

## Past Tenses

We use different past tenses to focus on different moments and periods of time in the past.

### Past Simple

#### Form

The form of the Past Simple is the same for all types of subjects.

#### Positive

<b>S + V (past tense) + comp.</b>																
Rule	S: I, They, We, You, He, She, It, any type of name V (past tense): adding (ed) to verbs or irregular verbs.															
Example	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">I</td> <td style="text-align: center;">finished</td> <td style="text-align: center;">yesterday.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">He/She/It</td> <td style="text-align: center;">left</td> <td style="text-align: center;">at 3 o'clock.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">We</td> <td style="text-align: center;">arrived</td> <td style="text-align: center;">three weeks ago.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">You</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">They</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	I	finished	yesterday.	He/She/It	left	at 3 o'clock.	We	arrived	three weeks ago.	You			They		
I	finished	yesterday.														
He/She/It	left	at 3 o'clock.														
We	arrived	three weeks ago.														
You																
They																

#### Negative

<b>S + did not + V (inf.) + comp.</b>																					
Rule																					
Example	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">I</td> <td style="text-align: center;">didn't</td> <td style="text-align: center;">finish</td> <td style="text-align: center;">yesterday.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">He/She/It</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">leave</td> <td style="text-align: center;">at 3 o'clock.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">We</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">You</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">They</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	I	didn't	finish	yesterday.	He/She/It		leave	at 3 o'clock.	We				You				They			
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Questions

## WH questions

Rule	WH word + did + S + V.(inf.) + comp?			
Example	When	did	you he they ⋮	finish the report? get married?

## Yes/no questions

Rule	Did + S + V.(inf.) + comp?
Example	Did you enjoy the meal?

**Note:** The auxiliary verbs (aux. V) in the Past Simple tense is: did.

Use

The Past Simple is used to express:

## 1. a finished action in the past.

**Examples: -** We **met** in 2000.  
I **went** to Lebanon last year.  
John **left** two minutes ago.

## 2. actions that follow each other in a story.

**Example: -** Mary **walked** into the room and stopped. She **listened** carefully. She **heard** a noise coming from behind the door.

## 3. a situation or habit.

**Example: -** When I was a child, we **lived** in a small house by the sea.  
Every day I **walked** for miles on the beach with my dog.

**Spelling of verb + -ed**

1. Most verbs add (**ed**) to the base form of the verb.

want-wanted work-worked help-helped wash-washed

2. When the verb ends in -e, add (**d**).

like-liked use-used hate-hated

3. Verbs that end in a **constant** + **-y** change the **-y** to **-ied**.

carry – carried hurry – hurried bury – buried

**Irregular Verbs**

There are some irregular verbs, such as:

begin - began	bring - brought	choose - chose	fly - flew	grow - grew
lead - led	leave - left	meet - met	ring - rang	run - ran
sleep - slept	speak - spoke	teach - taught	understand - understood	wear - wore
write - wrote	drive - drove	break - broke	know - knew	pay - paid