

The Simple Past Tense

A PREVIEW ON NARRATIVE TENSES



MEANING AND USE

Narrative verbs are **used to talk about past events and experiences.**

The most common narrative tenses are:

Simple Past
Past Continuous
Past Perfect



Let's take a look at the first narrative tense

THE SIMPLE PAST

What is it used for?



We use it to talk about **completed activities in the past.** It can also be used in stories and dialogues to describe completed events.

HOW DO WE USE IT?



Affirmative regular and irregular verbs

She came in late.
She was in a meeting.
They started without her.
They were mad at her.

Check out these spelling rules for regular verbs.
Check out the most common irregular verb list.



Negative wasn't, weren't, didn't

Subject + *didn't* + verb (simple form)
Subject + *wasn't/weren't*

She didn't come in late.
She wasn't in a meeting.
They didn't start without her.
They weren't mad at her.

YES/NO

Question & Short Answer

Did + subject + verb (simple form)
Was/were + subject

Did she come in late?
(Yes, she did.)
Was she in the meeting?
(No, she wasn't.)
Did they start without her?
(No, they didn't.)
Were they mad at her?
(Yes, they were.)



Information Question

Wh word + *did* + subject + verb (simple form)
Wh word + *was* + subject

Why did she come in late?
Where was she last night?

HOW DO WE PRONOUNCE -ED ENDINGS?

/t/

Final - ed is pronounced /t/ after all voiceless sounds.
Laugh = *laughed*
Talk = *talked*

/d/

Final - ed is pronounced /d/ after voiced sounds.
Try = *tried*
Smell = *smelled*

/ɪd/

Final - ed is pronounced /ɪd/ after /t/ and /d/.
Print = *printed*
Decide = *decided*



•Watch the following video to practice pronunciation•