

UNIT 11 Past simple (I did)

a) Study this example:

Tom: Look! It's raining again.

Ann: Oh no, not again. It **rained** all day yesterday too.

Rained is the *past simple* tense. We use the past simple to talk about actions or situations in the past.

- I very much **enjoyed** the party.
- Mr Edwards **died** ten years ago.
- When I **lived** in Manchester, I **worked** in a bank.

b) Very often the past simple ends in -ed:

- We **invited** them to our party but they **decided** not to come.
- The police **stopped** me on my way home last night.
- She **passed** her examination because she **studied** very hard.

For spelling rules see Appendix 3.

But many important verbs are *irregular*. This means that the past simple does *not* end in -ed.

For example:

leave → **left** We all **left** the party at 11 o'clock.

go → **went** Yesterday I **went** to London to see a friend of mine.

cost → **cost** This house **cost** £35,000 in 1980.

The past of the verb be (am/is/are) is was/were:

I/he/she/it was we/you/they were

I **was** angry because Tom and Ann **were** late.

For a list of irregular verbs see Appendix 2.

c) In past simple questions and negatives we use **did/didn't** + the infinitive (do/open/rain etc.):

it **rained** **did it rain?** it **didn't rain**

- Ann: **Did you go** out last night, Tom?
- Tom: Yes, I **went** to the cinema. But I **didn't enjoy** the film.
- **When did** Mr Edwards **die**?
- **What did** you **do** at the week-end?
- We **didn't invite** her to the party, so she **didn't come**.
- **Why didn't** you **phone** me on Tuesday?

Note that we normally use **did/didn't** with **have**:

- **Did you have** time to write the letter?
- I **didn't have** enough money to buy anything to eat.

But we do *not* use **did** with the verb **be** (was/were):

- **Why were** you so angry?
- They **weren't** able to come because they were very busy.
- **Was** Tom at work yesterday?

For the past simple see also Units 12, 20, 21.

UNIT 11 Exercises

11.1 In this exercise you have to read a sentence about the present and then write a sentence about the past.

Example: Tom usually gets up at 7.30. Yesterday he got up at 7.30.

- 1 Tom usually wakes up early. Yesterday morning
- 2 Tom usually walks to work. Yesterday
- 3 Tom is usually late for work. Yesterday
- 4 Tom usually has a sandwich for lunch. Yesterday
- 5 Tom usually goes out in the evening. Yesterday evening
- 6 Tom usually sleeps very well. Last night

11.2 This time you have to put one of these verbs in each sentence:

hurt teach spend sell throw fall catch buy cost

Example: I was hungry, so I bought something to eat in the shop.

- 1 Tom's father him how to drive when he was 17.
- 2 Don down the stairs this morning and his leg.
- 3 We needed some money so we our car.
- 4 Ann a lot of money yesterday. She a dress which £50.
- 5 Jim the ball to Sue who it.

11.3 In this exercise you have to write questions. A friend has just come back from holiday and you are asking him about it.

Examples: where / go? Where did you go?

food / good? Was the food good?

- 1 how long / stay there?
- 2 stay in a hotel?
- 3 go alone?
- 4 how / travel?
- 5 the weather / fine?
- 6 what / do in the evenings?
- 7 meet any interesting people?

11.4 This time you have to put the verb into the correct form. All the sentences are past.

Example: I didn't go (not/go) to work yesterday because I wasn't (not/be) very well.

- 1 Tom (not/shave) this morning because he (not/have) time.
- 2 We (not/eat) anything because we (not/be) hungry.
- 3 I (not/rush) because I (not/be) in a hurry.
- 4 She (not/be) interested in the book because she (not/understand) it.