

Past Simple Tense (Präteritum)

1. Keywords

We use the Past Simple to talk about **actions or situations in the past**.

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last Saturday• 5 months ago• in 1984• yesterday• When I was young... |
|--|

2. Spelling Rules

a. *Regular verbs* end in -ed

- watch watched
- love loved
- stay stayed
- hurry hurried
- stop stopped
- dial dialled

b. *Irregular verbs* do not end in -ed

- Be was /were
- Have had
- Can could
- Buy bought
- Think thought
- Sell sold

☞ see irregular verb chart

3. Sentence Structure

I worked	I didn't work	Did I work?
You worked	You didn't work	Did you work?
He worked	He didn't work	Did he work?
She worked	She didn't work	Did she work?
It worked	It didn't work	Did it work?
We worked	We didn't work	Did we work?
You worked	You didn't work	Did you work?
They worked	They didn't work	Did they work?

4. Formation

- Add **-ed** (general rule):

to answer	answered
to play	played
to push	pushed
- **Silent -e** becomes -ed (not -eed):

to describe	described
to translate	translated
to escape	escaped
- **monosyllabic** word with *consonant-vowel-consonant* (other than w, x or y) ending gets doubled:

to stop	stopped
to rob	robbed
to plan	planned
to hop	hopped
- **polysyllabic** word with *consonant-vowel-consonant* (other than w, x or y) ending gets only doubled, if the last syllable of the verb is pronounced with the heaviest stress.

to control	controlled
to permit	permitted
to fasten	fastened
to limit	limited
- **Vowel + y** becomes -yed:

to stay	stayed
to enjoy	enjoyed
to obey	obeyed
to play	played
- **Consonant + y** becomes -ied:

to try	tried
to hurry	hurried
to study	studied
to carry	carried
- **-l** gets doubled (British English):

to travel	travelled
to dial	dialled
to cancel	cancelled
to control	controlled

Pronunciation:

[d] after *voiced* sounds
(a, e, i, o, u, y)

[t] after *voiceless*
sounds (p, t, sh,...)

[ɪd] after *d* and *t*