

## ENGLISH 2 : GRAMMAR –S2-1- Simple Past Tense

### Simple Past Tense

The **simple past** is a verb tense that is used to talk about things that happened or existed before now. Imagine someone asks what your brother ALI did while he was in town last weekend.

Ali **entered** a restaurant. (the verb to enter)

He **ate a sandwich**. (The verb to eat)

The simple past tense shows that you are talking about something that **has already** happened. Unlike the past continuous tense, which is used to talk about past events that happened over a period of time, the simple past tense emphasizes that the action is finished.

You can also use the simple past to talk about a past state of being, such as the way someone felt about something. This is often expressed with the simple past tense of the verb **to be** and an adjective, noun, or prepositional phrase.

**Example:** Ali **was** happy.

#### How to Formulate the Simple Past

**1-For regular verbs**, add: **-ed** to the root form of the verb (or just **-d** if the root form already ends in an e):  
examples

Play→Play**ed** --- Type→Type**d** --- Listen→Listen**ed**--- Push→Push**ed**--- Love→Love**d**

**2-For irregular verbs**, things get more complicated. The simple past tense of some irregular verbs looks exactly like the root form:

Put→**Put**---- Cut→**Cut**-- Set→**Set**----- Cost→**Cost**--- Hit→**Hit**

**For other irregular verbs**, including the verb **to be**, the simple past forms are more erratic:

See→**Saw** ---Build→**Built** ----Go→**Went** ----Do→**Did**--- Rise→**Rose** ----Am/Is/--Are→**Was/Were**

#### How to Make the Simple Past Negative

Fortunately, there is a formula for making simple past verbs negative, and it's the same for both regular and irregular verbs (except for the verb **to be**). The formula :

**did not + [root form of verb]**.

You can also use the contraction **didn't** instead of **did not**.

**Example:** Ali **played** football--→ Ali **did not play** football

Ali **entered** a restaurant--→ Ali **did not enter** a restaurant. (the verb to enter)

He **ate a sandwich**--→ He **did not eat a sandwich**. (The verb to eat)

For the verb **to be**, you don't need the auxiliary **did**.

When the subject of the sentence is singular, use: **was not or wasn't**.

When the subject is plural, use: **were not or weren't**.

**Example:** Ali was **not (wasn't)** happy.

The children weren't happy

#### How to Ask a Question

The formula for asking a question in the simple past tense is:

**did + [subject] + [root form of verb]**.

**Did Ali eat the sandwich?**

Where **did Ali go** to eat ?

When asking a question with the verb **to be**, you don't need the auxiliary **did**.

The formula is **was/were + [subject]**.

## ENGLISH 2 : GRAMMAR –S2-1- Simple Past Tense

Examples: Was Ali happy? Were people taking lots of pictures?

### Common Regular Verbs in the Past Tense

<b>Infinitive</b>	<b>Past Tense</b>	<b>Negative</b>
to ask	asked	did not ask
to work	worked	did not work
to call	called	did not call
to use	used	did not use

### Common Irregular Verbs in the Past Tense

**ENGLISH 2 : GRAMMAR –S2-1- Simple Past Tense**

<b>Infinitive</b>	<b>Past Tense</b>	<b>Negative</b>
to be	was were	was not were not
to have	had	did not have
to do	did	did not do
to say	said	did not say
to get	got	did not get
to make	made	did not make
to go	went	did not go
to take	took	did not take
to see	saw	did not see
to come	came	did not come

**Examples:**

**The Past Simple with 'be'**

**Here's how to make the positive:**

**Positive with 'be'**

I **was** cold

you **were** tired

he **was** in the garden

she **was** late

## ENGLISH 2 : GRAMMAR –S2-1- Simple Past Tense

it **was** sunny

we **were** on holiday

they **were** hungry

**To make the negative with 'be', just add 'not':**

**Negative with 'be'**

**Negative Short Form**

I was **not** sleepy

I wasn't sleepy

you were **not** on the bus

you weren't on the bus

he was **not** at school

he wasn't at school

she was **not** beautiful

she wasn't beautiful

it was **not** cold

it wasn't cold

we were **not** at work

we weren't at work

they were **not** tired

they weren't tired

Here's an exercise to practise the positive and negative forms with 'be'

**To make a question, just like the present simple, we change the position of 'was / were' and the subject.**

**was I** sleepy?

**were you** late?

**was he** at the cinema?

**was she** kind?

**was it** hot?

**were we** hungry?

**were they** at work?

**And the 'wh' questions with 'be' (the question word just goes at the beginning, everything else is the same):**

**'Wh' Questions with 'Be'**

why **was I** sleepy?

where **were you**?

when **was he** at the cinema?

how **was she**?

how **was it**?

## ENGLISH 2 : GRAMMAR –S2-1- Simple Past Tense

why **were we** hungry?

when **were they** at work?

### **Positive with Other Verbs**

I **walked** (regular)

you **played** (regular)

he **cooked** (regular)

she **listened** (regular)

it **rained** (regular)

we **ate** (irregular)

they **drank** (irregular)

**In the negative there aren't any irregular verbs. All verbs use 'did not (didn't) + infinitive':**

#### **Negative**

#### **Negative Short Form**

I **did not** walk

I **didn't** walk

you **did not** play

you **didn't** play

he **did not** cook

he **didn't** cook

she **did not** listen

she **didn't** listen

it **did not** rain

it **didn't** rain

we **did not** eat

we **didn't** eat

they **did not** drink

they **didn't** drink