

THE SIMPLE PAST

ACTIVITY TYPE

Reading, Writing, Grammar,

Exercises

LANGUAGE FOCUS

SIMPLE PAST

AIM

To learn and practice how to form the SIMPLE PAST

LEVEL

Beginner, Elementary

TIME

45 Min

INTRODUCTION

After going through your regular review and teacher talk, tell the students that they're going to learn how to form the SIMPLE PAST in English

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student

PROCEDURE

Give one copy of the worksheet to each student.

Go through the grammar and exercises together.

WRAPUP

Ask the students if they have any doubts.

Thank them for coming to the lesson.



THE SIMPLE PAST

The *simple past tense* is one of the most common tenses in English. Its form is the same with all subjects. It is usually formed by adding ~ED to the verb. This page will explain the rules for forming the tense with regular verbs.

Forming the simple past tense

With most verbs, the simple past is created simply by adding ~ED. However, with some verbs, you need to add ~ES or change the ending a little. Here are the rules:

Verb ending in	How to make the simple past	Examples
е	Add -D	live ~ lived date ~ dated
Consonant + y	Change y to i, then add ~ED	try ~ tried cry ~ cried



One vowel + one consonant (but NOT w or y)

Double the consonant, then add ~ED

tap - tapped

commit
committed

[anything else]

Add -ED

boil ~ boiled fill ~ filled hand ~ handed

The three most important irregular verbs

The three most important irregular verbs are BE, HAVE, and DO. BE is the most difficult, because its forms are different depending on the subject:

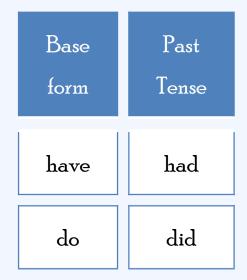
Pronoun	Verb
I	was
You	were
He/she/it	was



We were

They were

HAVE and DO are more simple:





Other irregular verbs

Other irregular verbs fall into three main categories:

Category	Examples
Verbs which don't change	cut ~ cut hit ~ hit fit ~ fit
Verbs which change their vowel	get – got sit – sat drink – drank
Verbs which change completely	catch – caught bring – brought teach – taught
In the simple past tense, negative and question forms are made using the	

In the simple past tense, negative and guestion forms are made using the auxiliary verb "do" (in its past form, "did") followed by the simple form of the main verb. This page explains the rules.



Forming a negative

Negatives in the simple present are formed by adding didn't (informal) or did not (formal) before the simple form of the verb. The verb BE is an exception to this; in the case of BE, we just add n't (informal) or not (formal) after "was" or "were":

Simple past statement	Informal negative	Formal negative
I had a car.	I didn't have a car.	I did not have a car.
You ate my toast.	You didn't eat my toast.	You did not eat my toast.
He was here yesterday.	He wasn't here yesterday.	He was not here yesterday.
They were in the park.	They weren't in the park.	They were not in the park.



Forming a yes/no question

Simple past statement	Yes/no guestion
He brought his friend.	Did he bring his friend?
They had a party.	Did they have a party?
You were here.	Were you here?
She was sick.	Was she sick?

Yes/no guestions are also created using the auxiliary *did*. This time, the auxiliary is placed before the subject. The verb BE is an exception; in this case, we move BE before the subject. Here are the rules:

Forming a WH– guestion

WH– guestions (using words such as "what", "when", "where" etc.) are also



created by putting the auxiliary did before the subject (or moving BE, as explained above). Then, you add the WH– word at the beginning. Here are some examples:

Statement	Yes/no guestion	WH- guestion
The building fell down.	Did the building fall down?	Why did the building fall down?
They lived in Vancouver.	Did they live in Vancouver?	Where did they live?
The store was closed.	Was the store closed?	Why was the store closed?
They were wolves.	Were they wolves?	What were they?



Exercises

SIMPLE PAST (TO BE)

EXERCISE 1.

Complete the exercises by inserting the correct form of the verb 'to be'

e.g. When you <u>were</u> ten years old, <u>were</u> you friendly with other children?

l. When he	nine years old	l,he clever?
2. When they	young,	_they friends?
2. When	the last time you	in Milan?
3. When we	young, we	very athletic.
4. When she	twenty, she	very thin.



EXERCISE 2.

Complete the sentences by inserting the correct pronoun.

e.g.	When <u>the</u>	y were young, <u>they</u> were ve	ery friendly.
1. W	hen	_was ten years old,	_was a good basketball
play	er.		
2. W	hen	were young,	were always happy.
3. W	/hen	were seventeen, were	popular at
schoo	ol?		
EXE	RCISE 3.		
Com	plete the t	following sentences by an	nswering the questions
using	3 either the 1	negative or the positive form	ns of the verb 'to be'.
1. W	hen you we	re a child , were you good a	t playing football?
2. W	hen your m	other was young, was she ai	n athletic person?
3. W	hen your fri	ends were children, were tl	1ey hарру?



SIMPLE PAST

EXERCISE 1

Complete the sentences by using the appropriate form of the Simple Past.

1.	Whereyou(go) last night?
2.	We(hot go) out for
	dinner.
	We(stay) at home and(watch) a movie
on]	ΓV.
3.	Who(be) at the party with Sara last Sunday?
4.	Whenyour parents(arrive)?
5.	They (arrive) around half past 10 at the central
	station, then they (take) the metro and
	(visit) the town centre.
6.	'What(not be) at
	school yesterday.' 'Maybe she(have) a cold.'
7.	When you(be) a child, where
	you(live)?
8.	(have) a good time in Mexico



	last summer?
9.	There (not be) any wine at home, and so my
	mother(go) to the supermarket to buy a bottle.
10.	Yesterday Peter (not do) his homework and this
	morning his teacher(be) angry with him.
11.	'When your parents (be born)?' 'My
	father(be born) in 1954 and my mother in 1955.
12.	Poor Michael! His wife (die) last January.
	It(be) a real shock for him and he(80
	mad).
13.	When her brother (be) 6 years old, he
	(be afraid) of the dark.
14.	'Oh, Gina! What a beautiful dress you're wearing today!
	When you (buy) it?'
15.	'Well, I (not buy) it! It (be) a present
	for my birthday!'
16.	I think William is sick. Last night he(not have)
	dinner and before going to bed he (take) an
	aspirin.