

Tell a Story
Grammar
Lecture: 13
Part: 2

Tell a Story
Simple Past Tense

Use the simple past simple to tell about an action that happened in the past.

We can use it to talk about a specific point in time.

- ❑ She came back last Friday.
- ❑ We arrived at 9 pm.

It can also be used to talk about a period of time.

She lived in Tokyo for seven years.

They were in London from Monday to Thursday of last week.

The past simple is often used with time expressions such as these:

Yesterday

three weeks ago

last year

in 2002

from March to June

for a long time

for 6 weeks

in the 1980s

in the last century

in the past

Summary: When we talk about things that happened in the past, we use the simple past tense

- Last summer, I worked in a hospital.

- I went shopping yesterday.

How to Form the Simple Past Tense

☐ To form the simple past tense for regular verbs that end in a consonant , add – ed to the base form of the verb.

want wanted

talk talked

☐ If the verb ends in e, add only –d.

live lived

arrive arrived

☐ If the verb ends in consonant + y , change the y to i then add –ed.

study studied

try tried

☐ if the verb ends in vowel + consonant , double the consonant and add ed.

stop stopped

☐ Many verbs have irregular past tense forms, e.g.

Be	was/were	get	got
do	did	go	went
have	had	make	made
eat	ate	say	said

☐ In negative statements use didn't (did not) + base form of the verb, except with the verb be.

need	didn't need
want	didn't want
be	wasn't/ weren't

Read the letter . Complete it with the simple past tense forms of the verbs. Some of the verbs are regular and some are irregular.

Dear Ayla,

I just (get) _____ back from the fifth- grade class trip to the farm. It (be) _____ great. I'm so tired. You wouldn't believe what we did in just three days. On the first day, the teachers (show) _____ us all over the farm and we each (get) _____ a

chance to milk the cow, Daisy. After we (eat) _____ lunch, I (go) _____ with the other students to the barn. There we (brush) _____ the horses. After dinner, the teachers (play) _____ music and we (dance) _____ for hours.

We (wake up) _____ really early the second day and (plant) _____ tomatoes all morning. After lunch, we (carry) _____ stones from the field. That (be) _____ hard! After dinner the second night, everyone (be) _____ too tired to dance. We just (talk) _____ around the fire before bed.

I miss you and hope to hear from you soon.

Toby

Answers:

got- was- showed- got- ate- went- brushed- played- danced- woke up- planted- carried- was- was- talked

Complete the paragraph. Use the past tense of the verbs in parentheses.

The Garcia family (1. take) a trip to New York City. They (2. fly) to New York on Sunday. They (3. arrive) at 3:00 in the afternoon. Mr. And Mrs. Vega (4. meet) them at the airport. They (5. not have)..... a lot of free time in New York. They (6. swim)..... at Long Beach. They also (7. see) the Statue of Liberty.

On Friday, the Garcia family (8. go) to Central Park on a bus. The Garcia family (9. get) the bus. However, Maria (10. not get) off.

In the end, Maria (11. is) safe. The Garcia family (12. come) home on Sunday. Mr. And Mrs. Vega (13. drive) them to the airport. They (14. are) exhausted, but happy after their trip. They (15. have) a wonderful time in New York.

Answers:

1. took

11. was

2. flew

12. came

3. arrived

13. drove

4. met

14. were

5. did not have

15. had

6. swam

7. saw

8. went

9. got

10. did not get

infinitive	past simple
be	was / were
become	became
begin	began
bring	brought
buy	bought
choose	chose
come	came
do	did
drink	drank
drive	drove
eat	ate
fall	fell
feel	felt
fly	flew
forget	forgot
get	got
give	gave
go	went
have	had
hear	heard
keep	kept
know	knew
Leave	left
lose	lost
make	made
meet	met
pay	paid
put	put
read	read
run	ran
say	said
see	saw
sell	sold
sing	sang
sit	sat
sleep	slept
speak	spoke
stand	stood
swim	swam
take	took
write	wrote

Wh- Questions with Past Tense	
Present Tense	Past Tense
Where does the Garcia family take their summer trip every year?	Where did the Garcia family take their summer trip last year?
Why do they go there?	Why did they go there?
How do they get there?	How did they get there?
Who do they visit there?	Who did they visit there?
What do they see there?	What did they see there?