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Grammar Reference

1 Construction of the preterite

- The **preterite** of **regular verbs** is constructed by adding **-ed** or **-d** to the verb in the infinitive. The verbs that end with **-y** have a preterite ending of **-ied**.

Example: Yesterday I **watched** a movie.
The baby **cried** a lot last night.

- The construction of **irregular verbs** in the **preterite does not have a precise rule**, they must therefore be learned by heart.

Example: When **did** (to do) you first meet him?
I first **met** (to meet) him yesterday.
I **went** (to go) to Spain 15 years ago.

2 'Also' - 'As well' - 'Too'

The synonyms **'also'**, **'as well'** and **'too'** are placed differently within sentences.

- **'Also'** is placed **before** a simple **verb**, before the main verb in a compound tense, **after 'to be'** used as a stative verb, or at the end of a clause.

Example: I **also have** a trailer.
My lawyer **had also raised** that point.
There **is also** a basement downstairs.
I have one **also**.

- **'As well'** **ends a sentence**.

Example: These two want some chocolate mousse **as well!**

- **'Too'** usually **ends a clause**. It is at times placed **after its referent** for emphasis; in these rare cases, commas set off **'too.'**

Example: Splash him **too**.
John, **too**, was impressed with the demonstration.

3 Different meanings of 'all'

- '**All**' precedes and **modifies** uncountable or plural countable nouns. When it designates **all** of something limited, the noun follows 'the' or a demonstrative or possessive adjective.

Example: The cat drank **all** the milk.
Make sure you take **all** your pills!

Note: When '**all**' modifies something **unlimited**, no article precedes the noun.

Example: **All** children like sweets.
The Internet has spread to **all** sectors of the population.

- '**All**' may also be used in two ways with **personal pronouns: personal pronoun + 'all'**, or '**all of** + personal pronoun.

Example: Have you read these books?
I've read **them all**.
or I've read **all of them**.

- When '**all**' is used with a **subject pronoun**, it may occupy various positions in the sentence. It is placed either before a simple verb, or after a modal, an auxiliary, or 'to be'.

Example: The girls **all** left early.
We will **all** have some tomato juice.
They're **all** ready to go.

Note: In a short answer, '**all**' precedes the auxiliary, modal or 'to be'.

Example:
Did you guys go to the movies with your friends?
Yes, we **all** met up beforehand.

- '**All**' may be used as an **object pronoun**.

Example: That's **all** we have.
That's **all** we need.

Note: In such cases, '**all**' is in fact short for '**all that**'.