

VERBS, PAST TENSE

THE PAST TENSE

Past tense (past simple) is used to indicate that the **action took place and completed in the past**. The past tense is formed by adding **-ed** to the end of the verb **for all subjects**.

	to clean	to save	to study	to stop	to play
I	cleaned	saved	studied	stopped	played
you	cleaned	saved	studied	stopped	played
he, she, it	cleaned	saved	studied	stopped	played
we	cleaned	saved	studied	stopped	played
they	cleaned	saved	studied	stopped	played

Spelling Rules for Past Simple:

The past tense is formed by adding **-ed** to the end of the verb **for all subjects**.

But if the verb ends in a consonant followed by a **-y** then replace the **-y** with **-ied**:

carry -> carried

worry -> worried

cry -> cried

try -> tried

If a one-syllable verb ends in a single consonant, then **double the consonant** before adding **-ed**:

stop -> stopped

dot -> dotted

sin -> sinned

spit -> spitted

Irregular verbs:

Irregular verbs take many different forms in the past tense with no specific rule.

We must memorize the different forms. Some verbs like **put, cut, cost, hit, read, hurt** stay exactly in the same form in both the present and the past tenses. "to be" is the only irregular verb that changes to different form for different subject ("**was**" for "**I, he, she, it**" and "**were**" for "**you, we, they**").

	to be	to put	to come	to have	to do
I	was	put	came	had	did
you	were	put	came	had	did
he, she, it	was	put	came	had	did
we	were	put	came	had	did
they	were	put	came	had	did

Some common irregular verbs in the past tense:

Present Tense	Past Tense
become	became
begin	began
blow	blew
bring	brought
buy	bought
can	could
catch	caught
choose	chose
come	came
cost	cost
cut	cut

dive	dove or dived
draw	drew
drink	drank
drive	drove
eat	ate
fall	fell
find	found
feel	felt
fight	fought
forget	forgot
get	got
give	gave
go	went
hang	hung or hanged
hear	heard
hit	hit
hold	held
keep	kept
know	knew
lay	laid
lead	led
leave	left
let	let
light	lit
lose	lost
make	made
pay	paid

put	put
read	read
ride	rode
run	ran
say	said
see	saw
send	sent
shake	shook
shrink	shrank or shrunk
sing	sang
sit	sat
sleep	slept
speak	spoke
spring	sprang or sprung
stand	stood
swim	swam
take	took
teach	taught
think	thought
understand	understood
wear	wore
weep	wept
win	won
write	wrote

Please refer to the class “**VERBS, IRREGULAR PAST TENSE & PAST PARTICIPLE**” for the more extensive listing.

Practice1: Change the sentence to the past tense.

1. His friend **car-pool** with him to work.
2. She **goes** to the library after school.
3. Jim **stops by** at dusk.
4. They **play** tennis.
5. She **gets up** before dawn.
6. He **wins** the competition.
7. Everyone **wears** traditional dresses.
8. I **have** good feelings when he **is** around.
9. He **has** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **understand** his feeling.
11. She **writes** to him every week.
12. They **break** the world record.
13. She **sleeps** late.
14. He **runs** the marathon.
15. She **teaches** her kids how to behave.
16. They **are** very rude to the customers.
17. Uncle Bill **is** upset.
18. She thinks he **is** wrong.
19. I **am** very careful.
20. The teacher **gives** them the assignments.

Answers1:

1. His friend **car-pooled** with him to work.
2. She **went** to the library after school.
3. Jim **stopped by** at dusk.
4. They **played** tennis.
5. She **got up** before dawn.
6. He **won** the competition.
7. Everyone **wore** traditional dresses.
8. I **had** good feelings when he **was** around.
9. He **had** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **understood** his feeling.
11. She **wrote** to him every week.
12. They **broke** the world record.
13. She **slept** late.
14. He **ran** the marathon.
15. She **taught** her kids how to behave.
16. They **were** rude to the customers.

17. Uncle Bill **was** upset.
18. She **thought** he **was** wrong.
19. I **was** very careful.
20. The teacher **gave** them the assignments.

THE PAST TENSE NEGATIVE

NEGATIVE STATEMENT WITH VERB "TO BE" IN THE PAST TENSE

For negative statement using "to be" in the past tense, "not" is added after "was" or "were".

I **was** a math teacher -> I **was not** a math teacher.

He **was** flexible about the schedule -> He **was not** flexible about the schedule.

She **was** a good candidate -> She **was not** a good candidate.

The dog **was** friendly -> The dog **was not** friendly.

We **were** good enough -> We **were not** good enough.

They **were** persistent in their efforts -> They **were not** persistent in their efforts.

We **were** physicians -> We **were not** physicians.

"was not" and "were not" are often abbreviated to "wasn't" and "weren't"

I **was not** a math teacher -> I **wasn't** a math teacher.

We **were not** good enough -> We **weren't** good enough.

NEGATIVE STATEMENT WITH VERBS OTHER THAN "TO BE" IN THE PAST TENSE

For negative statement with verbs other than "to be" in the past tense (past simple), "did not" or "didn't" is added **before** the verb.

I **taught** math -> I **did not teach** math.

He **made** the decision -> He **did not make** the decision.

She **rode** her bike -> She **did not ride** at the pharmacy

They **let** him go -> They **did not let** him go.

We **lit** the candles -> We **did not light** the candles.

They **had** a lot of courage -> They **did not have** a lot of courage.

We **sold** our house -> We **did not sell** our house.

“**did not**” is often abbreviated to “**didn’t**”.

I **did not** teach math -> I **didn’t** teach math.

We **did not** let him go -> We **didn’t** let him go.

Practice2: Change the following sentences to negative statements, using “**did not**” and “**didn’t**” alternatively.

1. His friend **car-pooled** with him to work.
2. She **went** to the library after school.
3. Jim **stopped by** at dusk.
4. They **played** tennis.
5. She **got up** before dawn.
6. He **won** the competition.
7. Everyone **wore** traditional dresses.
8. I **had** good feelings when he **was** around.
9. He **had** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **understood** his feeling.
11. She **wrote** to him every week.
12. They **broke** the world record.
13. She **slept** late.
14. He **ran** the marathon.
15. She **taught** her kids how to behave.
16. They **were** rude to the customers.
17. Uncle Bill **was** upset.
18. She **thought** he **was** wrong.
19. I **was** very careful.
20. The teacher **gave** them the assignments.

Answers2:

1. His friend **did not car-pool** with him to work.
2. She **didn't go** to the library after school.
3. Jim **did not stop by** at dusk.
4. They **didn't play** tennis.
5. She **did not get up** before dawn.
6. He **didn't win** the competition.
7. Everyone **did not wear** traditional dresses.
8. I **didn't have** good feelings when he **was not** around.
9. He **did not have** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **didn't understand** his feeling.
11. She **did not write** to him every week.
12. They **didn't break** the world record.
13. She **did not sleep** late.
14. He **didn't run** the marathon.
15. She **did not teach** her kids how to behave.
16. They **were not** rude to the customers.
17. Uncle Bill **was not** upset.
18. She **didn't think** he **was not** wrong.
19. I **wasn't** very careful.
20. The teacher **did not give** them the assignments.

THE PAST TENSE QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS WITH VERB "TO BE" IN THE PAST TENSE

For questions with verb "**to be**" in the past tense, the **verb and subject switch position**.

I **was** a good teacher -> **Was** I a good teacher?

He **was** flexible about the schedule -> **Was** he flexible about the schedule?

She **was** a good candidate -> **Was** she a good candidate?

The dog **was** friendly -> **Was** the dog friendly?

We **were** good enough -> **Were** we good enough?

They **were** persistent in their efforts -> **Were** they persistent in their efforts?

We **were** dedicated physicians -> **Were** we dedicated physicians?

QUESTIONS WITH VERBS OTHER THAN "TO BE" IN THE PAST TENSE

For questions with verbs other than "to be" in the past tense, "did" is added at the beginning of the question while the verb takes on the **base form**.

Tom **taught** math -> **Did** Tom **teach** math?

I **made** good teammate -> **Did** I **make** good teammate?

She **worked** at the pharmacy -> **Did** she **work** at the pharmacy?

The dog **barked** all night -> **Did** the dog **bark** all night?

We **wanted** to live in San Francisco -> **Did** we **want** to live in San Francisco?

They **had** a lot of courage -> **Did** they **have** a lot of courage?

We **play** tennis today -> **Did** we **play** tennis today?

Practice3: Change the following sentences to past tense questions.

1. His friend **car-pooled** with him to work.
2. She **went** to the library after school.
3. Jim **stopped by** at dusk.
4. They **played** tennis.
5. She **got up** before dawn.
6. He **won** the competition.
7. Everyone **wore** traditional dresses.
8. I **had** good feelings when he was around.
9. He **had** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **understood** his feeling.
11. She **wrote** to him every week.
12. They **broke** the world record.
13. She **slept** late.
14. He **ran** the marathon.
15. She **taught** her kids how to behave.

16. They **were** rude to customers.
17. Uncle Bill **was** upset.
18. She **thought** he was wrong.
19. I **was** very careful.
20. The teacher **gave** them the assignments.

Answers3:

1. **Did** his friend **car-pool** with him to work?
2. **Did** she **go** to the library after school?
3. **Did** Jim **stop by** at dusk?
4. **Did** they **play** tennis?
5. **Did** she **get up** before dawn?
6. **Did** he **win** the competition?
7. **Did** everyone **wear** traditional dresses?
8. **Did** I **have** good feelings when he was around?
9. **Did** he **have** his parents over for dinner?
10. **Did** I **understand** his feeling?
11. **Did** she **write** to him every week?
12. **Did** they **break** the world record?
13. **Did** she **sleep** late?
14. **Did** he **run** the marathon?
15. **Did** she **teach** her kids how to behave?
16. **Were** they rude to the customers?
17. **Was** uncle Bill upset?
18. **Did** she **think** he was wrong?
19. **Was** I very careful?
20. **Did** the teacher **give** them the assignments?