



Module: English  
Branch: International Trade  
Level: Third year Bachelor

## Lecture 09: The past simple

### 1- Positive forms

A regular past form ends in **ed**.

***It happened** very quickly. The van **crashed** into the car I **posted** the letter yesterday.*

*We*

*once **owned** a caravan*

Some verbs have an irregular past form.

*The car **came** out of a side road. Vicky **rang** earlier.*

*I **won** the game.*

*I **had** breakfast at six. The train **left** on time. We **took** some photos..*

The past simple is the same in all persons except in the past tense of be.

|                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>I/he/she/it</i> | <i>I <b>was</b> ill last</i> |
| <i><b>was</b></i>  | <i>week,</i>                 |
| <i>you/we/they</i> | <i>Those cakes</i>           |
| <i><b>were</b></i> | <i><b>were</b> nice.</i>     |

### 2- Negatives and questions

We use **did** in negatives and questions

NEGATIVE QUESTION

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <i>I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>did</b></i> | <i><b>did</b></i>              |
| <i><b>not stop</b></i>                    | <i>I/you/he/she/it/we/they</i> |
| <i>OR <b>didn't stop</b></i>              | <i><b>stop?</b></i>            |

*The car **did not stop**. The driver **didn't look** to his right.*

*What **did** you **tell** the police? ~ Nothing. **Did** you **ring** home? ~ Yes, I **did**.*

We do not use a past form such as **stopped** or **rang** in negatives and questions.

NOT *The- car **didn't stopped** and NOT **Did you rang?***

We also use **was** and **were** in negatives and questions.

- NEGATIVE

*I/he/she/it **was not** OR **wasn't***

*you/we/they **were** OR **weren't***

- QUESTION

***was** I/he/she/it?*

***were** you/we/they?*

*I wasn't very well last week. The gates weren't open.  
Where was your friend last night? Was your steak nice?*

### **3- Use**

We use the past simple for something in the past which is finished.

*Emma passed her exam last year. We went to the theatre on Friday. Elvis Presley died in 1977.*

*I knew what the problem was. When did you buy this car? ~ About three years ago.*

### **4- Exercice to do**

What can you say in these situations? Add a sentence with the past continuous to say that an action lasted a long time.

► You had to work yesterday. The work went on all day.

*/ was working all day.*

1 You had to make phone calls. The calls went on all evening.

2 You had to wait in the rain. The wait lasted for half an hour.

3 You had to make sandwiches. This went on all afternoon.

4 You had to sit in a traffic jam. You were there for two hours.

5 Your neighbour played loud music. This went on all night