

# A2 — Back to basics



Master: Regular and Irregular verbs in the past | An introduction to the Present Simple and Past Simple tense aspects

# Lesson objectives

**By the end of this lesson, the student will learn:**

- The different regular verbs forms,
- The different irregular verb forms,
- To apply spelling rules for modifying verbs,
- To applied '-ED' pronunciation for regular verbs,
- The core difference between the present simple and past simple tense aspects.

# Present simple

**Structure:** Subject + base verb

- *I work*
- *You live*
- *They play*

**With he / she / it → add -s:**

- *She works*
- *He lives*
- *It plays*

**When do we use Present Simple?**

- Daily routines
- Facts
- Permanent situations

**Examples:**

- *I work in marketing.*
- *She lives in Milan.*
- *They speak Italian.*

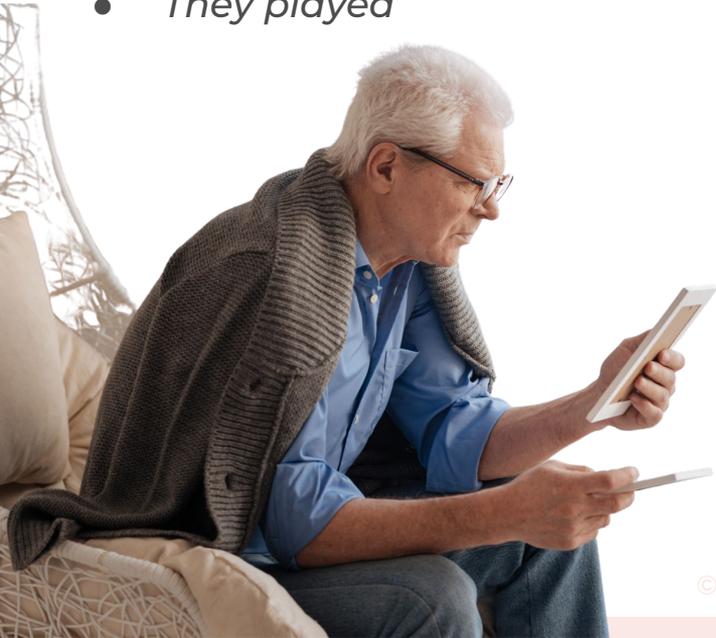


>>> *She runs every morning.*

# Past simple

**Structure:** Subject + past form of the verb

- *I worked*
- *She lived*
- *They played*



**When do we use Past Simple?**

- Finished actions in the past
- Specific time in the past

**Examples:**

- *I worked yesterday.*
- *She visited London last year.*
- *We finished the project on Monday.*

**Signal words:** yesterday, last week, in 2022, ago

**>>> *He looked at old photographs.***

# Regular verbs in the past

## Rule: Add '-ED'

Work > Worked | Play > Played > | Clean > Cleaned

## Spelling rules

### Verbs ending in '-e' > add '-d'

Live > Lived | Like > Liked

### Consonant + vowel + consonant > double final consonant

Stop > Stopped | Plan > Planned

### Verbs ending in '-y':

#### [change '-y' to 'i' + 'ed']

Study > Studied | Carry > Carried

#### [vowel + '-y' > just add '-ed']

Play > Played



# -ED pronunciation for regular past verbs

When we add -ed, the pronunciation depends on the final sound of the verb:

- /t/ → worked, helped
- /d/ → played, cleaned
- /ɪd/ → wanted, needed

## Important:

- worked = /wɜ:kɪt/
- not “work-eduh”



# /t/ sound

We pronounce -ed as /t/ when the verb ends in a voiceless sound.

## Final Sounds That Trigger /t/:

- /p/ → help → helped
- /k/ → work → worked
- /f/ → laugh → laughed
- /s/ → pass → passed
- /ʃ/ (sh) → wash → washed
- /tʃ/ (ch) → watch → watched
- /θ/ (th) → laugh (soft th in some accents, like “bath”)

## Grouped Letters:

- p, k, f, s, sh, ch, (soft th)

✓ worked → /wɜ:kɪt/

✓ helped → /helpt/

Not: “work-eduh”

# /d/ sound

We pronounce -ed as /d/ when the verb ends in a voiced sound.

## Final Sounds That Trigger /d/:

- /b/ → rob → robbed
- /g/ → clean (final sound /n/, which is voiced) → cleaned
- /v/ → love → loved
- /z/ → close → closed
- /m/ → seem → seemed
- /n/ → clean → cleaned
- /ŋ/ (ng) → change → changed
- /l/ → call → called
- /r/ → deliver → delivered
- Vowel sounds → play → played

## Grouped Letters:

- B, g, v, z, m, n, ng, l, r, all vowel endings
- ✓ played → /pleɪd/
- ✓ cleaned → /kli:nd/

# /ɪd/ sound

We pronounce -ed as /ɪd/ when the verb ends in:

**/t/ or /d/ sound\*\***

This is the easiest rule.

**Final Sounds That Trigger /ɪd/:**

- t, d

**Examples:**

want → wanted → /'wɒntɪd/

need → needed → /'ni:dɪd/

start → started

decide → decided

You must add an extra syllable.



# Practice — Regular verbs



## Change to past simple:

1. I work every day. → Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.
2. She plays tennis. → Last week she \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We study English. → Yesterday we \_\_\_\_\_.
4. They stop early. → Yesterday they \_\_\_\_\_.
5. He lives in Rome. → He \_\_\_\_\_ there last year.

# Regular verbs: Present simple → Past simple

- |                       |                      |                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Work > Worked      | 11. Call > Called    | 21. Talk > Talked      |
| 2. Play > Played      | 12. Live > Lived     | 22. Walk > Walked      |
| 3. Clean > Cleaned    | 13. Like > Liked     | 23. Ask > Asked        |
| 4. Help > Helped      | 14. Move > Moved     | 24. Answer > Answered  |
| 5. Watch > Watched    | 15. Want > Wanted    | 25. Learn > Learned    |
| 6. Wash > Washed      | 16. Need > Needed    | 26. Study > Studied    |
| 7. Open > Opened      | 17. Visit > Visited  | 27. Carry > Carried    |
| 8. Close > Closed     | 18. Arrive > Arrived | 28. Plan > Planned     |
| 9. Start > Started    | 19. Stay > Stayed    | 29. Stop > Stopped     |
| 10. Finish > Finished | 20. Cook > Cooked    | 30. Travel > Travelled |

# Irregular verbs

1. Go > Went
2. Have > Had
3. Make > Made
4. Do > Did
5. See > Saw
6. Take > Took
7. Come > Came
8. Give > Gave
9. Get > Got
10. Say > Said
11. Buy > Bought
12. Think > Thought
13. Know > Knew
14. Find > Found
15. Tell > Told

# Practice — Irregular verbs



## Change to past simple:

1. I go to work. → Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_.
2. She buys coffee. → She \_\_\_\_\_ coffee yesterday.
3. We see the manager. → We \_\_\_\_\_ the manager.
4. He makes dinner. → He \_\_\_\_\_ dinner.
5. They take the bus. → They \_\_\_\_\_ the bus.

# Present simple versus past simple

**Compare:**

**Present:**

- I work in London.  
(General fact)

**Past:**

- I worked in London last year.  
(Finished time)

# Present simple

## Present simple:

**[subject pronoun + infinitive verb]**

## What do we use it for?

## We use the present simple to talk about:

- Daily routines
- Facts
- Things that are always true
- Permanent situations

## Structure:

*I work | You live | They play | He works | She lives | It plays*

(Remember: add -s for he/she/it.)

## Examples:

- *I work in an office.*
- *She drinks coffee every morning.*

## Signal Words:

*Always | usually | often | every day | on Mondays*

# Past simple

**Past simple:**

**[subject pronoun + verb in the past]**

**What do we use it for?**

**We use the past simple to talk about:**

- Finished actions in the past
- A specific time in the past

**Structure:**

*Regular verbs → add -ed [work → worked |  
play → played]*

*Irregular verbs → change form [go → went |  
have → had]*

**Examples:**

- *I worked yesterday.*
- *She went to Rome last year.*

**Signal Words:**

*Yesterday | last week | last year | ago | in  
2023*

# Choose the present or past

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ (work/worked) yesterday.
2. She usually \_\_\_\_\_ (drinks/drank) coffee.
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ (visited/visit) Rome last summer.
4. They \_\_\_\_\_ (live/lived) in Spain in 2020.
5. He always \_\_\_\_\_ (takes/took) the train.

# ***“My Everyday Routines and Other Things”***

My name is Filomena, and I live in a small town near Milan. I work in a clothing shop, and I usually start work at 9 a.m. Every morning, I wake up at 7 o'clock. I drink coffee and eat a small breakfast. Then I take the bus to work.

At the shop, I help customers and answer questions. I organise the clothes and clean the shelves. I like my job because I meet many interesting people.

Last week was very busy. On Monday, I arrived late because I missed the bus. My manager was understanding, but I felt embarrassed. During the week, I helped a difficult customer, and I solved her problem. She thanked me before she left the shop.

Yesterday, I finished work early. I walked home because the weather was beautiful. In the evening, I met a friend and we had dinner together. We talked about work and laughed a lot. I went to bed tired but happy.

Today, I feel ready for a new week. I know that some days are stressful, but I try my best every day.

# Comprehension task

Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Where does Filomena live?
2. What time does she usually start work?
3. How does she go to work?
4. Why does she like her job?
5. Why did she arrive late on Monday?
6. How did she feel when she arrived late?
7. What did she do after work yesterday?
8. How does she feel today?



# Present or past?

**Write Present or Past next to each sentence.**

1. I wake up at 7 o'clock.
2. I arrived late.
3. I help customers.
4. I met a friend.
5. I feel ready for a new week.
6. I missed the bus.
7. I try my best every day.
8. I walked home.



# True or false?

**Write True (T) or False (F).**

1. Filomena works in a restaurant.
2. She usually wakes up at 7 a.m.
3. She drove to work last week.
4. Her manager was angry with her.
5. She had dinner alone yesterday.
6. She feels positive about the new week.



# Find the verbs

## Find:

- 3 regular past simple verbs
- 3 irregular past simple verbs
- 3 present simple verbs



# Speaking task

1. Talk about your daily routine.
2. Talk about what you did yesterday.
3. Talk about what you did last weekend.





# HearSay Learn audio activities

This next section of activities is based on a **HearSay Learn audio track**. These slides include the **HearSay Learn logo** in the top-right corner so you can easily identify them.

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- Click the shareable link on the slide, or
- Scan the QR code using your mobile phone.

This will open the **HearSay Learn WhatsApp** application, where you can listen to the audio as many times as you like.

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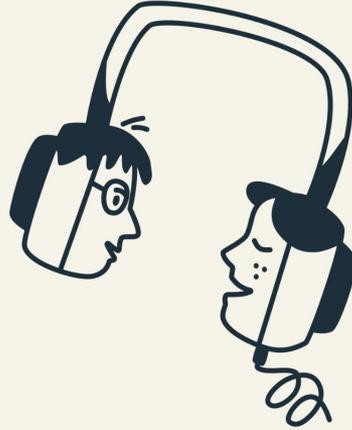
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# “Monday Morning Coffee”



[Click here to listen to the conversation](#) (or scan the QR code, above)

\*\*\* *British accent*



# General understanding

**Answer the questions in full sentences.**

1. What time does Oliver usually arrive at the office?
2. Why did Oliver wake up late today?
3. How does Sophie normally travel to work?
4. Why did she take the bus?
5. What did Oliver do yesterday?
6. Why do his legs hurt now?
7. What did Sophie do last week after work?
8. What does Sophie want today?



# Present or past?

**Write Present Simple or Past Simple next to each sentence.**

1. I usually arrive at eight.
2. I woke up late today.
3. I normally cycle to the office.
4. I took the bus.
5. I finished it last night.
6. I worked on it for three hours.
7. I don't normally work in the evenings.
8. I stayed late last week.



# Regular or irregular?

Write R (Regular) or I (Irregular).

1. woke
2. played
3. stayed
4. went
5. finished
6. took
7. worked
8. had



# Routine or exception?

**Write Routine (something that usually happens) or Exception (something different or in the past).**

1. I usually arrive at eight.
2. I woke up late today.
3. I normally cycle to work.
4. It rained, so I took the bus.
5. I stayed home and watched a film.
6. I drink my coffee and answer my emails.



**Thank you for your support.**

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