

Past simple (I did)

A

Study this example:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was an Austrian musician and composer. He **lived** from 1756 to 1791. He **started** composing at the age of five and **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music. He **was** only 35 years old when he **died**.

Lived/started/wrote/was/died are all *past simple*.



B

Very often the past simple ends in **-ed** (*regular verbs*):

- ☐ I **work** in a travel agency now. Before that I **worked** in a department store.
- ☐ We **invited** them to our party, but they **decided** not to come.
- ☐ The police **stopped** me on my way home last night.
- ☐ Laura **passed** her examination because she **studied** very hard.

For spelling (stopped, studied etc.), see Appendix 6.

But many verbs are *irregular*. The past simple does *not* end in **-ed**. For example:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| write → wrote | <input type="checkbox"/> Mozart wrote more than 600 pieces of music. |
| see → saw | <input type="checkbox"/> We saw Rose in town a few days ago. |
| go → went | <input type="checkbox"/> I went to the cinema three times last week. |
| shut → shut | <input type="checkbox"/> It was cold, so I shut the window. |

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

C

In questions and negatives we use **did/didn't** + *infinitive* (enjoy/see/go etc.):

I	enjoyed
she	saw
they	went

did	you	enjoy?
	she	see?
	they	go?

I		enjoy
she	didn't	see
they		go

- ☐ A: Did you go out last night?
- B: Yes, I went to the cinema, but I **didn't** enjoy the film much.
- ☐ 'When did Mr Thomas die?' 'About ten years ago.'
- ☐ They **didn't** invite her to the party, so she **didn't** go.
- ☐ 'Did you have time to write the letter?' 'No, I **didn't**.'

In the following examples, **do** is the main verb in the sentence (**did ... do / didn't do**):

- ☐ What **did** you **do** at the weekend? (*not* What did you at the weekend?)
- ☐ I **didn't** **do** anything. (*not* I didn't anything)

D

The past of **be** (am/is/are) is **was/were**:

I/he/she/it	was/wasn't
we/you/they	were/weren't

was	I/he/she/it?
were	we/you/they?

Note that we do not use **did** in negatives and questions with **was/were**:

- ☐ I **was** angry because they **were** late.
- ☐ **Was** the weather good when you **were** on holiday?
- ☐ They **weren't** able to come because they **were** so busy.
- ☐ Did you go out last night or **were** you too tired?

Exercises

Unit 5

5.1 Read what Laura says about a typical working day:



Laura

I usually get up at 7 o'clock and have a big breakfast. I walk to work, which takes me about half an hour. I start work at 8.45. I never have lunch. I finish work at 5 o'clock. I'm always tired when I get home. I usually cook a meal in the evening. I don't usually go out. I go to bed at about 11 o'clock, and I always sleep well.

Yesterday was a typical working day for Laura. Write what she did or didn't do yesterday.

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | She got up at 7 o'clock. | 7 | at 5 o'clock. |
| 2 | She a big breakfast. | 8 | tired when home. |
| 3 | She | 9 | a meal yesterday evening. |
| 4 | It to get to work. | 10 | out yesterday evening. |
| 5 | at 8.45. | 11 | at 11 o'clock. |
| 6 | lunch. | 12 | well last night. |

5.2 Complete the sentences using the following verbs in the correct form:

buy catch cost fall hurt sell spend teach throw ~~write~~

- Mozart wrote more than 600 pieces of music.
- 'How did you learn to drive?' 'My father me.'
- We couldn't afford to keep our car, so we it.
- Dave down the stairs this morning and his leg.
- Jim the ball to Sue, who it.
- Ann a lot of money yesterday. She a dress which £100.

5.3 You ask James about his holiday. Write your questions.

Hi. How are things?

Fine, thanks. I've just had a great holiday.

- Where did you go ?
To the U.S. We went on a trip from San Francisco to Denver.
- How ? By car?
Yes, we hired a car in San Francisco.
- It's a long way to drive. How long ?
Two weeks.
- Where ? In hotels?
Yes, small hotels or motels.
- ?
Yes, but it was very hot – sometimes too hot.
- the Grand Canyon?
Of course. It was wonderful.

5.4 Complete the sentences. Put the verb into the correct form, positive or negative.

- It was warm, so I took off my coat. (take)
- The film wasn't very good. I didn't enjoy it very much. (enjoy)
- I knew Sarah was very busy, so I her. (disturb)
- I was very tired, so I the party early. (leave)
- The bed was very uncomfortable. I very well. (sleep)
- The window was open and a bird into the room. (fly)
- The hotel wasn't very expensive. It very much. (cost)
- I was in a hurry, so I time to phone you. (have)
- It was hard carrying the bags. They very heavy. (be)