

6 Reference

Past Simple

We use the Past Simple to talk about actions and situations in the past. The actions and situations are finished.
*My hair **was** red when I was a girl, but it's grey now.*

to be

+	I/He/She/It was	We/You/They were
-	I/He/She/It wasn't (was not)	We/You/They weren't (were not)
?	Was I/he/she/it?	Were we/you/they?
	Yes, I/he/she/it was.	Yes, we/you/they were.
	No, I/he/she/it wasn't.	No, we/you/they weren't.

*She **was** tired last night.*
*They **weren't** at the cinema yesterday.*
***Was** Karin at the office on Monday? No, she **wasn't**.*
***Were** the musicians good? Yes, they **were**.*
*Where **were** you last night? I **was** at home.*

Regular verbs: positive

Make the Past Simple of most regular verbs by adding *-ed* to the verb.

work → *worked*, *watch* → *watched*, *listen* → *listened*

Note the spelling rules:

Verbs that end in ...	Rule	Examples
-e	add <i>-d</i>	<i>lived, changed</i>
consonant + <i>-y</i>	remove <i>-y</i> and add <i>-ied</i>	<i>studied, carried</i>
one vowel + consonant	repeat consonant and add <i>-ed</i>	<i>planned, stopped</i>

Negative

Did + *not* + infinitive
*The tourists **did not visit** all the museums.*
 In informal English, we use the contracted form *didn't*.
*They **didn't** work in restaurants.*

Questions

Wh- questions
Wh- word + *did* + subject pronoun + infinitive
When did you finish work yesterday?
Yes/No questions
Did + noun/subject pronoun + infinitive
Did you study at university?

Short answers

Yes, I/he/she/it/we/you/they did.
No, I/he/she/it/we/you/they didn't.
Did you study at university? Yes, I did.

Irregular verbs

Many common verbs in English have an irregular past form, i.e. they do not end in *-ed* in the past.

have → *had* *We **had** a lovely meal in the restaurant.*
go → *went* *Sara **went** to Amsterdam on a weekend break.*
take → *took* *Paul **took** a lot of photos in India.*
see → *saw* *I **saw** the Mona Lisa when I went to Paris.*

There are no general rules for the formation of the Past Simple of irregular verbs. See page 149 for a list of irregular Past Simple forms.

These verbs are irregular only in the positive. They form the negative and questions like regular verbs, with *did* + the infinitive.

Key vocabulary

Places in/near a town/city

airport (art) gallery bank bar building
 bus station café cinema factory hospital
 hostel hotel library market museum
 park post office power station restaurant
 school station

Shops

bookshop chemist's clothes shop
 department store jeweller's newsagent's
 shoe shop shopping centre stationer's
 supermarket

Time expressions

(two years) ago
 in 1809
 in the 1960s and 70s
 in the nineteenth century
 in those days
 last night/week/month/year
 last (Sunday) morning/afternoon/evening
 yesterday



ACTIVE BOOK

Listen to these words.



see Writing bank page 140