

English 6

Sequence N°: 03

Title: Simple Past Tense

Objectives:

Students will understand the structure and usage of the simple past serves as a stepping stone for learning more advanced tenses like the past continuous and past perfect.

Introduction:

The **simple past** is a **verb tense** that is used to talk about things that happened or existed before now. The simple past tense shows that you are talking about something that has already happened, the simple past tense indicates that the action occurred at a certain time and then was completed.

Examples:

- ✓ *John **entered** a boxing club.*
- ✓ *He **won** the silver medal.*
- ✓ *John **admired** the way the light **glinted** off his silver medal.*

1. How to form the simple past:

- For regular **verbs**, add *-ed* to the root form of the verb (or just *-d* if the root form ends in an *e*):

Examples:

Play→Played

Type→Typed

Listen→Listened

Push→Pushed

Love→Loved

- For irregular verbs, things get more complicated. The simple past tense of some irregular verbs looks exactly like the root form:

Examples:

Put → Put

See → saw

Go → went

Cost → Cost

Be → was/were

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The good thing is that verbs in the simple past tense (except for *to be*) don't need to agree in number with their subjects.

2. How to make the simple present negative

Fortunately, there is a formula for making simple past verbs negative, and it's the same for both regular and irregular verbs (except for the verb *to be*). The formula is *did not* + [root form of verb]. You can also use the **contraction** *didn't* instead of *did not*.

Examples:

- ✓ *John **did not brag** too much about his boxing skills.*
- ✓ *John's son **didn't see** the contest.*

For the verb *to be*, you don't need the auxiliary *did*. When the subject of the sentence is singular, use *was not* or *wasn't*. When the subject is plural, use *were not* or *weren't*.

Examples:

- ✓ *The third-place winner **was not** as happy as John.*

- ✓ The fourth-place winner **wasn't** happy at all.
- ✓ The onlookers **were not** ready to leave after the contest ended.
- ✓ The contestants **weren't** ready to leave either.

3. How to ask a question:

The formula for asking a question in the simple past tense is **did** + [subject] + [root form of verb].

Examples:

- ✓ *Did John win the gold medal or the silver medal?*
- ✓ *Where did John go to celebrate?*
- ✓ *Did the judges decide fairly, in your opinion?*

When asking a question with the verb *to be*, you don't need the auxiliary *did*. The formula is **was/were** + [subject].

Examples:

- ✓ *Was John in a good mood after the contest?*
- ✓ *Did people take lots of pictures?*

4. Common regular verbs in the past tense:

Infinitive	Past tense	Negative
to ask	asked	did not ask
to work	worked	did not work
to call	called	did not call
to use	used	did not use

5. Common irregular verbs in the past tense:

Infinitive	Past tense	Negative
to be	was/were	was not/were not
to have	had	did not have
to do	did	did not do
to say	said	did not say
to get	got	did not have
to make	made	did not make
to go	went	did not go
to take	took	did not take