

Past Simple Tense

USAGE

1- Affirmative form: S + V*(in the past).

e.g She washed her car yesterday.

I went to Brazil two days ago.

* The verbs (transitive and intransitive ones) in the past form of verbs are divided into:

- **Regular** : having (-ed) at the end of the verb when being in the past or past participle form, for example; **wash=washed** **live=lived**

- **Irregular** : not having (-ed) at the end of the verb when being in the past or past participle, such as; **be=was ,were** **break=broke** **buy=bought**

2- Negative form: S+ did not + V(bare) +

I **did not see** a play yesterday.

He **did not wash** his car.

They **did not stay** at the party the entire time.

I **was not** good at all yesterday.

You **must not have said** such silly words last meeting

3- Interrogation :

- **Yes\No question: Did +S+V(bare)+ ...?**

Did you play a musical instrument when you were a kid ? were they here?

- **WH-Question (informative interrogation): (Q word)+did+S+V(bare)...?**

What did you do in the party ? - **Why did you leave** out the last lecture?-

4- Adverbials used in this tense: Last(year, month, etc.), yesterday, a (week, month, etc) ago, for, clauses of time: (when I was ten years ago), frequency: never, ever, etc.

5- Simple past forms:

- I **was** here
- I **played** well
- I **played** football

- I **could play** football
- I **should have played** football

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Generally speaking, past simple is used to express the idea that an action started and finished at a specific point of time in the past and has not any existence at present time. But there are some useful points to refer to in this respect and as follows:

1- Time expressions that refer to the present, such as: **this morning /week /month and today**, can be used with the past simple verbs if we think of them as a past completed time period, as in:

I did not shave this morning (this means that the morning is over, as when being talking at 2 p.m., and I did not shave)

2- It is used in the sentences that have a time clause with **since** to refer to a particular point or action **in the past**, having the main verb of the sentence in the **present perfect** tense, as in:

Since Mr. Hassan became president, both taxes and unemployment have increased (but not (has become))

She has not been able to play tennis since she broke her arm. (but not (has broken))

3- It is used in the clauses of: **after, when, until, as soon as, once, by the time**, and the time expressions: the minute \ second\ moment to refer to past, for example:

After she left hospital (past), Muna had a long holiday .

4- It is used to talk about events or activities that went on over the same period of past time, such as: Sally **read** to the children, **while** Kevin **washed up**.

5- when we talk about two or more past completed events that followed one another, such as: She **got up** when the alarm clock **went off**..

He **jumped** out of bed **and ran** to see who the parcel was for..

6- It is used to talk about repeated past action in formal English, as in:

We **went** to Spain **three times** last year.

Did you drive past her house **every day**?

7- It is used to talk about things we intended to do, but we did not, as in:

We **meant** to call in and see you but Jane was not feeling well.

8- It is used to talk about reported actions in the past or reported speech:

He said, "I have a surprise". He **said** that he **had** a surprise.

I was sure that I **met** him before.

She asked, "what do you mean?". She asked me about what I **meant**.

They wondered, "is it true?". They wondered if it **was** true.

PASSIVE VOICE:

- I **was** here. (No passive)
- I **played** well yesterday. (No passive)
- I **played** football yesterday. Football was played yesterday.
- He **could play** football. Football could be played (by him).
- They **should have played** football. Football should have been played (by them).

Past Continuous Tense

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1- Affirmative form: S + be (was, were) + V-ing..... For example:

She was washing her car the last hour. They were going to Brazil yesterday.

2- Negative form: S+ be (was, were) not + V-ing+

I **was not** playing here last time.

He **was not washing** his car.

They were **not attending** the lecture while you were at home.

I **was not** getting well at all.

3- Interrogation :

- **Yes\No question: be (was, were) + S+ V-ing + ...?**
Were you playing a musical instrument while you were watching a TV?
- **WH-Question (informative interrogation): (Q word)+ be +S+V-ing...?**

What were you doing in the party ? - **Why was he leaving** out in a hurry?

4- Adverbials used in this tense: Last (year ,month ,week, ...etc.),yesterday, a (week, month,...etc) ago, clauses of time (as I was reading an hour ago)

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- 1- It is used to talk about an action that was taking place at a specific period of time in the past, or was interrupted by another action (to indicate that a longer action in the past was interrupted by a short action, the short action is usually in the simple past).
For example:

While John was sleeping, someone stole his car.

I was watching TV when she called me.

- 2- Also, it can be used to refer to a specific time as a duration for an action. For example: Last night at 6 pm, I was eating dinner.

An Important Note: In the simple past, a specific time is used to show when an action began or finished while in the past continuous, a specific time only interrupted the action. For example:

Last night at 6 pm, I ate dinner. (I started eating at 6 pm)

Last night at 6 pm, I was eating dinner. (I started earlier, and at 6 pm, I was in the process of eating dinner.)

- 3- It is used with two actions in the same sentence to express the idea that both actions were happening at the same time, i.e. The actions are parallel. For example:

I was studying while he was making dinner.

What were you doing while you were waiting?

- 4- It expresses the idea that something was irritating or shocking, often happened in the past.(spoken English, informal). For example:

She was always coming to class late.

I didn't like them because they were always complaining.

- 5- Also, it can be used to talk about things we intended to do but didn't. we were meaning to call in and see you, but John wasn't feeling well.

It is important to remember that Non-Continuous Verbs (state and mental verbs) cannot be used in any continuous tenses (except in certain situations). For example:

Jane **was being** at my house when you arrived. **Not Correct**

Jane **was** at my house when you arrived. **Correct**

PASSIVE VOICE:

He **was not washing** his car. His car was not being washed (by him).

They were running fast. (No passive)

The student was handing his teacher her note book. →

Her note book was being handed to his teacher (by him).

His teacher was being handed her note book (by him)