

# Past Simple Tense

We use the past simple tense to talk about an action or a situation - an event - in the past:

## 1. To express the idea that an action started and finished in the past.

- They **bought** a new house last year.
- The train **was** late.
- She **saw** a good movie yesterday.

## 2. To list a series of completed actions in the past.

- I **finished** work, **walked** to the beach, and **found** a nice place to swim.
- Tom **came** back home, **did** his homework and **had** dinner with his parents.

## 3. For habits.

- I **studied** French when I **was** a child.
- She **used to** ride her bike in this park.
- Our grandparents always **went** to school on foot.

## Verb Conjugation & Spelling

Regular verbs : **Verb + -ED.**

Irregular verbs : Past form of the verb (**V<sub>2</sub>**)

Subject	Verb	The Rest of the sentence
I / you / we / they/ he / she / it	spoke	English at home.
I / you / we / they/ he / she / it	played	soccer in the park.

The spelling for the **Verb + -ED** differs depending on the ending of that verb:

### 1. Drop :

For verbs that end in **-E** we add **-D**.

- manage – managed
- invite – invited
- like – liked

### 2. Double :

For verbs with a short vowel we double the last consonant :

- hug – hugged
- stop – stopped
- plan – planned

### 3. Change :

For verbs that end in a **consonant**

**+ Y** we change it to **-IED** :

- worry – worried
- multiply – multiplied
- identify – identified

### 4. Just add:

For all the other we just add **-ED** :

- push – pushed
- work – worked
- talk - talked

NOTE: For verbs that end in a **vowel + Y**, we just add **-ED**.

- play – played / enjoy – enjoyed / stay - stayed

## Negative Sentences in the Simple Present Tense

To make a negative sentence in English we normally use **didn't** + the **present** form of the verb with all verbs EXCEPT **to be** (was, were) and **modal verbs** (can, might, should etc.).

- Affirmative: You played tennis.  
Negative: You **didn't** play tennis.

You will see that we add **didn't** between the subject and the verb.

Affirmative: He went to New York.  
Negative: He **didn't** go to New York.

## Negative Contractions (did not = didn't): I **didn't** like meat = I **did not** like it.

There is no difference in meaning though we normally use contractions in spoken English.

## Word Order of Negative Sentences

The following is the word order to construct a basic negative sentence in English in the Past Tense using **didn't**.

Subject	didn't	Verb*	The Rest of the sentence
I / you / we / they / he / she / it	didn't	eat / have	mushrooms for dinner.
I / you / we / they / he / she / it	didn't	know / see	your sister.

\* Verb: The verb that goes here is the base form of the infinitive (= the infinitive without TO) before the verb.

Remember that the infinitive is the verb before it is conjugated (changed) and it begins with **TO**. For example: to have, to eat, to go, to live, to speak etc.

### Examples of Negative Sentences with DIDN'T:

- John **didn't** speak English.
- We **didn't** have time for it.
- It **didn't** change.
- They **didn't** want to go to the party.
- She **didn't** like fish.