

Past Simple Rules

	regular	irregular	To be
+	V+ed	V2	I/he/she/it wasyou/we/t hey were
-	did not (didn't) + V1	did not (didn't) + V1	was not (wasn't)were not (weren't)
?	Did ... + V1?	Did ... + V1?	Was/Were...?



When we use the past simple

We use it to talk about **finished** actions in the past or past states.

Yesterday, some minutes/days/years, etc. ago, in a certain year (in 1975), in March are the markers that indicate the Past Simple tense.

We form Past Simple by means of the **V2**. **Regular** verbs have ending **-ed** (wanted, asked), and **irregular** verbs have **specific forms** that you must remember (did, wrote, went, read, etc.):

They watched that channel every Sunday last month. We met at the station a year ago. They organized a concert for kids at Christmas.

The verb **to be** has two forms: singular **was** (for I, she, he, it), and plural **were** (for we, they, you): My friend **was** very tired yesterday. My pets **were** so noisy.

NB! In Past Simple active voice, the forms of “to be” **DO NOT** go together with any other verb concerning one and the same subject. **WRONG:** She was went to school. **RIGHT:** She went to school.

Negative sentences are made with an auxiliary verb **did + not**: We **did not (didn't) study** on Sundays. It **did not (didn't) depend** on me.

In case with the verb **to be**, **negative** forms are made with **was / were + not**: We **were not (weren't)** students. My sister **was not (wasn't)** lazy. I **was not (wasn't)** a dancer.

Questions are made with the help of an auxiliary verb **did** which go before a subject, except if a subject is a question word. In this case a sentence has a direct word order like a usual sentence.

Examples: **Did** you **have** enough time for your hobbies? Why **did** your brother **ask** so strange questions? **Who paid** for the services? **Which colour suited** best in this room? (In the last two sentences, “who” and “which colour” are the subjects of the sentences, that’s why we put main verbs after them).

In case with the verb **to be**, **questions** are made with **was / were** which go before a subject and after question words: **Were** they students? **Was** my sister lazy? **Was** I good at dancing? Who **was** the best in sports in your class? What **were** your favourite colours?

Negative questions add a bit of a surprise: **Didn't** you **know** him? / **Did** you **not** know him? (Meaning: it’s surprising you didn’t know him because he was quite famous). **Wasn't** it strange that he said such things? / **Was** it not strange that he said such things? (Meaning: I’m surprised by the fact he said such things, it was strange to me).