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Grammar Reference

Past simple

The past simple is generally used to talk about something that happened already and was finished in the past.

Example:

I was at the theater yesterday.
We went fishing last weekend.

Verb “to be”

Verb “is/am” is changed to “was”. Verb “are” is changed to “were”

Form:

Subject + was/were + ...

Example:

He was tired last night.

Negative form:

Subject + was/were + not + ...

Example:

They were not at the library a few hours ago.
He wasn't in the classroom this morning.

Notes:

“wasn't” = “was not”
“weren't” = “were not”

Question form:

Was/Were + subject + ...?

Example:

Were the singers good? weren't.	Yes, they were. No, they
Was he there? he wasn't.	Yes, he was. No,

Regular verbs

Form

Subject + verb + ...

Example:

He visited his aunt yesterday.

Negative form:

Subject + did + not (didn't) + verb (base form) + ...

Example:

They didn't play soccer last week.

Yes/No question form:

Did + subject + verb (base form) + ... ?

Example:

Did you watch a movie last night?	Yes, I did.
No, I didn't.	

Question form:

Wh-word + did + subject + verb (base form) + ...?

Example:

When did you wash the dishes?

Spelling rules

1. For most regular verbs, just add “-ed” to the verb

work	worked
watch	watched
listen	listened

2. Add “-d” to verbs that end in “-e”

live	lived
change	changed

3. With verbs that end in a consonant + “-y”, change the “-y” to “-i” and add “-ed”

study	studied
carry	carried

4. With verbs of one syllable that end in a vowel + a consonant, double the consonant and add “-ed”

plan	planned
jog	jogged