

The Simple Past

The simple past tense, sometimes called the **preterit**, is used to talk about a completed action in a time before now. The simple past is the basic form of past tense in English. The time of the action can be in the recent past or the distant past.

The simple past tense in **regular** verbs is formed by adding **ed** to the infinitive.

The infinitive: to work

Simple past: worked

The same form is used for all persons: I worked, you worked, he worked ect.

The negative of regular and irregular verbs is formed with did not/didn't + the infinitive:

I did not /didn't work, You did not /didn't work ect.

The interrogative of regular and irregular verbs is formed with did + subject + infinitive+?:

Did I work? Did you work?

Negative interrogative of regular and irregular verbs is formed with did not / didn't + the subject + the infinitive + ? Didn't you work?

Irregular Verbs Form

Some verbs are **irregular** in the simple past. Here are some common ones.

Infinitive: to eat, to leave, to see, to speak, to find, to buy, to get

Simple past: ate, left, saw, spoke, found, bought, got

To go

He **went** to a club night.

Did he **go** to the cinema last night?

He **didn't go** to the bed early last night.

To give

We **gave** her a doll for her birthday.

They **didn't give** John their new address.

Did Barry **give** you my passport?

To come

My parents **came** to visit me last July.

We **didn't come** because it was raining.

Did he **come** to your party last week?

Task: Put the verbs between brackets into the correct form.

1. What time.....(he/get up) yesterday?
2. Where.....(you/ get off) the train?
3. I.....(not/change) trains at Victoria.
4. We.....(wake up) very late.
5. What.....(he/give) his mother for Christmas?
6. I.....(receive) £ 300 when my uncle.....(die).
7. We..... (not/use) the computer last night.
8.(she/make) good coffee?
9. They(live) in Paris.
10. She(read) the newspaper yesterday.
11. I.....(not/watch) TV.
12. He.....(Not/study) for exam.
13. (I/forget) something?
14.(he/call) you?
15. What time(the film/ start)?
16. He.....(have) a shower.
17. Why.....(you/ come)?
18. (he/go) to the party?