Subject: economic English

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**Lecture on the Simple Past Tense**

**1. What is the Simple Past Tense?**

The simple past tense is used to talk about actions or situations that started and finished in the past. It’s the tense we use to tell stories, talk about yesterday, or say what happened last weekend.

**Examples:**

* "I watched a movie last night."
* "They visited the museum on Saturday."

**2. When to Use the Simple Past Tense**

Use the simple past tense for:

* Completed actions in the past
* Specific events in the past
* Series of actions in the past

**Examples:**

* "She studied English yesterday." (completed action)
* "We traveled to Italy last summer." (specific event)
* "He woke up, brushed his teeth, and went to work." (series of actions)

**3. How to Form the Simple Past Tense**

**For Regular Verbs:**

* Add **-ed** to the base form of the verb.
* Examples:
  + play → played
  + work → worked
  + clean → cleaned

**For Irregular Verbs:**

* Irregular verbs do not follow a specific rule, so you need to memorize their past forms.
* Examples:
  + go → went
  + have → had
  + see → saw

**4. Sentence Structure**

1. **Affirmative Sentences**:
   * **Subject + past simple verb + rest of the sentence**
   * Examples:
     + "They walked to the park."
     + "She read a book."
2. **Negative Sentences**:
   * **Subject + did not (didn’t) + base form of the verb + rest of the sentence**
   * Examples:
     + "He didn’t finish his homework."
     + "We did not watch TV."
3. **Questions**:
   * **Did + subject + base form of the verb + rest of the sentence?**
   * Examples:
     + "Did you call her?"
     + "Did they go to the concert?"

**5. Common Time Expressions**

We often use time expressions with the simple past tense to show when something happened. Here are a few:

* **yesterday**: "I saw him yesterday."
* **last** (night, week, month, year): "We met last month."
* **ago**: "She arrived three days ago."
* **in** (a specific year): "They moved here in 2010."

**6. Examples and Practice**

1. **Affirmative**: "I cooked dinner last night."
2. **Negative**: "I didn’t cook dinner last night."
3. **Question**: "Did you cook dinner last night?"

**7. Practice Activity**

Try changing these sentences to the past simple:

* "I play soccer every day." → "I played soccer yesterday."
* "They go to school by bus." → "They went to school by bus."

**8. Quick Tips to Remember**

* For regular verbs, just add **-ed**.
* Memorize the common irregular verbs.
* Use **did** for questions and negatives (did not/didn’t).