

name: class: date:

Simple past rules, examples

The Simple past describes a completed action in a time before now and things that happen one after another in the past.

1. Examples: Simple Past

First Bob **read** a book, then he **went** to bed yesterday night.
Last week I **came** to a church and then I **took** the road right.

2. Actions at a specific time

Simple Past: Actions that happened at a specific time in the past.

3. Examples simple past tense:

I got a present yesterday. I had in great time in America last year.

4. Simple past regular verbs

Add -ed to the regular verb. look - **looked**, watch - **watched**,
Some verbs you need to change a bit.

Verb ending in...	Add ...	Example
-e	only add - d	live - lived date - dated
Consonant +y	Change y to i an add -ed	carry - carried cry - cried
1 vowel + 1 consonant	Double consonant and add -ed	stop - stopped

5. Simple Past regular verbs – examples

Add **-ed** to the regular verb.

name: class: date:

cook - cooked, play - played, wash - washed

-e at the end of the verb: only add -d.

love - loved, live - lived, close - closed, live – lived

6. Simple past irregular (not regular) verbs

Some verbs are not regular. You have to learn them by heart.

Example: Simple Past tense - irregular verbs:begin - began
break - broke
come - came
drink - drankfall - fell
forget - forgot
get - got
speak - spoke

7. To be - Simple past

Example: Simple Past tense - irregular verbs: to be**Simple present**I am
you are
he/she/it is
we are
you are
they are**Simple past**I was
you were
he/she/it was
we were
you were
they were

8. Simple past signal words

Use the simple past when you say when something **happened**. See the following signal words:**frequency:** *often, sometimes, always*We sometimes **had** no school.**a definite point in time:** *last week, when I was a child, yesterday, six weeks ago*They **were** in London *last week*.

name: class: date:

an indefinite point in time: *the other day, ages ago, a long time ago*

He **learned** English *when he was young*.

More simple past signal words: ago, in 2011, in 1999, ... last month, last week, last year, yesterday.

Examples: Simple Past signal words

I ate oranges last year.

We went to school every day in 1999.

He took his dog for a walk a month ago.

9. Simple past - questions

To form a question: 'did' + subject + infinitive.

Examples: questions Simple Past

I ate oranges in 2011. Did I eat oranges in 2011?

We went to school last week. Did we go to school last week?

He took his dog for a walk last week. Did he take his dog for a walk last week?

10. Questions with was/were

Sentences with 'to be' (**was/were**). Questions with was/were -Simple Past.

She was in London.

Was she in London?

They were at the station.

Were they at the station?

11. Simple past negative

Negative sentences Simple Past: examples

I knew Covent Garden?

I didn't know Covent Garden.

We went to school every day.

We didn't go to school every day.

He took his dog for a walk.

He didn't take his dog for a walk.