

The Simple Past Tense

Verbs that express actions in the past are said to be in the past tense.

Use the simple past tense to talk about things that happened in the past.

Examples are given below.

1. Joe **learned** to play the guitar very quickly.
2. I **ran** to the lake.
3. They **were** all there.

Regular and Irregular Verbs

Regular Verb

Regular verbs form their past tense by adding “ed”. Examples are given below.

<u>Base Form</u>	<u>Past tense</u>
Walk	walked
Dance	danced
Paint	painted
Work	worked

- ✓ The simple past tense is usually formed by adding “ed” to the verb.

For example:

jump + ed = jumped

lift + ed = lifted

laugh + ed = laughed

look + ed = looked

- ✓ If the verb ends with “e”, just add “d”.

For example:

agree + d = agreed

hate + d = hated

die + d = died

live + d = lived

- ✓ You must double the last letter of some verbs before adding “ed”.

For example:

fan + ed = fanned

pat + ed = patted

grab + ed = grabbed

rip + ed = ripped

nod + ed = nodded

slam + ed = slammed

✓ With verbs that end in “y”, change the “y” to “i” before adding “ed”.

For example:

bury + ed = buried

fry + ed = fried

carry + ed = carried

hurry + ed = hurried

cry + ed = cried

try + ed = tried

Irregular Verbs

Irregular verbs form their past and past participle forms in different ways.

There are mainly three types of irregular verbs. Examples are given below.

1. Verbs in which all the three forms are the same.

<u>Base Form</u>	<u>Past tense</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
Put	put	put

2. Verbs in which two of the three forms are the same.

<u>Base Form</u>	<u>Past Tense</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
Sit	sat	sat

3. Verbs in which all three forms are different.

<u>Base Form</u>	<u>Past Tense</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
Drink	drank	drunk

As mentioned in example 1 above, the simple past tense of some irregular verbs does not change at all. Additional examples are given below.

<u>Based Form</u>	<u>Simple Past Tense</u>
beat	beat
burst	burst
cost	cost
cut	cut
hit	hit
hurt	hurt
put	put
read	read
split	split
shut	shut

As mentioned in example 2 above, some irregular verbs take a different form in the simple past tense. Additional examples are given below.

<u>Based Form</u>	<u>Simple Past Tense</u>
bend	bent
break	broke
bring	brought
buy	bought
fall	felt
fly	flew
get	got
hear	heard
keep	kept
lose	lost
sell	sold
shoot	shot
sleep	slept

Was: The verb “**was**” is also forms of the verb be. “**Was**” is the simple past tense of “**am**” and “**is**”. Use was with the pronouns I, he, she and it, and with singular nouns. Examples are given below.

1. Edison **was** a famous inventor.
2. I **was** looking for my keys.

Were: The verb “**Were**” is the simple past tense of “**are**”. Use were with the pronouns you, we and they, and with plural nouns. Examples are given below.

1. These **were** my best jeans.
2. The dogs **were** in the yard.