

The Past Simple Tense

How to Form the Past Simple Tense

The Past Simple tense uses for most verbs the base form of the verb (**V1**) with the addition of **-ed**. This form is called **V2**.

The formula: **V2 = V1 + ed**.

An example: **V1 = work: He worked. They worked.**

There are many irregular verbs in English. They have irregular past tense forms which must be memorized.

An example: **V1 = go: He went. They went.**

Positive Forms of the Past Simple Tense

Singular

1st person I worked/went
2nd person you worked/went
3rd person he/she/it worked/went

Plural

1st person we worked/went
2nd person you worked/went
3rd person they worked/went

When to Use the Past Simple Tense

1. Completed action in the past.

An example: My friend **attended** a very interesting lecture yesterday.

2. Habitual/repeated occurrences in the past.

An example: I **went** to movies every Sunday when I was a child.

3. Something that took place for a certain period of time in the past.

An example: My friends **lived** in the US for fifteen years.

Signal Words for the Past Simple Tense

yesterday

last week/month/year

a week/month/year ago

in 2000/2010/2015

Negative Forms of the Past Simple Tense

The formula: Subject + **did not** + **V1** (+ object).

Examples: This engineer **did not** **submit** his project on time.

These engineers **did not** **begin** to work on their project on Monday.

The contracted form: **did not** = **didn't**

Question Forms of the Past Simple Tense

The formula: **Did** + subject + **V1** (+ object)?

Did this engineer **submit** his project on time?

Did these engineers **begin** to work on their project on Monday?