Past simple

The past simple is a verb tense used to describe **actions**, **events**, or **states** that occurred and were completed in the past.

Formation: To form the past simple tense, regular verbs add "-**ed**" to the infinitive form of the verb. For example:

- infinitive form: **walk** / Past simple: **walked**

For verbs that end in a consonant + "y," change the "y" to "**i**" and then add "-**ed**." Example:

- Study > **studied**

For regular verbs that end with a consonant preceded by a single vowel, we double the last consonant before adding "-**ed**" to form the past tense. For example:

- Stop > **Stopped**

However, **irregular verbs** have different forms in the past simple, and they do not follow a specific pattern. For example:

- infinitive form: **go** / Past simple: **went**
- infinitive form: **eat** / Past simple: **ate**
- infinitive form: **see** / Past simple: **saw**

Usage:

Completed Actions: The past simple tense is used to describe actions or events that started and ended in the past. For example:

- I **studied** for three hours last night.
- They **went** to the beach yesterday.

Sequences of Events: The past simple is used to show the chronological order of past actions or events. For example:

- I **woke** up, **brushed** my teeth, and **had** breakfast.

Past Habits: The past simple can be used to describe past habits or repeated actions. In this case, adverbs such as "**always**," "**often**," or "**usually**" are commonly used. For example:

- She **always took** a walk after dinner.
- They **often went** to the movies on weekends.

Past Facts or Generalisations: The past simple can express general truths or facts about the past. For example:

- Shakespeare **wrote** many famous plays.
- The Roman Empire **fell** in the 5th century.

Negative and Question Forms: To form negative sentences in the past simple, the auxiliary verb "**did**" is used in combination with **"not" (didn't)** before the infinitive form of the main verb. For example:

- **Positive**: I visited my friend. / **Negative**: I didn't visit my friend.

In questions, the auxiliary verb "**did**" is placed at the beginning of the sentence, followed by the subject and the infinitive form of the main verb. For example:

- **Positive**: She went to the store. / **Question**: Did she go to the store?

Past simple exercise 1:

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the past simple

Question Forms:

1. _____ you _____ **(see)** the movie yesterday?
2._____ she _____ **(finish)** her homework last night?
3. _____ they _____ **(go)** to the party on Saturday?
4. _____ he _____ **(play)** basketball with his friends?
5. _____ you _____ **(enjoy)** the concert last night?

Regular Verbs:

6. They _____ **(clean)** their room yesterday.
7. We _____ **(play)** tennis last weekend.
8. He _____ **(visit)** his friend in the hospital.
9. She _____ **(walk)** to school every day.
10. The cat _____ **(jump)** off the table.

Negative Forms:

11. She _____ **(not/come)** to the party last night.
12. We _____ **(not/eat)** dinner at that restaurant.
13. They _____ **(not/watch)** the movie on Saturday.
14. He _____ **(not/run)** in the race.
15. They _____ **(not/study)** for the exam last night.

Irregular Verbs:

16. She _____ **(break)** her phone yesterday.
17. They _____ **(drink)** coffee in the morning.
18. We _____ **(swim)** in the ocean last summer.
19. He _____ **(run)** a marathon last year.
20. They _____ **(go)** on holiday last month.

Past simple exercise 2:

Complete the story with the verbs in the box.

Once upon a time, there **(1)** _____ a young girl named Emily. She **(2)** _____ in a small town with her family and **(3)** she _____ (love) adventures. One day, Emily **(4)** _____ (find) a mysterious key in her backyard. Curious, she **(5)** _____ (decide) to unlock the old chest in the attic. Inside, she **(6)** _____ (discover) a hidden treasure map. Excitedly, Emily **(7)** _____ (gather) her friends and they **(8)** _____ (embark) on an adventure. They **(9)** _____ (search) for clues, crossed dangerous bridges, and **(10)** _____ (solve) riddles. Finally, they **(11)** _____ (reach) a secret cave where the treasure **(12)** _____ (lie) hidden. With joy, Emily **(13)** _____ (uncover) the treasure and her friends **(14)** _____ (cheer) with delight. It was a day they never **(15)** _____ (forget).

found, forgot, gathered, lived, decided, was, loved, embarked, searched, uncovered, cheered, lay, reached, discovered



Past simple: answer key

Grammar practice · A2 Elementary

Where two or more answers are given, any of them is correct.

Exercise 1

1. Did … see
2. Did … finish
3. Did … go
4. Did … play
5. Did … enjoy
6. cleaned
7. played
8. visited
9. walked
10. jumped
11. did not come / didn't come
12. did not eat / didn't eat
13. did not watch / didn't watch
14. did not run / didn't run
15. did not study / didn't study
16. broke
17. drank
18. swam
19. ran
20. went

Exercise 2

(1) was
(2) lived
(3) loved
(4) found
(5) decided
(6) discovered
(7) gathered
(8) embarked
(9) searched
(10) solved
(11) reached
(12) lay
(13) uncovered
(14) cheered
(15) forgot

Corrections to the printed pages

Exercise 2: the box should also include solved.