

PAST SIMPLE

Structure:

Affirmative (regular verbs): (VERB+ed) Work = worked

(*irregular verbs*): They change: Leave = left / buy = bought / speak = spoke
*See the irregular list.

Negative: (regular and irregular verbs): (DID NOT) + (VERB)

He did not play. / They did not come.

Interrogative: (regular and irregular verbs): (DID) + (SUBJECT) + (VERB)

What did she cook? / Did he leave...?

Spelling rules:

- 1- When a verb ends in a single vowel and a single consonant, double this consonant before **ed**.
Travel = Travelled / Drop = Dropped / Admit = Admitted
- 2- When a verb ends in a consonant and “y”, change “y” into “i” and add “ed”.
Carry = carried / Study = Studied

Contractions: did not = didn't

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I walked	I didn't walk	Did I walk?
You walked	You didn't walk	Did you walk?
He/She/It walked	He/She/It didn't walk	Did he/she/it walk?
We walked	We didn't walk	Did we walk?
You walked	You didn't walk	Did you walk?
They walked	They didn't walk	Did they walk?

Usage:

a. Finished actions in the past at a definite time.

- Where *did* you *go* yesterday?
- The flight *left* at 8 o'clock.
- They *didn't come* last night.

Common past time expressions include: last (week, year, night), yesterday, ago, when I was..., in 19....etc.

b. Actions which occupied a period of time and are now complete.

- She *studied* English for 4 years.
- He *lived* in France for 12 years.
- How long *did* you *work* there?

c. Habits in the past.-He never *drank* coffee when he was younger.-She always *wore* a black coat.**d. Conditional type 2.**-If you *asked* me, I would help you.-Unless she *saw* a doctor, she wouldn't be better.**Pronunciation of –ed**

The past simple and the past participle of all regular verbs end in –ed

Example:

Infinitive	Past simple	Past participle
Help	Helped	Helped

We pronounce the –ed in 3 ways: /ɪd/ or /t/ or /d/

If the verb ends in one of these sounds		Example	Example with ed		Pronunciation of the ed
Unvoiced	/t/	Start	Started	/stɑ:tɪd/	/ɪd/
	/d/	End	Ended	/endɪd/	
Unvoiced	/p/	Hope	Hoped	/həʊpt/	/t/
	/f/	Cough	Coughed	/kɒft/	
	/s/	Pass	Passed	/pɑ:st/	
	/eks/	Fax	Faxed	/fæks/	
	/ʃ/	Wash	Washed	/wɒʃt/	
	/tʃ/	Watch	Watched	/wɒʃt/	
	/k/	Like	Liked	/laɪkt/	
Voiced	All other sounds (+ vowels), for example....	Play	Played	/pleɪd/	/d/
		Offer	Offered	/ɒfəd/	
		Beg	Begged	/begd/	

Exercise 01: Put the verbs between brackets in the past simple tense.

1. Tom (not/buy) _____ a new house last month.
2. Last week I (run) _____ into my French teacher.
3. She (not/understand) _____ the questions yesterday.
4. He (occupy) _____ a post as an engineer for six years when he was in England.
5. Alice (play) _____ tennis this morning.
6. Where (you/go) _____ last weekend?
7. As a child my father always (ride) _____ bicycles.
8. He would be happy if he (get) _____ the job.
9. The police (catch) _____ all three of the bank robbers last week.
10. I think I (hear) _____ a strange sound outside the door one minute ago.

Exercise 02: Fill in the blanks with the SIMPLE PAST of the verbs in brackets.

Last Saturday my father (take) my friends and me to the circus. We(see) lots of things. My father (buy) us some popcorn and orange juice. We (eat) the popcorn and (drink) the orange juice. We (laugh) at the funny clowns. There (be) a lion-tamer. The lions (do) tricks; they (jump) through hoops. A girl (ride) an elephant around the ring. We all (have) a wonderful time.

Exercise 02: Classify the verbs below according to the pronunciation of their final -ed.

Verb	/t/	/d/	/ɪd/
Arrived			
Borrowed			
Cooked			
Decided			
Died			
Divided			
Failed			
Finished			
Founded			
Helped			
Hired			
Hoped			
Influenced			
Increased			
Lived			
Looked			
Mended			
Missed			
Obliged			
Offered			

Verb	/t/	/d/	/ɪd/
Painted			
Passed			
Planned			
Played			
Raised			
Sailed			
Shopped			
Started			
Stopped			
Suffered			
Swelled			
Touched			
Travelled			
visited			
voted			
waited			
walked			
wanted			
washed			
watched			

ANSWER KEY**Exercise 01:**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Didn't buy	Ran	Didn't understand	Occupied	Played	Did you go	Rode	Got	Caught	Heard

Exercise 02:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Took	Saw	Bought	Ate	Drank	Laughed	Was	Did	Jumped	Rode	Had

Exercise 03:

Verb	/t/	/d/	/ɪd/
Arrived		✓	
Borrowed		✓	
Cooked	✓		
Decided			✓
Died		✓	
Divided			✓
Failed		✓	
Finished	✓		
Founded			✓
Helped	✓		
Hired		✓	
Hoped	✓		
Influenced	✓		
Increased		✓	
Lived		✓	
Looked	✓		
Mended			✓
Missed	✓		
Obligated		✓	
Offered		✓	

Verb	/t/	/d/	/ɪd/
Painted			✓
Passed	✓		
Planned		✓	
Played		✓	
Raised		✓	
Sailed		✓	
Shopped	✓		
Started			✓
Stopped	✓		
Suffered		✓	
Swelled		✓	
Touched	✓		
Travelled		✓	
visited			✓
voted			✓
waited			✓
walked	✓		
wanted			✓
washed	✓		
watched	✓		