

ภาษาอังกฤษ ป. 6

Past Simple Tense

The Past Simple Tense is easy to use in English.

**If you already know how to use the Present Tense,
then the Past Tense will be easy.**

**In general, the Past Tense is used to talk about
something that started and finished at a definite time
in the past.**

There are some exceptions with a slight change in spelling which you can see here :

Spelling of words ending in ED.

Examples of sentences using regular verbs in the past tense

- Last night I played my guitar loudly and the neighbors complained.
- She kissed me on the cheek.
- It rained yesterday.
- Angela watched TV all night.
- John wanted to go to the museum.

How to form the Past Tense in English

The main rule is that for every verb in English, there is only one form of it in the past tense.

(The exception is the **Past tense of To Be**, which has two forms: was and were)

For example : The past tense of the verb **want is wanted.**

Wanted is used as the past tense for all subjects/pronouns.

- I wanted
- You wanted
- He wanted
- She wanted
- It wanted
- We wanted
- They wanted

So you just have to learn one word to be able to use it in the past tense. In this case we just needed to learn the one word wanted which can be used for all subjects (or people).

Past Tense Regular Verbs

To change a regular verb into its past tense form, we normally add –ED to the end of the verb.

- play – played
- cook – cooked
- rain – rained

- wait – waited

Note: There are three different ways of pronouncing the –ed at the end of a verb in the past tense.

We recommend reading our guide about the pronunciation of –ED at the end of words.

Negative sentences in the Past Tense

We use **didn't (did not)** to make a negative sentence in the past tense.

This is for regular AND irregular verbs in English.

(Exception is To Be and Modal Verbs such as Can)

Compare the following:

Present: They **don't** live in Canada.

Past: They **didn't** live in Canada.

The main verb (live in the example above) is in its base form (of the infinitive). The auxiliary DIDN'T shows that the sentence is negative AND in the past tense.

NOTICE: The only difference between a negative sentence in the present tense and a negative sentence in the past tense is the change in the auxiliary verb.

Both **don't** and **doesn't** in the present tense become **didn't** in the past tense.

Compare the negative sentences in the examples below :

Present : You **don't** need a mechanic.

Past : You **didn't** need a mechanic.

Present : You **don't** walk to work.

Past : You **didn't** walk to work.

Present : He **doesn't** speak Japanese.

Past : He **didn't** speak Japanese.

Examples of negative sentences in the Past Tense

- I **didn't** want to go to the dentist.
- She **didn't** have time.
- You **didn't** close the door.
- He **didn't** come to my party.
- They **didn't** study so they didn't pass the test.
- We **didn't** sleep well last night.

Questions in the Past Tense

We use **did** to make a question in the past tense.

This is for regular AND irregular verbs in English.

(Exception is To Be and Modal Verbs such as Can)

Compare the following:

Present : **Do** they live in France?

Past : **Did** they live in France?

The main verb (live in the example above) is in its base form (of the infinitive). The auxiliary DID shows that the question is in the past tense.

NOTICE : The only difference between a question in the present tense and a question in the past tense is the change in the auxiliary verb.

Both **Do and Does** in present tense questions become **Didn't** in past tense questions.

Compare the questions in the examples below:

Present : **Do** you need a doctor?

Past : **Did** you need a doctor?

Present : **Do** you ride your bike to work?

Past : **Did** you ride your bike to work?

Present : **Does** he live in Italy?

Past : **Did** he live in Italy?

We can also use a question word (Who, What, Why etc.) before DID to ask for more information.

- Did you study? – Yes, I did.
- **When** did you study? – I studied last night.
- **Where** did you study? – I studied at the library.

Examples of Questions in the Past Tense

- Did you go to work yesterday?
- Did they arrive on time?
- Did she like the surprise?
- Where did she go?
- What did you do yesterday?
- What did you say? - I didn't say anything.
- Why did we have to come?

Irregular Verbs in the Past Tense

Irregular verbs are **ONLY** irregular in affirmative/positive sentences.

(An exception to this is with the verb TO BE in the Past Tense).

For example: The past tense of GO is WENT.

It does not end in –ED so it is considered irregular.

The word **went** is used for all subjects – I, you, we, they, he, she, it.

- I **went** to the beach
- He **went** to the park.
- She **went** to the zoo.
- They **went** to the library.

BUT, as we mentioned before, it is only in its irregular form (went) in sentences that are affirmative/positive.

Compare the following using GO in the past tense.

- They **went** to the beach
- They didn't **go** to the beach --- **Didn't** shows that we are talking in the past tense.
- Did they **go** to the beach? --- **Did** shows that we are talking in the past tense.

Another example with an irregular verb.

The past of EAT is ATE.

- You **ate** my cake.
- You didn't **eat** my cake.
- Did you **eat** my cake?

complete the sentences with was or were.

1. I _____ happy.

2. You _____ angry.

3. She _____ in London last week.

4. He _____ on holiday.

5. It _____ cold.

6. We _____ at school.

7. You _____ at the cinema.

8. They _____ at home.

9. The cat _____ on the roof.

10. The children _____ in the garden.

Write positive sentences in simple past.

1. he / the question / answer

2. you / a question / ask

3. the dog / bark

4. they / us / call

5. we / a mountain / climb

6. John / stamps / collect

7. we / in London / live

8. I / hungry / be

9. they / a hamster / have

10. he / to school / go

Rewrite the sentences in the negative.

1. They collected postcards.

2. You jumped high.

3. Albert played squash.

4. The teacher tested our English.

5. Fiona visited her grandma.

6. He washed the car.

7. You were thirsty.

8. He had a computer.

9. I bought bread.

10. You saw the house.

“Present Simple vs. Past Simple”

1. She _____ (go) to Australia in 1994 and she liked it very much.
2. My father usually _____ (like) his steak well-done.
3. The dog _____ (eat) its toy last night.
4. The policeman _____ (talk) to the burglar yesterday.
5. _____ (you /have) a test last week?

6. I often see her mother but she never _____
(speak) to me.
7. The gentleman _____ (speak) to his servant
2 hours ago.
8. The kangaroo always _____ (carry) its baby.
9. My friend _____ (talk) a lot every day.
10. The man _____ (drive) to the supermarket last
weekend.

11. My brothers _____ (leave) for England last week.
12. My sisters _____ (leave) for England every year in June.
13. I don't like that man because he often _____ (laugh) at me.
14. Her sister never _____ (smoke).
15. The cat usually _____ (leave) its basket when it is hungry.