

## Simple Past Tense

**Structure: S + V Past (Regular / Irregular) + C**

The Simple Past Tense is used in different situations:

1. Use the Simple Past Tense **to talk about an action that started and finished at a specific time in the past**. Sometimes the speaker may not mention the specific time, but they do have one specific time in mind.

### USE 1 “Completed Action in the Past”



#### Examples:

- I **saw** a movie yesterday.
  - I **didn't see** a play yesterday.
  - Last year, I **traveled** to Japan.
  - Last year, I **didn't travel** to Korea.
  - **Did you have** dinner last night?
  - He **didn't wash** his car.
2. Use the Simple Past **to list a series of completed actions in the past**. These actions happen 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and so on.

### USE 2 “A Series of Completed Actions”



#### Examples:

- I **finished** work, **walked** to the beach, and **found** a nice place to swim.
- He **arrived** from the airport at 8:00, **checked** into the hotel at 9:00, and **met** the others at 10:00.
- **Did you add** flour, **pour** in the milk, and then **add** the eggs?

3. The Simple Past can be used with **a duration which starts and stops in the past**. A duration is a longer action often indicated by expressions such as: **for two years, for five minutes, all day, all year, etc.**

### USE 3 Duration in Past



Examples:

- I **lived** in Brazil for two years.
- Shauna **studied** Japanese for five years.
- They **sat** at the beach all day.
- They **did not stay** at the party the entire time.
- We **talked** on the phone for thirty minutes.
- A: How long **did** you **wait** for them?  
B: We **waited** for one hour.

4. The Simple Past can also be used **to describe a habit which stopped in the past**. It can have the same meaning as "used to". To make it clear that we are talking about a habit, we often add expressions such as: **always, often, usually, never, when I was a child, when I was younger, etc.**

### USE 4 Habits in the Past



Examples:

- I **studied** French when I was a child.
- He **played** the violin.
- He **didn't play** the piano.
- **Did** you **play** a musical instrument when you were a kid?
- She **worked** at the movie theater after school.
- They never **went** to school, they always **skipped** class.