



Past Simple

Inglés

LEARNING PATHWAY

- With this worksheet, you will put into practice and consolidate your knowledge on **past simple**.
- This topic is part of the unit related to tenses, as illustrated in the following figure.



INDEX

INTRODUCTION

CONTENTS

Past Simple

How to form the affirmative with REGULAR VERBS

How to form the affirmative with IRREGULAR VERBS

The past simple of 'BE'

How to form the negative

The past simple negative 'BE'

How to form questions in the past simple

How to form questions with the verb 'to be' in the past simple

SOLVED ACTIVITIES

ANSWER KEY

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

ANSWER KEY

SUMMARY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION

In English, verbs come in three tenses: past, present, and future. We are going to use the past tense to talk about things that **have already passed** or **were done** some time **before** the moment we are speaking. In this worksheet, we are going to focus on the past tense, more specifically on the **past simple**.

CONTENTS

We will use the past simple to talk about **completed actions** that happened at a **fixed time** in the past (Hall & Barduhn, 2016). At the same time, we are going to find it with frequency in **stories** for things that happened **one after another** (Swan & Walter, 2001).

How to form the affirmative with REGULAR VERBS

• I / You / She / He / It / We / They	worked jumped danced
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As you can see in the previous examples, regular verbs do not suffer much changes with past simple. For most of the verbs, past simple is formed by adding '-ed' at the end of them. However, there are some spelling changes too (Hall & Barduhn, 2016).

When the verb **ends** in **-e**, then we just need to add **-d** at the end as follows

like → liked

hope → hoped

More changes are applied to irregular verbs.

How to form the affirmative with IRREGULAR VERBS

In English, irregular verbs are the ones which suffer some type of modification when they are in their simple past form. As opposed to regular verbs, it is not possible just add the ‘-ed’ or ‘-d’ ending to form this tense. What is more, there are no specific rules about how to form irregular verbs in the past simple (Hall & Barduhn, 2016); therefore, you have to learn the simple past forms one by one (Swan & Walter, 2001). Some examples of irregular verbs are presented below.

Present	Past	Present	Past
Become	Became	Get	Got
Begin	Began	Leave	Left
Bring	Brought	Lose	Lost
Cut	Cut	Put	Put
Fall	Fell	Say	Said
Forgive	Forgave	Understand	Understood

The past simple of “BE”

‘Be’ is the only verb in the past simple which changes depending on the subject (Hall & Barduhn, 2016).

I	→	Was
You	→	Were
He	→	Was
She	→	
It	→	
We	→	Were
They	→	Were

As you can see in the figure above, we will be using 'was' or 'were,' depending on the subject, to form the past simple affirmative of 'be.' Some examples are given now:

I **was** a big fan of that coffee shop.

You **were** not at work last Monday.

She **was** a teacher at that school.

He **was** at the supermarket when it happened.

It **was** a really nice day until it started to rain.

They **were** really good friends.

We **were** very tired last week.

How to form the past simple negative

• I / You / She / He / It / We / They	did not OR didn't	work jump dance
---------------------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------

I **did not** want to visit that coffee shop.

You **didn't** participate in the competition.

She **didn't** leave the house today.

Samuel **did not** come to the picnic yesterday.

I wanted to drive the car but it **didn't** work at all.

They **didn't** go to the cinema last weekend.

We **didn't** pass the math exam.



Important

Notice that the structure **does not change** with any of the subjects and verbs do not suffer any variation at all.

The past simple negative of 'BE'

As previously stated, to form the past simple affirmative, we will be adding the words 'was' and 'were,' depending on the subject. However, to form the past simple negative, we are going to add 'not' after 'was' and 'were' (Hall & Barduhn, 2016.)

I	→	was not OR wasn't
You	→	were not OR weren't
He	}	was not OR wasn't
She		
It		
We	→	were not OR weren't
They	→	were not OR weren't



Important

Notice that, in the case of the negative form, it is possible to use **contractions** such as 'didn't' (did not), 'wasn't' (was not) and 'weren't' (were not).

How to form questions in the past simple

To make questions in the past simple, we will be using '**did**' at the beginning of statements.

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| • Did | I / you / he / she / it / we / they | work? |
| | | jump? |
| | | dance? |

Did I finish my homework?

Did you participate in the competition?

Did she leave the house today?

Did Samuel come to the picnic yesterday?

Did they go to the cinema last weekend?

Did we pass the math exam?



Important

Notice that, as with the negative form, the structure **does not change** with any of the subjects and verbs do not suffer any variation at all.

How to form questions with the verb 'BE' in the past simple

As with the past simple questions for regular and irregular verbs, you need to swap the order of '**was**' and '**were**,' and the verb in the sentence. Some examples are presented now:

Were you at work last Monday?

Was she a teacher at that school?

Was he at the supermarket when it happened?

Was it a nice day until it started to rain or not?

Were they really good friends?

Were we very tired last week?

ACTIVITIES

The following activities will help you to put into practice what you learned throughout this worksheet, giving you the opportunity to identify which area you need to reinforce.

- Read comprehensively.
- Go over and use this worksheet to support you.
- Do not look at the answer key until you finish the activities on your own. Challenge yourself!
- If you have any questions on this topic, write them down and share them with your tutor.

Good job!

1. Make the **affirmative** past simple.

e.g. They _____ (**get on**) the bus in the center of the city.

They **got on** the bus in the center of the city.

- a. The children _____ (**wake up**) very late yesterday.
- b. We _____ (**do**) our homework last night.
- c. I _____ (**be**) in Japan two years ago.
- d. They _____ (**be**) in Rio last summer.

To complete this activity, please check the examples in the segment called 'How to form the affirmative with REGULAR VERBS,' 'How to form the affirmative with IRREGULAR VERBS,' and "The past simple of 'BE'". You will be able to correctly use the past simple in its affirmative form after finishing them.

2. Make the **negative** past simple.

e.g. The kids _____ (not / go) to bed early last night.
The kids **didn't go** to bed early last night.

- a. Charles and Chris _____ (not / come) to the party last Saturday.
- b. He _____ (not / read) the newspaper yesterday.
- c. We _____ (not / attend) last year's ceremony.
- d. Sarah _____ (not / like) candies as a child.

To complete this activity, please check the examples in the segment called 'How to form the past simple negative,' and "The past simple negative of 'BE'". You will be able to correctly use the past simple in its negative form after finishing them.

ANSWER KEY

1.
 - a. The children **woke up** very late yesterday.
 - b. We **did** our homework last night.
 - c. I **was** in Japan two years ago.
 - d. They **were** in Rio last summer.

2.
 - a. Charles and Chris **didn't come** to the party last Saturday.
 - b. He **didn't read** the newspaper yesterday.
 - c. We **didn't attend** last year's ceremony.
 - d. Sarah **didn't like** candies as a child.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Here, a series of **fill-in-the-blank** and **put-into-the-correct-order** activities are presented. You will have to complete the blank spaces with the **required information**. This activity will help you to confirm how much you have learned so far. If you have any questions, read and go over the text once again. If you still have doubts, please take notes and share them with your tutor. Remember: the main objective of this worksheet is that **you** learn. Good job!

1. Write the simple past in its **affirmative** form. Use the verbs in the box. You can use them just **ONCE**.

Do	Visit	Speak	Be
Crash	Drink	Study	Quit
Rob	Arrive	Spend	Enjoy

- a. We _____ the London Bridge while we were in England.
- b. Ann and John _____ all the morning yesterday.
- c. After the meeting, we all _____ with my boss.
- d. They _____ at the airport very late.
- e. She _____ a lot of money on cosmetics.
- f. The students _____ their homework before leaving the house.
- g. Mike _____ the car into a tree, but no one was hurt.
- h. The kids _____ juices of many flavors during the last summer camp.
- i. My father _____ smoking when he was 27.
- j. I really _____ that classical music concert.
- k. He _____ part of the national football team, but not anymore.
- l. After escaping from prison, he _____ a museum.

2. Write the simple past of verb **'to be'** in its **affirmative** form.

- a. She _____ really hungry and sleepy.
- b. We _____ the first group presenting.
- c. You _____ in charge of the kids.
- d. He _____ at the library when I called him.
- e. I _____ busy with the new company's project.
- f. It _____ a really bad idea.

3. Write the simple past in its **negative** form.

- a. We had a good time at the wedding.

- b. It rained a lot yesterday.

- c. She enjoyed the movie.

- d. He saw us at the train station.

- e. You spent a lot of time playing videogames.

- f. They really got along when they first met.

4. Write the simple past of verb **'to be'** in its **negative** form.

- a. I _____ a really good student back in high school.
- b. It _____ snowing at all when we arrived.
- c. My grandfather _____ really happy after the football match.
- d. Ellie and Anne _____ in London when I contacted them.
- e. The movie we watched last night _____ one of my favorites.
- f. They _____ paying attention during the lesson. The teacher was mad.

5. Write the simple past in its **interrogative** form.

- a. about / what / last night? / she / did / say

- b. it / sunny / yesterday? / was

- c. were / beach / the / they / at / last weekend?

- d. finally / you / doctor? / did / go / a / see

- e. he / this morning? / tired / was

- f. your / did / part / in / event? / the / sister / take

ANSWER KEY

1. Write the simple past in its **affirmative** form. Use the verbs in the box. You can use them just **ONCE**.

Do	Visit	Speak	Be
Crash	Drink	Study	Quit
Rob	Arrive	Spend	Enjoy

- a. We **visited** the London Bridge while we were in England.
- b. Ann and John **studied** all the morning yesterday.
- c. After the meeting, we all **spoke** to my boss.
- d. They **arrived** at the airport very late.
- e. She **spent** a lot of money on cosmetics.
- f. The students **did** their homework before leaving the house.
- g. Mike **crashed** the car into a tree, but no one was hurt.
- h. The kids **drank** juices of many flavors during the last summer camp.
- i. My father **quitted** smoking when he was 27.
- j. I really **enjoyed** that classical music concert.
- k. He **was** part of the national football team, but not anymore.
- l. After escaping from prison, he **robbed** a museum.
2. Write the simple past of verb 'to be' in its **affirmative** form.
- a. She was really hungry and sleepy.
- b. We were the first group presenting.
- c. You were in charge of the kids.
- d. He was at the library when I called him.

- e. I was busy with the new company's project.
- f. It was a really bad idea.

3. Write the simple past in its **negative** form.

- a. We **didn't have** a good time at the wedding.
- b. It **didn't rain** a lot yesterday.
- c. She **didn't enjoy** the movie.
- d. He **didn't see** us at the train station.
- e. You **didn't spend** a lot of time playing videogames.
- f. They **didn't really get along** when they first met.

4. Write the simple past of verb 'to be' in its **negative** form.

- a. I was not a really good student back in high school.
- b. It was not snowing at all when we arrived.
- c. My grandfather was not really happy after the football match.
- d. Ellie and Anne were not in London when I contacted them.
- e. The movie we watched last night was not one of my favorites.
- f. They were not paying attention during the lesson. The teacher was mad.

5. Write the simple past in its **interrogative** form.

- a. What did she say about last night?
- b. Was it sunny yesterday?
- c. Were they at the beach last weekend?
- d. Did you finally go see a doctor?
- e. Was he tired this morning?
- f. Did your sister take part in the event?

SUMMARY

Summarizing, we will use the **past tense** for different purposes: to talk about events that **have already passed** or were done sometime **before** the moment we are speaking. In other words, we will use the past simple to talk about **completed actions** that happened at a **fixed time** in the past, as stated by Hall and Barduhn (2016). At the same time, we are going to find it with frequency in **stories** for things that happened **one after another** (Swan & Walter, 2001). When making use of it in its **affirmative form**, there are three variations we need to pay attention to: regular verbs, irregular verbs, and the verb 'to be.' For most of regular verbs, we create past simple just by adding '-ed' or '-d' at the end of the verb. However, more changes are applied to irregular verbs. As stated previously in this worksheet, irregular verbs **do not** follow any pattern, therefore, memorization is required. The case of verb 'to be' is special as it changes depending on the subject (**was** or **were**). For the negative form, not many changes are expected in the case of regular verbs. We will use 'did not' (or its contraction 'didn't,') with any of the subjects, keeping verbs free of any variation. In the case of verb 'to be,' we will be using 'was not' or 'were not' depending on the subject (e.g., *she was not my girlfriend, they were not my friends*, etc.) For creating questions, we are going to use the auxiliary verb '**did**' (e.g., *did you leave early yesterday?*). And for the verb 'to be,' as in the previous segments, it depends on the subject (e.g., *were you at school last Monday? Or, was he the director of that company?*) However, in both cases you are required to swap the order of '**was**' and '**were**' with the verb in the sentence.



Key words

Grammar; Tenses; Past Tense; Simple Past

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