

06 Past simple *I played; he made*

1 Two examples of the **past simple**:
I went to London with two friends last summer.
We stayed in a hotel near Hyde Park.

2 To make the positive form of the **past simple** we add **-ed** to **regular verbs**:

POSITIVE	
I/you	} asked
he/she/it	
we/you/they	

→ For **-ed** spelling changes (e.g. try/tried), see p. 128.

3 But many common verbs have **irregular past simple** forms. Look at these examples:

break/broke	buy/bought	catch/caught
come/came	do/did	drink/drank
eat/ate	find/found	forget/forgot
go/went	have/had	know/knew
leave/left	lose/lost	make/made
meet/met	pay/paid	run/ran
read/read	see/saw	sell/sold
send/sent	speak/spoke	spend/spent
take/took	win/won	write/wrote

The verb **be** has two past forms: **was** and **were**.

BE: POSITIVE	
Singular I/he/she/it was	Plural we/you/they were

Chris and I were in Scotland at the weekend, and it was very cold!

→ For a full list of irregular past participles, see p. 129.

4 We use the **past simple** for finished past actions:
Liz lived in Madrid for two years. She had a fantastic time there. (Liz doesn't live in Madrid now.)
When Mike was a child, he spent every summer holiday in Cornwall. (Mike isn't a child now.)

5 We often use **expressions for a finished time** with the past simple to talk about when things happened in the past:

I lost my watch last week, but I found it in the bathroom this morning.
Josie phoned about ten minutes ago.

6 We use the **past simple** to talk about recent actions in finished time periods, to talk about our past, to tell stories and to talk about history.

→ For **past simple negatives and questions**, see p. 24.

Grammar in action

1 We use the **past simple** to talk about recent actions in finished time periods – things we did last week, at the weekend, yesterday or this morning:

I went to Brighton last Sunday with Katie. We had a picnic on the beach. It was really nice.



2 We use the **past simple** to tell people about our lives in the past:

I studied music at college, and we started a band. We played at parties.

We often describe holidays and trips:

My brother travelled by bus from Brazil to Chile when he was a student. He spent a month in Santiago and met a lot of interesting people.

3 We use the **past simple** to tell true stories (lists of past actions) about ourselves, our families and friends:

I heard a loud noise, so I went downstairs, and I saw a big black dog in the kitchen.

We also tell fictional stories (children's stories and novels):

A long time ago, an old man lived with his beautiful young daughter in a small house.



A Talking about things we did last week

Tim and Greta meet at the photocopier at work. Make forms of the past simple.

GRETA Did you have a good weekend, Tim?

TIM Not bad, thanks. My brother and his wife arrived ° (My brother and his wife/arrive) from Scotland on Friday evening, and¹ (they/stay) with us until Sunday lunchtime.

WORD FOCUS

To take it easy means 'to relax', e.g. 'I'm tired. I'm taking it easy today.'

GRETA Really? What did you do?

TIM Not much.² (We/talk) a lot, of course, and³ (we/see) a film on Saturday night. Then⁴ (we/eat) at that French restaurant, 'Serge's'. What about you? Did you have a good weekend?

GRETA Yes,⁵ (it/be) OK, thanks.⁶ (I/go) into town on Saturday morning and⁷ (I/meet) Dave, and⁸ (we/do) some shopping. Then⁹ (we/watch) United in the afternoon.¹⁰ (They/lose) again, of course. And on Sunday,¹¹ (I/take) it easy.

TIM Well, you need a rest now and again.

B Telling people about a holiday

In this email message, choose the right verb, and make forms of the past simple.

Hi Ed,

Thanks for your message. I think you're working too hard. You need a long holiday. Last year, Barry, the kids and I spent⁰ (spend/live) four weeks in Cornwall. It¹ (have/be) great! We² (find/stay) a really nice little house near the sea. We³ (go/get) for walks, and we⁴ (buy/make) food from the local farms. We⁵ (cook/clean) dinner at home most nights, we⁶ (read/look) books instead of watching TV, and the kids⁷ (run/play) games in the garden. It rained sometimes, of course, but we⁸ (spend/enjoy) every day. I⁹ (take/watch) a few photos the day before we¹⁰ (leave/miss). I'll send you them, and give you the address of the house!

Best wishes, Stephanie

C Telling true stories about our family

Graham is writing about his Italian grandfather. Add these verbs in the past simple form:

wake stay wear lose tell go marry come
sell spend catch become drink

My grandfather, Alfredo, borrowed £70 and went⁰ to Egypt when he was twenty. He wanted to make money. He studied Arabic. He¹ Arabic clothes. He spoke to the old men in the markets. He² tea with them. When he was hungry, he³ fish. Sometimes he washed dishes in restaurants. Then one day an old man⁴ him to buy coffee. He travelled about, and bought all the coffee he could find from farmers. He⁵ about £50. Then he waited. The following year, 1947, the price of coffee increased by 200%. So he⁶ his coffee and made his first profit. After that, he worked hard. He⁷ every morning at 6 a.m. He bought things when they were cheap, and he sold them if they⁸ expensive! Sometimes he⁹ money, of course, but in the end he became very rich. In 1955, he¹⁰ my grandmother, the daughter of an Egyptian farmer. He¹¹ in Egypt for another 15 years. Then he returned to Italy with my grandmother and a baby son, my father. He built a factory in Naples. But his son, Davide,¹² to England, where I was born.

Before you begin, make sure you know the meaning of these three business words: *to borrow, a profit, and a factory.*

WORD
FOCUS

06

Past simple

We didn't go; did they see?

7 Look at this dialogue:

Did you see Stella yesterday? ~ No, she didn't come to college.

8 We make the **negative form** of the **past simple** like this:

subject + did not/didn't + verb

I didn't go to the game.

NEGATIVE

I/you
he/she/it
we/you/they

} **did not/didn't wait**

9 We normally make the question form of the **past simple** like this:

YES/NO QUESTIONS

Did + subject + verb

Did I/you/he/she/it/we/you/they **write** to Tim?

QUESTIONS WITH QUESTION WORDS

Question word + did + subject + verb

When did I/you/he/she/it/we/you/they **arrive**?

When did Shakespeare die? (The answer is 1616.)

We must use **did/didn't/Did...?** with the verb **do** too:

Did they do their homework? ~ Yes, but they didn't do the dishes.

TIP

10 With **be**, we don't use **did not/didn't** or **Did...?**:

BE: NEGATIVE

Singular I/you/he/she/it **was not/wasn't** in the garden.

Plural You/we/they **were not/weren't** at home.

BE: QUESTIONS

Singular **Was** I/you/he/she/it **late**?

Plural **Were** you/we/they **right**?

Grammar in action

4 We use the **past simple** to talk about national and world history:

Tony Blair was the British Prime Minister from 1997 to 2007. He won three general elections in 1997, 2001 and 2005.



D Sunday evening

Maggie, Dave and Pete are students. Maggie is returning to their flat on Sunday evening. Use the words in brackets to make questions or negative forms.

- MAGGIE I'm back! Hi Dave. *Did you finish your essay* ⁰? (you/finish your essay)
- DAVE No, I'm tired today. ¹ (I/not do anything) this afternoon. ² (you see Jenny)
- MAGGIE No, ³. (she/not be at home) But I met Joanna, the new American student, in town.
- PETE Oh. ⁴? (she/be OK)
- MAGGIE I think so, but ⁵ (she/not talk very much).
- DAVE ⁶ (you/invite her to our party) next weekend?
- MAGGIE Yes. I'm sure she'll come. ⁷ (What/you do all afternoon,) Pete? ⁸ (you/make a wonderful dinner) for us?
- PETE No I didn't, I'm afraid. But my parents arrived at two o'clock with a fantastic new TV for the flat.
- MAGGIE Well, that's kind of them. ⁹ (When/they leave?)
- PETE About an hour ago. Do you want a cup of coffee, Maggie?
- DAVE Oh. ¹⁰ (I/not get any milk this morning,) Pete.
- MAGGIE Black coffee is fine. What's on TV?

E Going on holiday

John and Liz are driving to the airport for a two-week holiday. Put the words in brackets in the right order to make questions and negative forms of the past simple. Use capital letters to start your answers.

- JOHN *Did you lock the front door, Liz*⁰ (lock/you/the front door, Liz/did)?
 LIZ Yes, definitely. But *I didn't make any sandwiches*⁰ (make/I/any sandwiches/didn't).
 JOHN¹ (forget/you/did)?
 LIZ No,² (didn't/I/time/have). We'll get something at the airport.³ (your passport/under the bed/was)?
 JOHN Yes. (*Later*)⁴ (you/email Sally/did)?
 LIZ Yes, last night. She's going to feed the cat every day.⁵ (a key/did/you/give her)?
 JOHN Of course. But I forgot one thing.⁶ (didn't/the windows upstairs/check/I). Oh dear.⁷ (open/were/they)?
 LIZ No, I closed them. (*Later*) Are you going to work on holiday this time?
 JOHN⁸ (my laptop/pack/no,/didn't/I).
 LIZ Good. We both need a break.

Put the correct verb next to the definitions:

to check to feed to lock

A to close with a key

B to give food to an animal or a baby

C to look at something to see if it's OK

WORD
FOCUS

F An accident in the mountains of Iran

Julie is telling Brad about her trip to Iran with two friends. Add these words to the conversation:

broke stayed walk have carried was were
 didn't made arrived what fixed put

- BRAD Hi Julie! Did you *have*⁰ a good trip? What's wrong with your leg?
 JULIE I'll tell you. We¹ in Esfahan by train, but we² want to spend all our time in the city.
 BRAD So³ did you do?
 JULIE We took a taxi one afternoon to the village of Hafeshjan in the Zagros mountains. The local people⁴ very friendly. We found a small hotel, and we⁵ the night there.
 BRAD And⁶ hotel comfortable?
 JULIE Yes, the hotel wasn't the problem. Next morning we started our walk in a forest outside the village. We didn't⁷ fast, because it was already hot. Soon we saw some rocks and a cave. Then I⁸ a big mistake. I went into the cave. I couldn't see anything, and I⁹ my foot on a wet rock. I fell and¹⁰ my leg. Jim and Daniel¹¹ me back to the village. When we got to the hotel, they phoned for a taxi, and they¹² my leg in the hospital in Esfahan!



C -ing forms

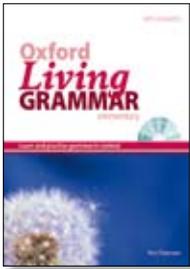
	INFINITIVE	-ING FORM
+ -ing		
With most verbs, we add -ing :	walk eat	walking eating
-e + -ing		
With verbs that end with a consonant* + -e , we delete the -e and add -ing :	make come write	making coming writing
-ie → -ying		
With verbs that end with -ie , we change -ie to -ying :	lie die tie	lying dying tying
-t → -tting		
With verbs that end with one vowel* + one consonant (e.g. <i>get, hit, stop</i>), we double the consonant:	sit run swim	sitting running swimming
+ -ing		
But note that we do not double the consonant, 1) when it is y or w (e.g. <i>play</i>) 2) when the last syllable* is not stressed (e.g. <i>reMEMber, VISit</i>):	play happen listen remember	playing happening listening remembering

D Regular verbs: Past simple and past participle

	INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
+ -ed			
With most verbs we add -ed :	cook finish	cooked finished	cooked finished
+ -d			
With verbs ending with -e , we add -d :	live close	lived closed	lived closed
-y → -ied			
With verbs that end with one consonant* + -y , we change the y to -ied :	study carry try	studied carried tried	studied carried tried
-p → -pped			
With verbs that end with one vowel* + one consonant (e.g. <i>stop</i>), we double the consonant:	stop plan	stopped planned	stopped planned
+ -ed			
But note that we do not double the consonant, 1) when it is y or w (e.g. <i>play</i>) 2) when the last syllable* is not stressed (e.g. <i>LISten, HAppen, Open</i>): Note that in British English l is usually doubled, even if the syllable is unstressed (e.g. <i>travel</i>)	stay happen open visit cancel travel	stayed happened opened visited cancelled travelled	stayed happened opened visited cancelled travelled

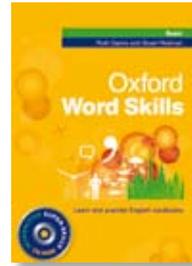
E Irregular verbs: Past simple and past participle

INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE	INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
be	was / were	been	lend	lent	lent
become	became	become	let	let	let
begin	began	begun	lose	lost	lost
break	broke	broken	make	made	made
bring	brought	brought	meet	met	met
build	built	built	pay	paid	paid
buy	bought	bought	put	put	put
catch	caught	caught	read	read	read
choose	chose	chosen	ring	rang	rung
come	came	come	run	ran	run
cost	cost	cost	say	said	said
cut	cut	cut	see	saw	seen
do	did	done	sell	sold	sold
drink	drank	drunk	send	sent	sent
drive	drove	driven	show	showed	shown / showed
eat	ate	eaten	shut	shut	shut
fall	fell	fallen	sing	sang	sung
feel	felt	felt	sit	sat	sat
find	found	found	sleep	slept	slept
fly	flew	flown	speak	spoke	spoken
forget	forgot	forgotten	spell	spelt / spelled	spelt / spelled
get	got	got	spend	spent	spent
give	gave	given	stand	stood	stood
go	went	gone	steal	stole	stolen
grow	grew	grown	swim	swam	swum
have	had	had	take	took	taken
hear	heard	heard	teach	taught	taught
hide	hid	hidden	tell	told	told
hit	hit	hit	think	thought	thought
hold	held	held	throw	threw	thrown
hurt	hurt	hurt	understand	understood	understood
keep	kept	kept	wake	woke	woken
know	knew	known	wear	wore	worn
learn	learnt/learned	learnt/learned	win	won	won
leave	left	left	write	wrote	written



Answers: Oxford Living Grammar

- A**
- | | | |
|---------------|----------|--------------|
| 1 they stayed | 5 it was | 9 we watched |
| 2 We talked | 6 I went | 10 They lost |
| 3 we saw | 7 I met | 11 I took |
| 4 we ate | 8 we did | |
- B**
- | | | |
|----------|-----------|---------|
| 1 was | 5 cooked | 9 took |
| 2 found | 6 read | 10 left |
| 3 went | 7 played | |
| 4 bought | 8 enjoyed | |
- C**
- | | | |
|----------|----------|------------|
| 1 wore | 5 spent | 9 lost |
| 2 drank | 6 sold | 10 married |
| 3 caught | 7 woke | 11 stayed |
| 4 told | 8 became | 12 came |
- D**
- 1 I didn't do anything
 - 2 Did you see Jenny
 - 3 she wasn't at home
 - 4 Was she OK
 - 5 she didn't talk very much
 - 6 Did you invite her to our party
 - 7 What did you do all afternoon,
 - 8 Did you make a wonderful dinner
 - 9 When did they leave
 - 10 I didn't get any milk this morning,
- WORD FOCUS** A lock B feed C check
- E**
- 1 Did you forget
 - 2 I didn't have time
 - 3 Was your passport under the bed
 - 4 Did you email Sally
 - 5 Did you give her a key
 - 6 I didn't check the windows upstairs
 - 7 Were they open
 - 8 No, I didn't pack my laptop
- F**
- | | | |
|-----------|----------|------------|
| 1 arrived | 5 stayed | 9 put |
| 2 didn't | 6 was | 10 broke |
| 3 what | 7 walk | 11 carried |
| 4 were | 8 made | 12 fixed |



Answers: Oxford Word Skills Basic

- 8**
- | | | |
|------|-----|-----|
| 1 no | 3 2 | 5 E |
| 2 5 | 4 A | 6 C |
- 9**
- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 take | 4 results |
| 2 do | 5 badly, failed |
| 3 well, grade | 6 worst |