

Unit 5

Past simple (I did)

A Study this example:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was an Austrian musician and composer. He lived from 1756 to 1791. He started composing at the age of five and wrote more than 600 pieces of music. He was only 35 years old when he died.

Lived/started/wrote/was/died are all *past simple*.



B Very often the past simple ends in *-ed* (regular verbs):

- ☐ I work in a travel agency now. Before that I **worked** in a department store.
- ☐ We **invited** them to our party, but they **decided** not to come.
- ☐ The police **stopped** me on my way home last night.
- ☐ Laura **passed** her examination because she **studied** very hard.

For spelling (stopped, studied etc.), see Appendix 6.

But many verbs are *irregular*. The past simple does *not* end in *-ed*. For example:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| write → wrote | <input type="checkbox"/> Mozart wrote more than 600 pieces of music. |
| see → saw | <input type="checkbox"/> We saw Rose in town a few days ago. |
| go → went | <input type="checkbox"/> I went to the cinema three times last week. |
| shut → shut | <input type="checkbox"/> It was cold, so I shut the window. |

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

C In questions and negatives we use **did/didn't** + *infinitive* (enjoy/see/go etc.):

I	enjoyed		you	enjoy?		I		enjoy
she	saw	did	she	see?		she	didn't	see
they	went		they	go?		they		go

- ☐ A: Did you go out last night?
- B: Yes, I **went** to the cinema, but I **didn't** enjoy the film much.
- ☐ 'When did Mr Thomas **die**?' 'About ten years ago.'
- ☐ They **didn't** invite her to the party, so she **didn't** go.
- ☐ 'Did you have time to write the letter?' 'No, I **didn't**.'

In the following examples, **do** is the main verb in the sentence (**did ... do / didn't do**):

- ☐ What **did** you do at the weekend? (*not* What did you at the weekend?)
- ☐ I **didn't** do anything. (*not* I didn't anything)

D The past of **be** (am/is/are) is **was/were**:

I/he/she/it	was/wasn't	was	I/he/she/it?
we/you/they	were/weren't	were	we/you/they?

Note that we do not use **did** in negatives and questions with **was/were**:

- ☐ I **was** angry because they **were** late.
- ☐ **Was** the weather good when you **were** on holiday?
- ☐ They **weren't** able to come because they **were** so busy.
- ☐ Did you go out last night or **were** you too tired?

5.1 Read what Laura says about a typical working day:



Laura

I usually get up at 7 o'clock and have a big breakfast. I walk to work, which takes me about half an hour. I start work at 8.45. I never have lunch. I finish work at 5 o'clock. I'm always tired when I get home. I usually cook a meal in the evening. I don't usually go out. I go to bed at about 11 o'clock, and I always sleep well.

Yesterday was a typical working day for Laura. Write what she did or didn't do yesterday.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 She got up at 7 o'clock. | 7 at 5 o'clock. |
| 2 She a big breakfast. | 8 tired when home. |
| 3 She a meal yesterday evening. | 9 out yesterday evening. |
| 4 It to get to work. | 10 at 11 o'clock. |
| 5 at 8.45. | 11 well last night. |
| 6 lunch. | 12 |

5.2 Complete the sentences using the following verbs in the correct form:

buy catch cost fall hurt sell spend teach throw write

- 1 Mozart wrote more than 600 pieces of music.
- 2 'How did you learn to drive?' 'My father me.'
- 3 We couldn't afford to keep our car, so we it.
- 4 Dave down the stairs this morning and his leg.
- 5 Jim the ball to Sue, who it.
- 6 Ann a lot of money yesterday. She a dress which £100.

5.3 You ask James about his holiday. Write your questions.

Hi. How are things?

Fine, thanks. I've just had a great holiday.

- 1 Where did you go ?
To the U.S. We went on a trip from San Francisco to Denver.
- 2 How ? By car?
Yes, we hired a car in San Francisco.
- 3 It's a long way to drive. How long ?
Two weeks.
- 4 Where ? In hotels?
Yes, small hotels or motels.
- 5 ?
Yes, but it was very hot – sometimes too hot.
- 6 the Grand Canyon?
Of course. It was wonderful.

5.4 Complete the sentences. Put the verb into the correct form, positive or negative.

- 1 It was warm, so I took off my coat. (take)
- 2 The film wasn't very good. I didn't enjoy it very much. (enjoy)
- 3 I knew Sarah was very busy, so I her. (disturb)
- 4 I was very tired, so I the party early. (leave)
- 5 The bed was very uncomfortable. I very well. (sleep)
- 6 The window was open and a bird into the room. (fly)
- 7 The hotel wasn't very expensive. It very much. (cost)
- 8 I was in a hurry, so I time to phone you. (have)
- 9 It was hard carrying the bags. They very heavy. (be)