

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		you	enjoy?	I		enjoy
she	saw	did	she	see?	she	didn't	see
they	went		they	go?	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	was	I/he/she/it?
we/you/they	were/weren't	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?

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 |
| 3 She | | tired when |
| 4 It | to get to work. | 9 |
| 5 | at 8.45. | 10 |
| 6 | lunch. | 11 |
| | | 12 |

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 ?
 - How ? By car?
 - It's a long way to drive. How long ?
 - Where ? In hotels?
 - ?
 - the Grand Canyon?
- Yes, thanks. I've just had a great holiday.
- To the U.S. We went on a trip from San Francisco to Denver.
- Yes, we hired a car in San Francisco.
- Two weeks.
- Yes, small hotels or motels.
- Yes, but it was very hot – sometimes too hot.
- 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)