



## Past simple

*Oxford Grammar for Schools* is a 5-level series that helps students understand and practise grammar, supporting and extending what they learn in their coursebooks. This lesson introduces or reviews the past simple, and practises the past simple form of regular and irregular verbs.

### Regular verbs: affirmative and negative



We use the past simple to describe completed actions and situations in the past.

*It was 9 o'clock. John **opened** the door and **walked** to the bus stop. Last night I **finished** my homework and **watched** TV.*

←—————→  
past    opened    walked    now / the present    future

We often use the past simple with time words and expressions like *yesterday*, *last week* and *this morning* (see page 65).

For all verbs except **be**, the past simple form is the same for *I*, *you*, *he*, *she*, *it*, *we*, *you* and *they*.

Most regular verbs end in **-ed** – but not all of them! Look at the table below for spelling rules.

	Affirmative	Negative
regular verbs	base form + <b>ed</b> watched played waited looked	<b>didn't</b> (= did not) + base form <b>didn't</b> watch <b>didn't</b> play <b>didn't</b> wait <b>didn't</b> look
verbs ending vowel + consonant + vowel	stop – stopped travel – travelled BUT snow – snowed	<b>didn't</b> stop <b>didn't</b> travel <b>didn't</b> snow
verbs ending <b>-e</b>	dance – danced like – liked	<b>didn't</b> dance <b>didn't</b> like
verbs ending consonant + <b>-y</b>	hurry – hurried carry – carried	<b>didn't</b> hurry <b>didn't</b> carry

**\* 1** Complete the sentences with the past simple form of the verb in brackets.

- ▶ Jack and I **played** (play) badminton yesterday.
- 1 My sister \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) dinner last night.
- 2 I \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) to school this morning.
- 3 Josie \_\_\_\_\_ (carry) her mum's bags for her.
- 4 Jo and Sam \_\_\_\_\_ (help) the teacher yesterday afternoon.
- 5 We \_\_\_\_\_ (tidy) our rooms yesterday.
- 6 I \_\_\_\_\_ (like) the film last night.
- 7 My dad \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) the car and \_\_\_\_\_ (look) at the map.
- 8 We \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) with our grandparents last week.

**\*2** Now make the sentences in exercise 1 negative.

- ▶ Jack and I didn't play badminton yesterday.
- 1 My sister \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2 I \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3 Josie \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 4 Jo and Sam \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 5 We \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 6 I \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 7 My dad \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 8 We \_\_\_\_\_.

**\*3** Complete the sentences. Write the past simple form of the verbs.

- ▶ We / enjoy / the party, and we / not want / to go home.  
We enjoyed the party, and we didn't want to go home.
- 1 May / travel / to London, but she / not visit / Buckingham Palace.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 I / listen / to the music but I / not like / it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 It / start / to rain and we / hurry / home.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 James / call / his mum but she / not answer the phone.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 It / not rain / last week, but it / snow!  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 We / wait / a long time, but the bus / not arrive.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 7 It / not rain / yesterday morning, so we / decide / to go for a walk.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 8 They / study hard, but they / not pass / the exam.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\*4** **15.1** Listen and repeat.

- /t/ jumped, washed, looked, danced  
/d/ played, studied, lived, listened  
/ɪd/ visited, wanted, needed, decided

**\*5** **15.2** Put the words into the correct lists. Then listen and check.

~~added~~ arrived asked called cried  
laughed started waited walked

/t/	
/d/	
/ɪd/	added

**\*6** **15.3** Listen and repeat, then practise in pairs.



Last Sunday, I tidied my room, cleaned the house, cooked a meal and washed the dishes.



Last Sunday, I visited my aunt, helped my mum, phoned my grandma and posted some letters.



Last Sunday, I stayed in bed, watched TV, listened to music and played computer games.

### Irregular verbs: affirmative and negative

Many verbs have irregular past simple forms.

Base form	Affirmative	Negative
come	came	didn't come
do	did	didn't do
get	got	didn't get
go	went	didn't go
have	had	didn't have
make	made	didn't make
say	said	didn't say
see	saw	didn't see
take	took	didn't take

**\*7** **15.4** Look at the table. Listen and repeat.

**\*8** Rewrite the sentences in the past simple.

▶ Katie has breakfast at 7.30.

*Katie had breakfast at 7.30.*

1 I go swimming with my brother.

2 Mum makes nice cakes.

3 We get a lot of homework.

4 They come to school by bus.

5 We take the dog to the shops.

6 Dad says 'no'.

7 I do my homework in the kitchen.

8 Jessica sees us from her window.

**\*9** Work in pairs. Test each other on irregular verbs. Use the table in exercise 7.

*have*

*had... take*

*took... come*

**\*10** **15.5** Complete the sentences with the past simple form of the verb in brackets. Then listen and check.

▶ My cousins came (come) to my house yesterday.

1 We \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a great time last weekend.

2 Joe \_\_\_\_\_ (see) an accident this morning.

3 They \_\_\_\_\_ (not go) to the cinema last night.

4 You \_\_\_\_\_ (do) a lot of homework last Saturday!

5 Mum \_\_\_\_\_ (make) some sandwiches for us.

6 I \_\_\_\_\_ (not have) breakfast this morning.

7 David \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a lot of photos last week.

8 I \_\_\_\_\_ (not get) your message yesterday.

9 My friends \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to London last Monday.

10 I \_\_\_\_\_ (say) 'hello' to Sam when he went by, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (not see) me.

**\*11** **GAME** Play in groups or round the class. Player one makes a positive sentence in the past. Player two makes this sentence negative and makes a new positive sentence. Player three makes it negative and adds a new positive sentence, and so on.

*I went to the cinema last Saturday.*

*I didn't go to the cinema last Saturday.  
I got your message yesterday.*

*I didn't get your message yesterday. My cousins came to my house at the weekend.*

*My cousins didn't come to my house at the weekend. ...*

- \*\*\*12** Look at the irregular verb table on page 144. Complete the sentences with the past simple form of the verbs in the box.

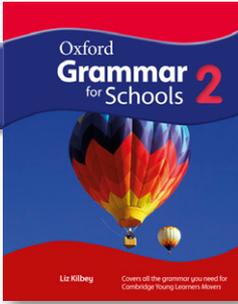
go catch find give know put  
write drink eat sing not have

- It was my birthday yesterday.  
My uncle gave me £20.

- 1 Where's my book? I \_\_\_\_\_ it on the table, but now it isn't there!
- 2 We were on holiday last week.  
I \_\_\_\_\_ six postcards.
- 3 This dog hasn't got a home.  
We \_\_\_\_\_ it in the street.
- 4 The test was easy. I \_\_\_\_\_ all the answers!
- 5 I didn't walk to school this morning.  
I \_\_\_\_\_ the bus.
- 6 She was very hungry. She \_\_\_\_\_ five sandwiches and two biscuits!
- 7 It was a fantastic concert. The band played for three hours and \_\_\_\_\_ all my favourite songs.
- 8 The children were thirsty and they \_\_\_\_\_ lots of lemonade.
- 9 She \_\_\_\_\_ time to eat breakfast this morning, so she was very hungry by lunch time.
- 10 We didn't go to Spain on holiday this year. We \_\_\_\_\_ to Turkey.

## Irregular verb list

Base form	Past simple	Base form	Past simple	Base form	Past simple
be	was	fly	flew	send	sent
become	became	forget	forgot	sing	sang
begin	began	get	got	sit	sat
break	broke	give	gave	sleep	slept
bring	brought	go	went	speak	spoke
build	built	have	had	spend	spent
buy	bought	hear	heard	stand	stood
can	could	know	knew	swim	swam
catch	caught	leave	left	teach	taught
come	came	lose	lost	take	took
cost	cost	make	made	tell	told
do	did	meet	met	think	thought
drink	drank	pay	paid	understand	understood
drive	drove	put	put	wake	woke
eat	ate	read	read	wear	wore
fall	fell	run	ran	win	won
feel	felt	say	said	write	wrote
find	found	see	saw		



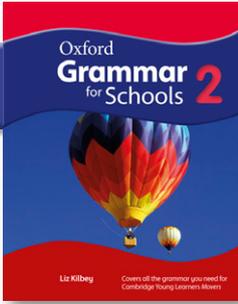
## Past simple Answer key

- 1**
- |   |         |   |                 |
|---|---------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | cooked  | 5 | tidied          |
| 2 | walked  | 6 | liked           |
| 3 | carried | 7 | stopped, looked |
| 4 | helped  | 8 | stayed          |
- 2**
- 1 didn't cook dinner last night
  - 2 didn't walk to school this morning
  - 3 didn't carry her mum's bags for her
  - 4 didn't help the teacher yesterday afternoon
  - 5 didn't tidy our rooms yesterday
  - 6 didn't like the film last night
  - 7 didn't stop the car and (didn't) look at the map
  - 8 didn't stay with our grandparents last week
- 3**
- 1 May travelled to London, but she didn't visit Buckingham Palace.
  - 2 I listened to the music, but I didn't like it.
  - 3 It started to rain and we hurried home.
  - 4 James called his mum, but she didn't answer the phone.
  - 5 It didn't rain last week, but it snowed!
  - 6 We waited a long time, but the bus didn't arrive.
  - 7 It didn't rain yesterday morning, so we decided to go for a walk.
  - 8 They studied hard, but they didn't pass the exam.

**5**

/t/	laughed, asked, walked
/d/	cried, arrived, called
/ɪd/	added, waited, started

- 8**
- 1 I went swimming with my brother.
  - 2 Mum made nice cakes.
  - 3 We got a lot of homework.
  - 4 They came to school by bus.
  - 5 We took the dog to the shops.
  - 6 Dad said 'no'.
  - 7 I did my homework in the kitchen.
  - 8 Jessica saw us from her window.
- 10**
- |             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| 1 had       | 6 didn't have       |
| 2 saw       | 7 took              |
| 3 didn't go | 8 didn't get        |
| 4 did       | 9 went              |
| 5 made      | 10 said, didn't see |
- 12**
- |          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| 1 put    | 6 ate         |
| 2 wrote  | 7 sang        |
| 3 found  | 8 drank       |
| 4 knew   | 9 didn't have |
| 5 caught | 10 went       |



## Past simple Audio script

### ▶ 15.1

/t/ jumped, washed, looked, danced  
/d/ played, studied, lived, listened  
/ɪd/ visited, wanted, needed, decided

### ▶ 15.2

/t/ – laughed asked walked  
/d/ – cried arrived called  
/ɪd/ – added waited started

### ▶ 15.3

**Emily** Last Sunday, I tidied my room, cleaned the house, cooked a meal and washed the dishes.

**Fred** Last Sunday, I visited my aunt, helped my mum, phoned my grandma and posted some letters.

**Harry** Last Sunday, I stayed in bed, watched TV, listened to music and played computer games.

### ▶ 15.4

come	came	didn't come
do	did	didn't do
get	got	didn't get
go	went	didn't go
have	had	didn't have
make	made	didn't make
say	said	didn't say
see	saw	didn't see
take	took	didn't take

### ▶ 15.5

- ▶ My cousins came to my house yesterday.
- 1 We had a great time last weekend.
  - 2 Joe saw an accident this morning.
  - 3 They didn't go to the cinema last night.
  - 4 You did a lot of homework last Saturday!
  - 5 Mum made some sandwiches for us.
  - 6 I didn't have breakfast this morning.
  - 7 David took a lot of photos last week.
  - 8 I didn't get your message yesterday.
  - 9 My friends went to London last Monday.
  - 10 I said 'hello' to Sam when he went by, but he didn't see me.

### ▶ 15.6

Last Wednesday evening, Ted had lots of homework. He didn't want to do it. He wanted to go to a big football match.

Ted didn't do his homework. What did he do? He went to the football match!

The next day, Ted's teacher asked, 'Did you enjoy the football match last night, Ted?'

Ted didn't understand. How did the teacher know? Then the teacher said, 'I watched TV last night. I saw you. You were on TV!'