El empleo es de todos

Mintrabajo

Simple Past

SENA

GC-F-004v.06

Simple Past

There are several tenses for speaking about the past in English, but the past simple is the most used. It is used for actions completed in the past. In the past tense there are both regular verbs and irregular verbs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RedBs8SUhQ
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcubE3yYlkk



FORM

To form the past simple of regular verbs we add the ending "**-ed**" to the verb.
The form is the same for all persons (I, you, he, she, it, we, they).
Examples:

1. want → wanted	I wanted an ice-cream.
2. learn → learned	I learned English 5 years ago.
3. stay → stayed	You stayed at home last night.
4. walk → walked	She walked by the seashore.
5. show → showed	The kid showed us his toys.

EXCEPTIONS ⚠

1. For verbs that end in “e”, we only need to add “-d”:
Examples:

change → changed
believe → believed

2. If the verb ends in a short vowel plus a consonant (except “y” o “w”), we double the final consonant:
Examples:

stop → stopped
commit → committed

EXCEPTIONS ⚠

3. When the verb ends in a consonant and “y”, the “y” becomes an “i”:
Examples:

study → studied
try → tried

Note: There are many irregular verbs in English and unfortunately there are no fixed rules for forming them.

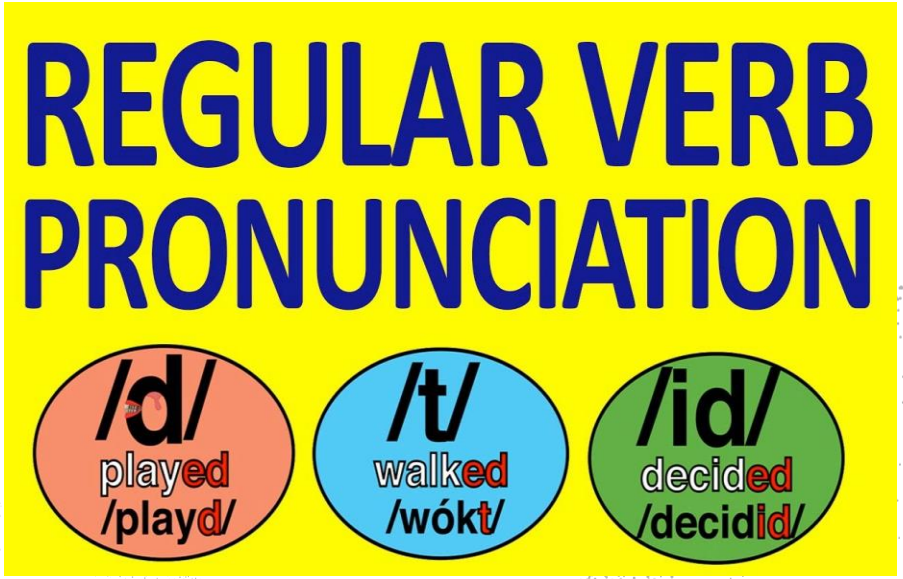
Verb	Past simple
be	**was** (I, he, she, it) **were** (you, we, they)
do	**did**
have	**had**

PRONUNCIATION

The pronunciation of the ending “-ed” is different depending on the letter with which the verb ends. In general, though the “e” is silent.

1. For those verbs which end in “p”, “f”, “k” o “s” (voiceless consonants, except “t”), we pronounce the “-ed” as a “t”.

Examples:
looked[lukt]
kissed[kisst]



PRONUNCIATION

2. For those verbs which end in “b”, “g”, “l”, “m”, “n”, “v”, “z” (voiced consonants, except “d”) or a vowel, we pronounce only the “d”.

Examples:

- yelled[jeld]
- cleaned[klind]

3. Verbs that end in “d” o “t”, we pronounce the “e” as an “i”.

Examples:

- ended[endid]
- waited[weitid]



Structure

1. Affirmative Sentences

Subject + principal verb + complement

Examples:

She was a doctor.
The keys were in the drawer.
I wanted to dance.
They learned English.
We believed him.
I bought a blue car.

2. Negative Sentences

To be:

Subject + “to be” + “not” + complement

Examples:

- She wasn’t a doctor.
- The keys weren’t in the drawer.

Structure

All other verbs:

Subject + auxiliary verb (did) + “not” + main verb (in infinitive) + complement

Examples:

- I didn’t want to dance.
- They didn’t learn English.
- We didn’t believe him.
- I didn’t buy a blue car.

Structure

3. Interrogative Sentences

To be:

"To be" + subject + complement +?

Examples:

- Was she a doctor?
- Were the keys in the drawer?

All other verbs:

Auxiliary verb (did) + subject + main verb + complement +?

Examples:

- Did you want to dance?
- Did they learn English?

Uses

1. **The past simple is used to talk about a specific action or event that began and ended in the past.** It is generally used with adverbs of time such as “last year”, “yesterday”, “last night”…



Examples:

Tom stayed at home last night.
Kate worked last Saturday.
I didn’t go to the party yesterday.
Did they walk to school this morning?

Uses

2. The past simple is used to talk about a series of actions that occurred in the past.

Examples:

- I received the good news and immediately called my husband.
- He studied for an hour in the morning, worked all afternoon and didn't return home until 10 at night.

3. We also use the past simple for repeated actions or habits in the past.

Examples:

- We always traveled to Cancun for vacation when we were young.
- He walked 5 kilometers every day to work.

Uses

4. The past simple is also used for narrations or actions that occurred over a long period of time in the past.

Examples:

- I worked for many years in a museum.
- She didn't eat meat for years.

5. We use the past simple to speak about facts or things in the past in general.

Examples:

- The Aztec lived in Mexico.
- I played the guitar when I was a child.

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Past Continuous

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Past Progressive

The past progressive describes an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past. It can be used:
To describe an action that started in the past and was interrupted by another action:
1.He **was** writ**ing** an e-mail when the phone **rang**.
2.When the phone **rang**, he **was** writ**ing** an e-mail.
3.While he **was** writ**ing** an e-mail, the phone **rang**
To describe two actions that were in progress at the same time in the past:
1.I was preparing dinner while Melanie was working upstairs.
2.While Melanie was working upstairs, I was preparing dinner.

STRUCTURE

The past progressive is formed using was or were and the -ing (present participle) form of the verb.

Subject	a form of be + verbing	rest of sentence
I / He / She / It	was finishing	the exam when the bell rang
You / We / They	were paying	the bill while I was waiting to be seated

Structure

Negatives in the Past Progressive (Continuous)

- The negative in the past progressive tense is created using was not or were not + the ing (present participle) form of the verb.

Subject	a form of be + verbing	rest of sentence
I /He / She / It	wasn't crying	when you came home
You / We / They	weren't hiking	there when the earthquake hit

Examples:

1. I **wasn't sleeping** when you came home last night.
2. When Ms. Foster came in, the girls **weren't studying**.
3. Sam **wasn't lying** when he said he loved you.

Structure

Yes/No Questions in the Past Progressive (Continuous)

- To ask a question that will be answered with either a yes or no, start with Was or Were, (Wasn't or Weren't for a negative question) then choose your subject (the person or thing doing the action), followed by the ing (present participle) form of the verb and then the rest of your question.

A form of Be	subject	verbing	rest of sentence
Was	I	walking	too fast
Was	he / she / it	shouting	while you were trying to sleep
Were	you / we / they	waiting	for her when the plane landed

Examples:

1. **Was** I **talking** to you?
2. **Were** you **writing** the report when the electricity went off?
3. When you came home, **was** he **singing** in the shower?
4. **Wasn't** Tom **sitting** in the cafe when you drove past?

Structure

Wh-Questions in the Past Progressive (Continuous)

- Wh- questions are questions that require more information in their answers. Typical wh- words are what, where, when, which, why, who, and how.
- To create a wh-question, start with the Wh-word, then was or were (wasn't or weren't for a negative question), then the subject (a person or thing that does the action), followed by the ing (participle) form of the verb and only then add the rest of the sentence.

Wh Word	a form of be	subject	verbing	rest of sentence
Who	was	I	talking	to
What	was	he / she / it	doing	
When	were	you / we / they	planning	on telling me the bad news

Examples:

1.**Where were** you stand**ing** when the trouble started?
2.**Who was** I talk**ing** to? I can't remember.
3.Why **wasn't** she wait**ing** at the meeting point?

Practice

Fill in the correct form of the verb in Past Progressive (Continuous) or Past Simple when necessary.

1.What _____the manager _____ at 7:00 pm yesterday? (do)
2.Tina and Shelly _____ to the hotel when it _____ to rain. (walk/start)
3.When Donny _____ to the room, everyone _____. (enter/talk)
4.I _____ in the sales department when I first _____ Sofie. (work/meet)
5.My brother _____the computer while I _____ for my trip. (use/pack)
6._____ you _____ attention when the teacher _____ your name? (pay/call)
7.We _____ TV when the lighting _____ the old tree house. (watch/ strike)
8.She _____ about me behind my back, wasn't she? (whisper)
9._____ the client really _____out while Troy _____ the proposal? (walk / present)
10.This morning, while I _____ breakfast, someone _____ on the door. (eat /knock)

Answers

Fill in the correct form of the verb in Past Progressive (Continuous) or Past Simple when necessary.

1.What was the manager doing at 7:00 pm yesterday? (do)
2.Tiana and Shirly were walking to the hotel when it started to rain. (walk/start)
3.When Danny was entering to the room, everyone was talking. (enter/talk)
4.I was working in the sales department when I first met Sofie. (work/meet)
5.My brother was using the computer while I was packing for my trip. (use/pack)
6.Were you paying attention when the teacher called your name? (pay/call)
7.We were watching TV when the lighting stroke the old tree house. (watch/ strike)
8.She was whispering about me behind my back, wasn't she? (whisper)
9.Was the client really walking out while Troy was presenting the proposal? (walk / present)
10.This morning, while I was eating breakfast, someone knocked on the door. (eat /knock)

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