Lucy / read) War and Peace at school?
12. She _____ (not / write) to her grandmother.
13. We _____ (have) a computer when I was a child.
14. Where _____ (you / go) on holiday?
15. I _____ (love) ice cream when I was a child.
16. They _____ (not / meet) yesterday.
17. _____ (she / swim) in the sea in Greece?
18. We _____ (not / play) tennis yesterday because it was raining.
19. He _____ (try) to lift the box but he couldn't.
20. What _____ (you / eat) for lunch?

Task five: Make past simple 'wh' questions:

1. (where / you / go to school?)
2. (when / she / arrive?)
3. (why / he / eat so much?)
4. (what / they / do yesterday?)
5. (who / you / meet at the party?)
6. (how / she / come to work this morning?)
7. (where / I / leave my glasses?)
8. (when / he / get home last night?)
9. (what / you / do at the weekend?)
10. (why / she / get angry?)
11. (who / they / talk to earlier?)
12. (what / we / do last Ramadan?)
13. (why / it / rain on my birthday?)
14. (how / she / finish so quickly?)
15. (where / he / go after the class last week?)
16. (what / I / do last Tuesday?)
17. (when / you / start your job?)
18. (how / she / get here?)
19. (why / you / arrive so late?)
20. (what / he / do last summer?)