



Past Simple

# Introduction to Past Simple

- I played football.
- I did not play football.
- I didn't play football.
- Did I play football?
- I played football yesterday.
- Did I play football yesterday?
- I didn't play football yesterday.
- Yes, I did.
- No, I didn't.
- I always played football.
- I never played football.
- I sometimes played football.
- Did I sometimes play football?
- I played football, didn't I?

# Past Simple: Regular Verbs

- We often add **-ed** to verbs (regular verbs) to make the past simple.
- Example: We often watch a film on Saturday.  $\Rightarrow$  We **watched** a film last Saturday.
- Example: I live in Barcelona.  $\Rightarrow$  I **lived** in Barcelona in the 90s.

# Spelling of Regular Verbs



## PAST *-ed* SPELLING

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### INFINITIVE

watch  
play

like  
arrive

study  
try

stop  
rob

### PAST

watch**ed**  
play**ed**

lik**ed**  
arriv**ed**

stud**ied**  
tr**ied**

stop**ped**  
rob**bed**

### SPELLING

→ general rule  
add **-ed**

→ after **-e**  
add **-d**

→ after consonant + **-y**  
delete **-y** and add **-ied**

→ consonant + vowel + cons.  
double consonant + **-ed**

t e s t - e n g l i s h . c o m

# When Do We Double the Consonant?

- We double the consonant when the verb ends in **consonant + vowel + consonant**. This is always true when the verb is **one syllable**.
  - Examples: stop ⇒ stop**ped**, plan ⇒ plan**ned**, shop ⇒ shop**ped**, rob ⇒ rob**bed**.
- When the verb is **two syllables**, we only double the consonant when the **STRESS** is **in the last syllable**.
  - Examples: re**FER** ⇒ referred, pre**FER** ⇒ preferred, re**GRET** ⇒ regretted
- But we do **NOT double** the consonant when the **STRESS** is **NOT in the last syllable**.
  - Examples: Vi**si**t ⇒ visited, AN**s**wer ⇒ answered.

# Past Simple: Irregular Verbs

- Irregular verbs don't add **-ed** to make the past simple.
- Some very common irregular verbs are:

BE	WAS/WERE	We <b>were</b> at home all day yesterday.
BEGIN	BEGAN	At the end of the scene, we <b>began</b> to cry.
BREAK	BROKE	I <b>broke</b> my arm in an accident.
BRING	BROUGHT	Who <b>brought</b> you here?
BUY	BOUGHT	He <b>bought</b> a new car last week.
DO	DID	I <b>did</b> some shopping.
DRINK	DRANK	He <b>drank</b> a lot of water after the match.
DRIVE	DROVE	We <b>drove</b> to the airport.
EAT	ATE	We <b>ate</b> paella by the beach.
FIND	FOUND	I finally <b>found</b> the keys.
FLY	FLEW	We <b>flew</b> to Zurich last summer.
FORGET	FORGOT	I <b>forgot</b> the keys in the house.
GET	GOT	She <b>got</b> a lot of presents for her birthday.
GIVE	GAVE	I was cold and he <b>gave</b> me a jacket.
GO	WENT	I <b>went</b> to work by bus yesterday.
HAVE	HAD	I <b>had</b> a lot of toys as a child.
KNOW	KNEW	We <b>knew</b> that he was special immediately.
LOSE	LOST	He <b>lost</b> his wallet at the airport.
MAKE	MADE	They <b>made</b> a cake for the party.
MEET	MET	I <b>met</b> my wife at a wedding.
PAY	PAID	She <b>paid</b> for the drinks.
PUT	PUT	I <b>put</b> the ice cream in the freezer.
READ	READ	I <b>read</b> a very interesting article yesterday.
RUN	RAN	When the fire started, we <b>ran</b> .
SAY	SAID	She <b>said</b> something in his ear.
SEE	SAW	We <b>saw</b> a very strange man in the street.
SELL	SOLD	Peter <b>sold</b> me his old car.
SEND	SENT	People <b>sent</b> lots of letters in the past.
SING	SANG	Everybody <b>sang</b> "Happy birthday" to her.
SIT	SAT	We <b>sat</b> on the sand and looked at the sea.
SLEEP	SLEPT	I only <b>slept</b> four hours last night.
SPEAK	SPOKE	We <b>spoke</b> to our kid's teacher last week.
SPEND	SPENT	We <b>spent</b> a lot of money during our last trip.
SWIM	SWAM	He <b>swam</b> in the sea in December.
TAKE	TOOK	Somebody <b>took</b> my things.
TEACH	TAUGHT	She <b>taught</b> me how to play the drums.
TELL	TOLD	I <b>told</b> him to go home.
THINK	THOUGHT	We <b>thought</b> you were dead.
UNDERSTAND	UNDERSTOOD	I <b>understood</b> her decision.
WEAR	WORE	Sara <b>wore</b> a beautiful red dress at the party.
WIN	WON	They <b>won</b> the match.
WRITE	WROTE	I <b>wrote</b> a letter to the manager.

# Past Simple: Use - Finished Actions/States

- We can use the past simple to talk about **past finished actions or states**.
- We know and we often mention when these actions happened with a past time expression: **yesterday, yesterday morning, last night, last week, two days ago, five years ago, etc.**
- Example: Jessica **called** me last night.
- Example: Rachel **was** a very good writer.

# Past Simple: Use - Repeated Actions

- We can use the past simple to talk about **habits or repeated actions** that happened in the past but don't happen in the present.
- We often use **adverbs or expressions of frequency** (**often, always, every day, etc.**).
- Example: When I was a child, I **ate** sweets every day.
- Example: In school, I always **played** football during break time.