



DUKE
Idiom

Simple Past

Grammar



Very often the past simple ends in -ed (regular verbs):

- The police **stopped** me on my way home last night.
- I work in a travel agency now. Before that I **worked** in a department store.
- We **invited** them to our party, but they **decided** not to come.
- Laura **passed** her exam because she **studied** very hard.
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But many verbs are irregular. The past simple does not end in -ed. For example:

- Mozart **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music.
- We **saw** Tanya in town a few days ago.
- I **went** to the cinema three times last week.
- It **was** cold, so I **shut** the window.



In questions and negatives we use **did/didn't+ infinitive (enjoy/see/go etc.)**:

- **Did** you **go** out last night?
- Yes, I **went** to the cinema, but I **didn't enjoy** the film much.
- 'When **did** MrThomas **die**?' 'About ten years ago.'
- They **didn't invite** us to the party, so we **didn't go**.
- '**Did** you **have** time to do the shopping?' 'No, I **didn't**.'

In the following examples, **do** is the main verb in the sentence (**did ... do I didn't do**):

- What **did** you **do** at the weekend? (*not* What did you at the weekend?)
- I **didn't do** anything. (*not* I didn't anything)

The past of **be (am/is/are) is was/were**:

Note that we do not use **did** in negatives and questions with **was/were**:

- I **was** angry because they **were** late.
- **Was** the weather good when you **were** on holiday?
- They **weren't** able to come because they **were** so busy.
- Did you go out last night or **were** you too tired?

Past simple (I did)

1) Read the text and complete the gaps below with the past tense.

Sharon's routine

I usually get up at 7 o'clock and have a big breakfast. I walk to work, which takes me about half an hour. I start work at 8:45. I never have lunch. I finish work at 5 o'clock. I'm always tired when I get home. I usually cook a meal in the evening. I don't usually go out. I go to bed at about 11 o'clock I always sleep well.

Yesterday was a typical working day for Sharon. Write what she did or didn't do yesterday.

- a) She got up at 7 o'clock
- b) She _____ a big breakfast.
- c) She _____ to work.
- d) It _____ her 30 minutes to get to work.
- e) She _____ at 8:45.
- f) She _____ lunch.
- g) She _____ at 5 o'clock.
- h) She _____ tired when _____ home.
- i) She _____ a meal yesterday evening.
- j) She _____ out yesterday evening.
- k) She _____ at 11 o'clock.
- l) She _____ well last night.



2) Put one of these verbs in each sentence

BUY | CATCH | DRINK | FALL | HURT | SELL | SPEND | TEACH | THROW | WIN | WRITE

- a) Mozart wrote more than 600 pieces of music.
- b) Paul and I played tennis yesterday. He's much better than me, so he _____ easily.
- c) 'How did you learn to drive?' 'My father _____ me.'
- d) We couldn't afford to keep our car, so we _____ it.
- e) I was very thirsty. I _____ the water very quickly.
- f) Don _____ down the stairs this morning and _____ his leg.
- g) Jim _____ the ball to Sue, who _____ it.
- h) Ann _____ a lot of money yesterday. She _____ a dress.

