

UNIT 17 Past simple (*I worked, I went...*)

Form (1)

A

The past simple is the tense we use to talk about completed actions and situations that took place at a specific time in the past.

Ordinary verbs are divided into **regular** and **irregular**. The affirmative past simple of regular verbs is formed using: Subject + base form + **-ed** (play – played)

There is no general rule for the formation of the **past simple** of irregular verbs (go – **went**, know – **knew**). The list of irregular verbs is on p.376.

The past simple is the same for all persons.

*I **received** an e-mail from my brother this morning.*
*They **went** to the seaside last summer.*

Here's the past simple of the regular verb **work** and the irregular verb **come back**.

Affirmative (regular verb)

I / You / She / It / We / They	worked	all day yesterday.
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Affirmative (irregular verb)

I / You / She / It / We / They	came back	late last night.
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B

The addition of the ending **-ed** has precise spelling rules.

- We add a **d** only to verbs whose base form ends in **-e**.
 live → lived; like → liked
I liked the film very much.
- We double the final consonant of verbs with one syllable that end in a single consonant preceded by a single vowel.
 stop → stopped; sob → sobbed NB: clean → cleaned (two vowels before the final consonant)
He stopped running after a couple of miles.
- We double the final consonant of verbs with two syllables, with the stress on the second syllable, which end in a single consonant preceded by a single vowel.
 refer → referred; omit → omitted NB: offer → offered (stress on the first syllable); repeat → repeated (two vowels before the final consonant)
She never referred to her ex-husband.
- We double the final consonant of verbs that end in **-l** preceded by a single vowel (only in British English).
 travel → travelled (Am: travelled) NB: boil → boiled (two vowels before the final consonant)
They travelled all over the world.
- When the base form of the verb ends in **-y** preceded by a consonant, the **-y** changes to an **i** before adding **-ed**.
 try → tried; study → studied NB: stay → stayed (there is a vowel before the **y**)
I tried to do my best.

C

The pronunciation of the ending **-ed** varies according to how the base form of the verb ends.

- If the base form ends with the sounds /t/ or /d/, we pronounce it /id/:
 start → started /'stɑ:tɪd/; land → landed /ləndɪd/
- If the base form ends with the sounds /p/, /k/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/ or /s/, we pronounce it /t/:
 help → helped /helpt/; walk → walked /wɔ:kt/; finish → finished /fɪnɪʃt/; watch → watched /wɒtʃt/; pass → passed /pɑ:st/
- In all other cases, we pronounce it /d/:
 open → opened /'əʊpənd/; live → lived /lɪvd/; stay → stayed /steɪd/

Student's notes

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EXERCISES
Past simple – Form (1) UNIT 17

NAME: student code **DATE:** / /

LEVEL: CEFR L **TIME:** –

17.1 Complete the sentences with the past simple of the regular verbs in brackets.

- 1 We the jet-skis whizzing over the waves. (watched)
- 2 The waves against the shore. (smash)
- 3 People about their holidays. (talk)
- 4 James to interest us in his holiday photos. (try)
- 5 We outside a small café for a break. (stop)
- 6 The weather on the second day we were there. (change)
- 7 The travel agent us a full refund. (offer)
- 8 I in Belgium for three weeks. (stay)

17.2 Write the past simple of the following irregular verbs. Then rewrite the sentences 1-8 in the past simple.

Base form		Past simple	Base form		Past simple
buy	a	.....	see	a	.....
come	b	.....	swim	b	.....
give	c	.....	take	c	.....
leave	d	.....	tell	d	.....

- 1 Eleanor buys souvenirs from every destination.
.....
- 2 The tour operator tells passengers where to go.
.....
- 3 I see some amazing sights in London.
.....
- 4 We swim in the sea despite the cold!
.....
- 5 He comes home from his business trip on Friday.
.....
- 6 The tour guide gives us a lot of information about each place.
.....
- 7 You take photos of the bridges and the canals.
.....
- 8 The boat leaves early in the morning.
.....

17.3 Complete the text with the past simple of the verbs in brackets.

When ⁽¹⁾..... (go) on holiday last year, it ⁽²⁾..... (be) all a bit of a rush. My friend Sue ⁽³⁾..... (go) to the travel agent's on the Wednesday and ⁽⁴⁾..... (book) a holiday for the two of us. We ⁽⁵⁾..... (set off) from home at six on the Friday morning and ⁽⁶⁾..... (drive) to the airport, where we ⁽⁷⁾..... (leave) our car for the week. At the airport ⁽⁸⁾..... (check in) as soon as we could, then ⁽⁹⁾..... (find) the nicest café and ⁽¹⁰⁾..... (have) coffee. We ⁽¹¹⁾..... (sit) there and ⁽¹²⁾..... (plan) all the things we ⁽¹³⁾..... (want) to do on our holiday in Spain. Within an hour, we ⁽¹⁴⁾..... (be) in the departure lounge and by ten, we were on the plane and on our way to Spain. The plane ⁽¹⁵⁾..... (land) two hours later. We ⁽¹⁶⁾..... (feel) ready for our week on the beach!

Teacher's observations