

## The Past Simple Tense

### Introduction

1) We use the past simple when we talk about an action which happened at a definite time in the past. The past simple emphasizes that the action is finished. We can also use the past simple to talk about how someone felt about something.

- *When was your wedding?*
- *It was 3 years ago. I was beyond happy to marry the love of my life.*

2) The past simple is formed by adding *-ed* to the bare infinitive of the regular verb. Regular verbs ending in *-e* simply add *-d*. All persons have the same form.

- He worked part-time as a waiter.*
- We liked our stay at the hotel.*

Regular verbs ending in *consonant + -y* change *-y* to *-ie*.

- cry – cried, try – tried*

Regular verbs ending with *one vowel and one consonant* double the final consonant.

- stop – stopped, regret – regretted*

Irregular verbs are not formed following the same pattern. Use the past tense form of the irregular verb. You can find the list of irregular verbs online.

- be – was/were, eat – ate, drink – drank*

Note that the past tense form of the verb *to be* depends on the person of the subject.

<i>I was</i>	<i>we were</i>
<i>you were</i>	<i>you were</i>
<i>he/she/it was</i>	<i>they were</i>

Questions are formed with *did* and the bare infinitive of the verb. Negatives are formed with *did not* and the bare infinitive of the verb. Questions and negatives with both regular and irregular verbs are formed following this pattern. All persons are formed with *did/did not*.

(+) *His sister lived in Sutton, London.*

(-) *His sister did not live in Sutton. She lived in Harrow.*

(?) *Did his sister live in Sutton?/Where did his sister live in London?*

Some **time markers** can show when the action happened or emphasize the habitual character of the action (in this case, you can use the phrase *every day*). These **time markers** are *yesterday, last night, (not) a long time ago, two years ago etc.*

*Shakespeare died in 1616.*

*Ryan did not go to work yesterday. He got sick.*

*When did you move to Spain? – I moved there not a long time ago.*

Note that we use *did/did not* with the verb *to have*.

*I didn't have enough money to buy a new computer.*

But we **do not use *did* with the verb *to be* (*was/were*)**.

– *Why were you so angry?*

– *I wasn't angry! This was my usual self.*

## Short Story Dialogue

The past simple is widely used in daily life.

– *Mom, do you have a minute?*

– *Sure, kid, what's up?*

– *When was the last time you went to a beauty salon?*

– *Well, I don't remember. Maybe it was a year ago.*

– *And when was the last time you had a night out with Dad?*

– *I'm not sure. It was definitely a long time ago.*

– *And what did you do last night?*

– *I stayed at home with your Dad. We fell asleep watching some boring movie on TV.*

– *I bought two tickets to Costa Rica. You need a vacation, Mom!*

**Independent Practice - Past simple tense**

**1) Write the correct sentence.**

a. Nick's mother (not/to want) to stay at home the whole day so she (to sign up) for Spanish classes.	..... .....
b. I (to run) every day when I (to be) a teen but I don't do that anymore.	..... .....
c. Where (you/to be) last night? I (to try) calling you but you (not to pick up) the phone.	..... .....

**2) There are 2 mistakes in each sentence. Correct the mistakes and rewrite the sentences.**

a. Kim goed on a date with David the last night but didn't call him afterwards.	..... .....
b. How you did get this job? There was so many people ready to kill for it!	..... .....
c. We didn't invited Ann to the party. No one really likes her after she badmouthied Kristen.	..... .....
d. Yesterday I driven to Houston to see Dan. We wented to high school together.	..... .....

**3) Answer the questions.**

a. Where did you grow up?	..... .....
b. What did you do last night?	..... .....
c. When was the last time you went on a trip?	..... .....

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## Independent Practice: Answers - Past simple tense

### 1) Open the brackets.

- a. Nick's mother didn't want to stay at home the whole day so she signed up for Spanish classes.
- b. I ran every day when I was a teen but I don't do that anymore.
- c. Where were you last night? I tried calling you but you didn't pick up the phone.

### 2) There are 2 mistakes in each sentence. Correct the mistakes and rewrite the sentences.

- a. Kim **went** on a date with David **last night** but didn't call him afterwards.
- b. How **did you get** this job? There **were** so many people ready to kill for it!
- c. We didn't **invite** Ann to the party. No one really likes her after she **badmouthed** Kristen.
- d. Yesterday I **drove** to Houston to see Dan. We **went** to high school together.

### 3) Answer the questions. Sample Answers:

- a. I grew up in Nashville, Tennessee.
- b. I went clubbing with my friends last night.
- c. I went on a trip to Germany last year.