



SIMPLE PAST TENSE WITH “DID”

When we want to talk about events that occurred in the past we must use the simple past of the verbs.

Examples:

I went to my house after I finished class.

She studied for the exam yesterday.

They came back by taxi.

The structure is as follows:

SUBJECT + VERB IN SIMPLE PAST + COMPLEMENT + EXPRESSION OF PAST TIME

Examples:

She wrote me a letter last summer.

They ate at a nice restaurant.

Bill and Tom played basketball yesterday.

But when we want to make questions in the simple past tense we have to use the auxiliary “did”. When we put “did” at the beginning of the sentence the verb changes to the present form. If the answer is negative the verb also changes to the simple present form.

Examples:

Question: Did she write you a letter last summer?

Affirmative answer: Yes, she wrote me a letter last summer.

Negative answer: No, she didn't write me a letter last summer.

In some ways the English past tense is easy because the auxiliary “did” is the same for all of the pronouns or subjects when asking a question. Also the past tense affirmative answers are the same for each person. And the negative answers are all in the simple present for each person.

Examples:

Question: Did you travel all over the world last year?

Affirmative answer: Yes, I traveled all over the world last year.

Negative answer: No, I didn't travel all over the world last year.

Question: Did she travel all over the world last year?

Affirmative answer: Yes, she traveled all over the world last year.

Negative answer: No, she didn't travel all over the world last year.

Question: Did he travel all over the world last year?

Affirmative answer: Yes, he traveled all over the world last year.

Negative answer: No, he didn't travel all over the world last year.



Question: Did they travel all over the world last year?
Affirmative answer: Yes, they traveled all over the world last year.
Negative answer: No, they didn't travel all over the world last year.

Note: When using "to be" in the past, it is impossible to use "did" in the questions.

Examples:

Question: Were they in England last summer?
Affirmative answer: Yes, they were in England last summer.
Negative answer: No, they weren't in England last summer.

Question: Were you angry at me yesterday?
Affirmative answer: Yes, I was angry at you yesterday.
Negative answer: No, I wasn't angry at you yesterday.

Remember

I	was
You (S)	were
He	was
She	was
It	was
We	were
You (P)	were
They	were



Fill in the blanks with the correct past tense form of the verbs given in parenthesis. Don't forget to pay attention to spelling.

1. I _____ a bath this morning. (take)
2. They _____ before the final exam and passed it. (study)
3. She _____ a letter last week. (get)
4. We _____ a post card to you last month. (send)
5. My parents _____ to Miami on their vacation last summer. (go)
6. John _____ a pizza for us yesterday. (make)
7. Brazil _____ the World Cup in 1994. (win)
8. They _____ their house last month to make it look better. (paint)
9. The United States _____ a man to the moon in the 60's. (send)
10. The dentist _____ my tooth last week. (pulled out)
11. She _____ to go the party, but she couldn't. (want)
12. Peter _____ all the questions before taking the test. (review)
13. Sheila _____ to the movies last night. (go)
14. The bus _____ at the bus stop and waited for the passengers to get on. (wait)
15. The teacher _____ us verb tenses last semester. (teach)
16. Arthur _____ well at the concert last night. (sing)
17. The radio station _____ the news yesterday. (broadcast)
18. The dog _____ his bone in the yard yesterday. (bury)
19. I _____ five miles this morning, that is why I am tired. (run)
20. Liverpool _____ badly last game. (play)



Change the following sentences into questions using the helping verbs for past (**did-was-were**)

1. Mary came to school on time.

2. She understood the question.

3. They were at the concert last Saturday.

4. Peter did his homework by himself.

5. They bought a lot of food for the party.

6. He was in the hospital for a couple of weeks.

7. Sheila talked to her teacher about her project.

8. My brother was in New York last summer.

9. The final exam was difficult.

10. The store was open during the holidays.

11. I got the Christmas card that you sent me.

12. The team lost the final game.

13. I was at home during the snow storm.

14. My mother went to the movies last night.

15. We ran in the marathon last year.

16. I saw Patrick with his new girlfriend at the party.

17. My wife cooked my favorite food for my birthday.

18. It was really cold last night.

19. She finished the exam very quickly.

20. They were taken to hospital after the accident.

21. I was tired after the game.

22. My friend stayed with me when he came to New York.

23. She asked me some questions after the lecture.

24. We took the train to get here.

25. He played basketball when he was in college.
