

# PAST SIMPLE TENSE

## TO BE

+

**S + Was/were**

They were friends.

-

**S + was not/were not + ...**

They weren't friends.

?

**Was/Were + S + ...?**

They weren't friends.

## VERBS

**S + V-ed**

She worked yesterday.

**S + did not + verb (base form)**

She didn't work yesterday.

**Did + S + verb (in base form)?**

Did she work yesterday?

## Usage

To express completed action in the past

To describe a series of completed actions in the past

To express habits in the past

## Example

I saw a ghost last Friday.

I finished work, walked to the beach, and found a nice place to swim.

When I was young, I watched lots of television every day after school.



## Irregular Verbs

Verbs are words that describe action, or what something is doing. Some verbs can **NOT** be made past tense just by adding some form of "-ed" to the end of the word. We call these words, irregular verbs. There is no way to predict how an irregular verb will be spelled - you have to memorize them.

Write the correct past form of the verb.

1. My best friend \_\_\_\_\_ me at the gymnastics meet. [beat]
2. Piper \_\_\_\_\_ the cake to the party. [bring]
3. The sticky goo \_\_\_\_\_ to the ceiling. [cling]
4. She \_\_\_\_\_ of sliding across rainbows.  
[dream]
5. They \_\_\_\_\_ the dictator and his army.  
[flee]
6. We \_\_\_\_\_ on the ground for two hours, and now my knees hurt. [kneel]
7. She \_\_\_\_\_ it a secret. [keep]

## Irregular verbs

Fill in the blanks with the past tense of the verb.

1. The dog (*dig*) \_\_\_\_\_ a hole in the ground.
2. My friend (*keep*) \_\_\_\_\_ her promise.
3. She (*think*) \_\_\_\_\_ about her answer before speaking.
4. The leaves (*fall*) \_\_\_\_\_ off the trees.
5. The students (*get*) \_\_\_\_\_ on the bus.
6. They (*ride*) \_\_\_\_\_ their bicycles.
7. Our guests (*bring*) \_\_\_\_\_ dessert with them.
8. The girl (*draw*) \_\_\_\_\_ a rainbow on her sheet.
9. I (*understand*) \_\_\_\_\_ the question.
10. Your father (*pay*) \_\_\_\_\_ for our tickets.
11. They (*forgive*) \_\_\_\_\_ us.
12. Juliet (*find*) \_\_\_\_\_ her glasses.

Some verbs form  
their past tense  
with a completely  
different word.

wake – woke  
know – knew



## Simple Past Tense

The simple past tense denotes an action or event that occurred in the past.

Example: David swam (swim) ten laps in the pool.

**Complete each sentence with the simple past tense of of the irregular verb in the parentheses.**

- 1) We \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the circus yesterday.
- 2) Timothy \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) fresh vegetables at the store.
- 3) Jade \_\_\_\_\_ (wake) up at dawn to go for a beautiful nature walk.
- 4) When Alen went beachcombing, he \_\_\_\_\_ (find) many shiny things.
- 5) Mom \_\_\_\_\_ (grind) some pepper for the Italian dish.
- 6) The boys \_\_\_\_\_ (drink) lemonade after playing basketball.
- 7) My little brother \_\_\_\_\_ (know) the way to his school.
- 8) The driver \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) the school bus slowly.
- 9) The birthday girl \_\_\_\_\_ (blow) the candles on the cake.
- 10) He \_\_\_\_\_ (say) that he was coming.

