

Past simple

1 You use the past simple to talk about things that happened in the past:

I stayed in that hotel last week.

He worked all night and finally finished the project when the secretaries arrived in the morning.

2 You also use the past simple to talk about the general past, and about regular actions:

We lived in Rome for a year when I was a child.

Our friends often visited us there.

3 For most verbs, the past simple form ends in -ed.

Some verbs have an irregular past form:

Can you match these 20 irregular past simple forms and their infinitives?

begin _____	give _____
break _____	go _____
buy _____	have _____
come _____	make _____
do _____	pay _____
drink _____	say _____
drive _____	see _____
eat _____	take _____
find _____	tell _____
get _____	write _____

did saw found came went had told drove paid bought got
ate broke wrote took began drank said made gave

4 For all regular and irregular verbs (except be: see Unit 7), the form is the same for all persons: I/you/he/she/it/we/you/they said.**5 You use did ... + infinitive to form questions in the past:**

Did you get home all right?

Did he go out last night?

Did you tell them about the party?

Who did you see?

Where did you buy that hat?

When did she arrive?

6 You use did not (or didn't) + infinitive to form negatives in the past:

I didn't understand, so I asked a question.

He didn't give me his address.



They didn't buy anything.

A Use the verbs from section 3 opposite to complete these sentences:

- I _____ Mike in the street yesterday.
- When I was in Spain, I _____ this sombrero as a souvenir.
- After the concert we _____ home by taxi.
- He opened the packet and _____ a chocolate biscuit.
- Have you got that letter Bob _____ us last week?
- My uncle _____ me a couple of interesting books for my birthday.
- Ivor _____ his leg and was taken to hospital in an ambulance.



8 I _____ it all myself!

B Underline the past simple verbs in the following:

The police are looking for a man who stole £25 and a jacket from a crowded fashion shop in Brighton last week. The man, who was between 20 and 25, with short brown hair, took the jacket from a staff changing-room. 'I'm not worried about the money, really,' said the victim, Sally Walker, 25, who works in the shop. 'But the jacket cost me £150. I got it when I was on holiday in Turkey.' The police do not think the man is dangerous, but warned the public to be careful.

C Complete the questions for the answers on the right:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 When _____ the jacket? | When she was on holiday |
| 2 Where _____ on holiday? | Turkey |
| 3 What _____ steal? | A jacket and £25 |
| 4 Where _____ from? | From the staff changing room |
| 5 How much _____ cost? | £150 |

D Frances is a manager of a busy company. Look at her diary for yesterday, then write about what she did or didn't do:

e.g. She had a meeting with the bank manager.
She didn't have time to write a letter to Gerry.

E What about you? Which of these activities did you do yesterday?

watch tv have a shower cook a meal
read a paper make a phone call write a letter
play a sport speak English listen to music
go out visit a museum

e.g. I didn't watch tv yesterday.
I wrote a letter to a friend yesterday.

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 8.30 | Buy paper and magazine for mother | ✓ |
| 9.00 | Have meeting with bank manager | ✓ |
| 10.00 | Call Export International | ✓ |
| 10.15 | Write to Gerry | ✗ |
| 10.30 | Talk with Jan and John about new products | ✓ |
| 11.30 | fax ISB in Munich about training course | ✗ |
| 12.00 | write letter to Directors of XYZ to confirm meeting | ✓ |
| 1.00 | meet David for lunch | ✗ |
| 2.00 | take taxi home | ✓ |
| 2.30 | pack suitcase | ✓ |
| 4.00 | take train to London | ✓ |