



# 06 Past simple *I played; he made*

1 Two examples of the **past simple**:  
*I went to London with two friends last summer.*  
*We stayed in a hotel near Hyde Park.*

2 To make the positive form of the **past simple** we add **-ed** to **regular verbs**:

| POSITIVE    |         |
|-------------|---------|
| I/you       | } asked |
| he/she/it   |         |
| we/you/they |         |

→ For **-ed** spelling changes (e.g. try/tried), see p. 128.

3 But many common verbs have **irregular past simple** forms. Look at these examples:

|             |             |               |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| break/broke | buy/bought  | catch/caught  |
| come/came   | do/did      | drink/drank   |
| eat/ate     | find/found  | forget/forgot |
| go/went     | have/had    | know/knew     |
| leave/left  | lose/lost   | make/made     |
| meet/met    | pay/paid    | run/ran       |
| read/read   | see/saw     | sell/sold     |
| send/sent   | speak/spoke | spend/spent   |
| take/took   | win/won     | write/wrote   |

The verb **be** has two past forms: **was** and **were**.

| BE: POSITIVE                           |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Singular</b> I/he/she/it <b>was</b> | <b>Plural</b> we/you/they <b>were</b> |

*Chris and I were in Scotland at the weekend, and it was very cold!*

→ For a full list of irregular past participles, see p. 129.

4 We use the **past simple** for finished past actions:  
*Liz lived in Madrid for two years. She had a fantastic time there.* (Liz doesn't live in Madrid now.)  
*When Mike was a child, he spent every summer holiday in Cornwall.* (Mike isn't a child now.)

5 We often use **expressions for a finished time** with the past simple to talk about when things happened in the past:

*I lost my watch last week, but I found it in the bathroom this morning.*  
*Josie phoned about ten minutes ago.*

6 We use the **past simple** to talk about recent actions in finished time periods, to talk about our past, to tell stories and to talk about history.

→ For **past simple negatives** and **questions**, see p. 24.

## Grammar in action

1 We use the **past simple** to talk about recent actions in finished time periods – things we did last week, at the weekend, yesterday or this morning:

*I went to Brighton last Sunday with Katie. We had a picnic on the beach. It was really nice.*



2 We use the **past simple** to tell people about our lives in the past:

*I studied music at college, and we started a band. We played at parties.*

We often describe holidays and trips:

*My brother travelled by bus from Brazil to Chile when he was a student. He spent a month in Santiago and met a lot of interesting people.*

3 We use the **past simple** to tell true stories (lists of past actions) about ourselves, our families and friends:

*I heard a loud noise, so I went downstairs, and I saw a big black dog in the kitchen.*

We also tell fictional stories (children's stories and novels):

*A long time ago, an old man lived with his beautiful young daughter in a small house.*



## A Talking about things we did last week

Tim and Greta meet at the photocopier at work. Make forms of the past simple.

GRETA Did you have a good weekend, Tim?

TIM Not bad, thanks. My brother and his wife arrived <sup>0</sup> (My brother and his wife/arrive) from Scotland on Friday evening, and .....<sup>1</sup> (they/stay) with us until Sunday lunchtime.

WORD FOCUS

To take it easy means 'to relax', e.g. 'I'm tired. I'm taking it easy today.'

GRETA Really? What did you do?

TIM Not much. ....<sup>2</sup> (We/talk) a lot, of course, and ....<sup>3</sup> (we/see) a film on Saturday night. Then ....<sup>4</sup> (we/eat) at that French restaurant, 'Serge's'. What about you? Did you have a good weekend?

GRETA Yes, ....<sup>5</sup> (it/be) OK, thanks. ....<sup>6</sup> (I/go) into town on Saturday morning and ....<sup>7</sup> (I/meet) Dave, and ....<sup>8</sup> (we/do) some shopping. Then ....<sup>9</sup> (we/watch) United in the afternoon. ....<sup>10</sup> (They/lose) again, of course. And on Sunday, ....<sup>11</sup> (I/take) it easy.

TIM Well, you need a rest now and again.

## B Telling people about a holiday

In this email message, choose the right verb, and make forms of the past simple.

Hi Ed,

Thanks for your message. I think you're working too hard. You need a long holiday. Last year, Barry, the kids and I spent<sup>0</sup> (spend/live) four weeks in Cornwall. It ....<sup>1</sup> (have/be) great! We ....<sup>2</sup> (find/stay) a really nice little house near the sea. We ....<sup>3</sup> (go/get) for walks, and we ....<sup>4</sup> (buy/make) food from the local farms. We ....<sup>5</sup> (cook/clean) dinner at home most nights, we ....<sup>6</sup> (read/look) books instead of watching TV, and the kids ....<sup>7</sup> (run/play) games in the garden. It rained sometimes, of course, but we ....<sup>8</sup> (spend/enjoy) every day. I ....<sup>9</sup> (take/watch) a few photos the day before we ....<sup>10</sup> (leave/miss). I'll send you them, and give you the address of the house!

Best wishes, Stephanie

## C Telling true stories about our family

Graham is writing about his Italian grandfather. Add these verbs in the past simple form:

wake stay wear lose tell go marry come  
sell spend catch become drink

My grandfather, Alfredo, borrowed £70 and went<sup>0</sup> to Egypt when he was twenty. He wanted to make money. He studied Arabic. He ....<sup>1</sup> Arabic clothes. He spoke to the old men in the markets. He ....<sup>2</sup> tea with them. When he was hungry, he ....<sup>3</sup> fish. Sometimes he washed dishes in restaurants. Then one day an old man ....<sup>4</sup> him to buy coffee. He travelled about, and bought all the coffee he could find from farmers. He ....<sup>5</sup> about £50. Then he waited. The following year, 1947, the price of coffee increased by 200%. So he ....<sup>6</sup> his coffee and made his first profit. After that, he worked hard. He ....<sup>7</sup> every morning at 6 a.m. He bought things when they were cheap, and he sold them if they ....<sup>8</sup> expensive! Sometimes he ....<sup>9</sup> money, of course, but in the end he became very rich. In 1955, he ....<sup>10</sup> my grandmother, the daughter of an Egyptian farmer. He ....<sup>11</sup> in Egypt for another 15 years. Then he returned to Italy with my grandmother and a baby son, my father. He built a factory in Naples. But his son, Davide, ....<sup>12</sup> to England, where I was born.

Before you begin, make sure you know the meaning of these three business words: *to borrow, a profit, and a factory.*

WORD  
FOCUS

## 06

## Past simple

## We didn't go; did they see?

7 Look at this dialogue:

*Did you see Stella yesterday? ~ No, she didn't come to college.*

8 We make the **negative form** of the **past simple** like this:

**subject + did not/didn't + verb**

*I didn't go to the game.*

## NEGATIVE

I/you  
he/she/it  
we/you/they

} **did not/didn't wait**

9 We normally make the question form of the **past simple** like this:

## YES/NO QUESTIONS

**Did + subject + verb**

**Did** I/you/he/she/it/we/you/they **write** to Tim?

## QUESTIONS WITH QUESTION WORDS

**Question word + did + subject + verb**

**When did** I/you/he/she/it/we/you/they **arrive**?

*When did Shakespeare die? (The answer is 1616.)*

We must use **did/didn't/Did...?** with the verb **do** too:

*Did they do their homework? ~ Yes, but they didn't do the dishes.*

TIP

10 With **be**, we don't use **did not/didn't** or **Did...?**:

## BE: NEGATIVE

**Singular** I/you/he/she/it **was not/wasn't** in the garden.

**Plural** You/we/they **were not/weren't** at home.

## BE: QUESTIONS

**Singular** **Was** I/you/he/she/it **late**?

**Plural** **Were** you/we/they **right**?

## Grammar in action

4 We use the **past simple** to talk about national and world history:

*Tony Blair was the British Prime Minister from 1997 to 2007. He won three general elections in 1997, 2001 and 2005.*



## D Sunday evening

Maggie, Dave and Pete are students. Maggie is returning to their flat on Sunday evening. Use the words in brackets to make questions or negative forms.

MAGGIE I'm back! Hi Dave. *Did you finish your essay* <sup>0</sup>? (you/finish your essay)

DAVE No, I'm tired today. <sup>1</sup> (I/not do anything) this afternoon. <sup>2</sup> (you see Jenny)

MAGGIE No, <sup>3</sup>. (she/not be at home) But I met Joanna, the new American student, in town.

PETE Oh. <sup>4</sup>? (she/be OK)

MAGGIE I think so, but <sup>5</sup> (she/not talk very much).

DAVE <sup>6</sup> (you/invite her to our party) next weekend?

MAGGIE Yes. I'm sure she'll come. <sup>7</sup> (What/you do all afternoon,) Pete? <sup>8</sup> (you/make a wonderful dinner) for us?

PETE No I didn't, I'm afraid. But my parents arrived at two o'clock with a fantastic new TV for the flat.

MAGGIE Well, that's kind of them. <sup>9</sup> (When/they leave?)

PETE About an hour ago. Do you want a cup of coffee, Maggie?

DAVE Oh. <sup>10</sup> (I/not get any milk this morning,) Pete.

MAGGIE Black coffee is fine. What's on TV?

## E Going on holiday

John and Liz are driving to the airport for a two-week holiday. Put the words in brackets in the right order to make questions and negative forms of the past simple. Use capital letters to start your answers.

- JOHN *Did you lock the front door, Liz* .....<sup>0</sup> (lock/you/the front door, Liz/did)?  
 LIZ Yes, definitely. But *I didn't make any sandwiches* .....<sup>0</sup> (make/I/any sandwiches/didn't).  
 JOHN .....<sup>1</sup> (forget/you/did)?  
 LIZ No, .....<sup>2</sup> (didn't/I/time/have). We'll get something at the airport. ....<sup>3</sup> (your passport/under the bed/was)?  
 JOHN Yes. (*Later*) .....<sup>4</sup> (you/email Sally/did)?  
 LIZ Yes, last night. She's going to feed the cat every day. ....<sup>5</sup> (a key/did/you/give her)?  
 JOHN Of course. But I forgot one thing. ....<sup>6</sup> (didn't/the windows upstairs/check/I). Oh dear. ....<sup>7</sup> (open/were/they)?  
 LIZ No, I closed them. (*Later*) Are you going to work on holiday this time?  
 JOHN .....<sup>8</sup> (my laptop/pack/no,/didn't/I).  
 LIZ Good. We both need a break.

Put the correct verb next to the definitions:

to check to feed  
to lock

WORD  
FOCUS

A to close with a key

B to give food to an animal or a baby

C to look at something to see if it's OK

## F An accident in the mountains of Iran

Julie is telling Brad about her trip to Iran with two friends. Add these words to the conversation:

broke stayed walk have carried was were  
didn't made arrived what fixed put

- BRAD Hi Julie! Did you *have* .....<sup>0</sup> a good trip? What's wrong with your leg?  
 JULIE I'll tell you. We .....<sup>1</sup> in Esfahan by train, but we .....<sup>2</sup> want to spend all our time in the city.  
 BRAD So .....<sup>3</sup> did you do?  
 JULIE We took a taxi one afternoon to the village of Hafeshjan in the Zagros mountains. The local people .....<sup>4</sup> very friendly. We found a small hotel, and we .....<sup>5</sup> the night there.  
 BRAD And .....<sup>6</sup> hotel comfortable?  
 JULIE Yes, the hotel wasn't the problem. Next morning we started our walk in a forest outside the village. We didn't .....<sup>7</sup> fast, because it was already hot. Soon we saw some rocks and a cave. Then I .....<sup>8</sup> a big mistake. I went into the cave. I couldn't see anything, and I .....<sup>9</sup> my foot on a wet rock. I fell and .....<sup>10</sup> my leg. Jim and Daniel .....<sup>11</sup> me back to the village. When we got to the hotel, they phoned for a taxi, and they .....<sup>12</sup> my leg in the hospital in Esfahan!



C **-ing forms**

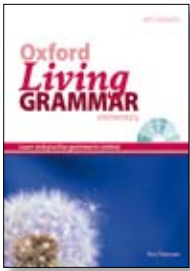
|  | INFINITIVE                           | -ING FORM  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>+ -ing</b>  |                                      |  |
| With most verbs, we add <b>-ing</b> :  | walk<br>eat                          | walking<br>eating                                |
| <b>-e + -ing</b>   |                                      |  |
| With verbs that end with a consonant* + <b>-e</b> , we delete the <b>-e</b> and add <b>-ing</b> :  | make<br>come<br>write                | making<br>coming<br>writing                      |
| <b>-ie → -ying</b>   |                                      |  |
| With verbs that end with <b>-ie</b> , we change <b>-ie</b> to <b>-ying</b> :   | lie<br>die<br>tie                    | lying<br>dying<br>tying                          |
| <b>-t → -tting</b>   |                                      |  |
| With verbs that end with one vowel* + one consonant (e.g. <i>get, hit, stop</i> ), we double the consonant:  | sit<br>run<br>swim                   | sitting<br>running<br>swimming                   |
| <b>+ -ing</b>  |                                      |  |
| But note that we do not double the consonant,<br>1) when it is <b>y</b> or <b>w</b> (e.g. <i>play</i> )<br>2) when the last syllable* is not stressed<br>(e.g. <i>reMEMber, VISit</i> ): | play<br>happen<br>listen<br>remember | playing<br>happening<br>listening<br>remembering |

D **Regular verbs: Past simple and past participle**

|   | INFINITIVE  | PAST SIMPLE   | PAST PARTICIPLE   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>+ -ed</b>  |   |   |   |
| With most verbs we add <b>-ed</b> :   | cook<br>finish                                      | cooked<br>finished  | cooked<br>finished  |
| <b>+ -d</b>   |   |   |   |
| With verbs ending with <b>-e</b> , we add <b>-d</b> :   | live<br>close                                       | lived<br>closed   | lived<br>closed   |
| <b>-y → -ied</b>  |   |   |   |
| With verbs that end with one consonant* + <b>-y</b> , we change the <b>y</b> to <b>-ied</b> :   | study<br>carry<br>try                               | studied<br>carried<br>tried                                       | studied<br>carried<br>tried                                       |
| <b>-p → -pped</b>   |   |   |   |
| With verbs that end with one vowel* + one consonant (e.g. <i>stop</i> ), we double the consonant:   | stop<br>plan  | stopped<br>planned  | stopped<br>planned  |
| <b>+ -ed</b>  |   |   |   |
| But note that we do not double the consonant,<br>1) when it is <b>y</b> or <b>w</b> (e.g. <i>play</i> )<br>2) when the last syllable* is not stressed<br>(e.g. <i>LISten, HAppen, Open</i> ):<br>Note that in British English <b>l</b> is usually doubled, even if the syllable is unstressed (e.g. <i>travel</i> ) | stay<br>happen<br>open<br>visit<br>cancel<br>travel | stayed<br>happened<br>opened<br>visited<br>cancelled<br>travelled | stayed<br>happened<br>opened<br>visited<br>cancelled<br>travelled |

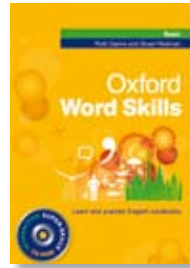
## E Irregular verbs: Past simple and past participle

| INFINITIVE | PAST SIMPLE    | PAST PARTICIPLE | INFINITIVE | PAST SIMPLE     | PAST PARTICIPLE |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| be         | was / were     | been            | lend       | lent            | lent            |
| become     | became         | become          | let        | let             | let             |
| begin      | began          | begun           | lose       | lost            | lost            |
| break      | broke          | broken          | make       | made            | made            |
| bring      | brought        | brought         | meet       | met             | met             |
| build      | built          | built           | pay        | paid            | paid            |
| buy        | bought         | bought          | put        | put             | put             |
| catch      | caught         | caught          | read       | read            | read            |
| choose     | chose          | chosen          | ring       | rang            | rung            |
| come       | came           | come            | run        | ran             | run             |
| cost       | cost           | cost            | say        | said            | said            |
| cut        | cut            | cut             | see        | saw             | seen            |
| do         | did            | done            | sell       | sold            | sold            |
| drink      | drank          | drunk           | send       | sent            | sent            |
| drive      | drove          | driven          | show       | showed          | shown / showed  |
| eat        | ate            | eaten           | shut       | shut            | shut            |
| fall       | fell           | fallen          | sing       | sang            | sung            |
| feel       | felt           | felt            | sit        | sat             | sat             |
| find       | found          | found           | sleep      | slept           | slept           |
| fly        | flew           | flown           | speak      | spoke           | spoken          |
| forget     | forgot         | forgotten       | spell      | spelt / spelled | spelt / spelled |
| get        | got            | got             | spend      | spent           | spent           |
| give       | gave           | given           | stand      | stood           | stood           |
| go         | went           | gone            | steal      | stole           | stolen          |
| grow       | grew           | grown           | swim       | swam            | swum            |
| have       | had            | had             | take       | took            | taken           |
| hear       | heard          | heard           | teach      | taught          | taught          |
| hide       | hid            | hidden          | tell       | told            | told            |
| hit        | hit            | hit             | think      | thought         | thought         |
| hold       | held           | held            | throw      | threw           | thrown          |
| hurt       | hurt           | hurt            | understand | understood      | understood      |
| keep       | kept           | kept            | wake       | woke            | woken           |
| know       | knew           | known           | wear       | wore            | worn            |
| learn      | learnt/learned | learnt/learned  | win        | won             | won             |
| leave      | left           | left            | write      | wrote           | written         |



## Answers: Oxford Living Grammar

- A**
- |               |          |              |
|---------------|----------|--------------|
| 1 they stayed | 5 it was | 9 we watched |
| 2 We talked   | 6 I went | 10 They lost |
| 3 we saw      | 7 I met  | 11 I took    |
| 4 we ate      | 8 we did |              |
- B**
- |          |           |         |
|----------|-----------|---------|
| 1 was    | 5 cooked  | 9 took  |
| 2 found  | 6 read    | 10 left |
| 3 went   | 7 played  |         |
| 4 bought | 8 enjoyed |         |
- C**
- |          |          |            |
|----------|----------|------------|
| 1 wore   | 5 spent  | 9 lost     |
| 2 drank  | 6 sold   | 10 married |
| 3 caught | 7 woke   | 11 stayed  |
| 4 told   | 8 became | 12 came    |
- D**
- 1 I didn't do anything
  - 2 Did you see Jenny
  - 3 she wasn't at home
  - 4 Was she OK
  - 5 she didn't talk very much
  - 6 Did you invite her to our party
  - 7 What did you do all afternoon,
  - 8 Did you make a wonderful dinner
  - 9 When did they leave
  - 10 I didn't get any milk this morning,
- WORD FOCUS** A lock B feed C check
- E**
- 1 Did you forget
  - 2 I didn't have time
  - 3 Was your passport under the bed
  - 4 Did you email Sally
  - 5 Did you give her a key
  - 6 I didn't check the windows upstairs
  - 7 Were they open
  - 8 No, I didn't pack my laptop
- F**
- |           |          |            |
|-----------|----------|------------|
| 1 arrived | 5 stayed | 9 put      |
| 2 didn't  | 6 was    | 10 broke   |
| 3 what    | 7 walk   | 11 carried |
| 4 were    | 8 made   | 12 fixed   |



## Answers: Oxford Word Skills Basic

- 8**
- |      |     |     |
|------|-----|-----|
| 1 no | 3 2 | 5 E |
| 2 5  | 4 A | 6 C |
- 9**
- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 take        | 4 results       |
| 2 do          | 5 badly, failed |
| 3 well, grade | 6 worst         |