What Is Simple Past Tense?

The **simple past tense** is used to describe an activity that happened in the past. In other words, it started in the past and ended in the past.

Examples:

- *John baked a cake.*
- *She danced at her wedding.*

The simple past tense can also be used to talk about a past state of being, such as the way someone felt about something. This is often expressed with the simple past tense of the verb "to be" and an adjective, a noun, or a prepositional phrase.

Examples:

- I was proud of my son at the sports day event.
- I was upset about my grades.

Ways to form the simple past tense

For most verbs, the past tense can be formed by adding "-d," "-ed," or "-t" to the root form of the verb.

Examples:

- *Play - played*
- *Love - loved*

The simple past tense of some irregular verbs are written exactly like the root form.

Examples:

- *Put - put*
- *Cut - cut*
- *Set - set*
- *Cost - cost*
- *Hit - hit*
- *Let - let*

For some verbs, the simple past tense is quite different:

- *See - saw*
- *Win - won*
- *Build - built*
- *Do - did*
- *Go - went*
- *Rise - rose*
- *am/is/are - was/were*
- *Give - gave*
- *Bring - brought*
- *Catch - caught*
- *Understand - understood*
- *Come - came*
- *Begin - began*
- *Break - broke*
- *Buy - bought*
- *Choose - chose*
- *Come - came*

- *Draw - drew*
- *Drive - drove*
- *Eat - ate*
- *Feel - felt*
- *Find - found*
- *Get - got*
- *Give - gave*
- *Have - had*
- *Hold - held*
- *Keep - kept*
- *Know - knew*
- *Leave - left*
- *Lead - led*
- *Lie - lay*
- *Lose - lost*
- *Make - made*
- *Mean - meant*

- *Meet - met*
- *Pay - paid*
- *Run - ran*
- *Say - said*
- *Sell - sold*
- *Send - sent*
- *Sit - sat*
- *Speak - spoke*
- *Spend - spent*
- *Stand - stood*
- *Take - took*
- *Teach - taught*
- *Tell - told*
- *Wear - wore*
- *Write - wrote*

How to form a negative statement in the simple past tense

If you need to make a negative statement in the past tense, you can use the following word order:

"did not" + base form of the verb

- Mary did not use the GPS to reach the venue.
- The plane did not land on the runway.

How to form an interrogative statement in the past tense

If you need to ask a question, you can use the following word order for a yes/no question:
"did" + [subject] + base form of verb

- *Did Mary use GPS to reach the venue?*
- *Did the plane land on the runway?*

You can use the following word order for a choice question:
"did" + [subject] + base form of the verb + choice A + or + choice B

- Did Mary use the GPS or the paper map to reach the venue?
- Did the plane land on the runway 1 or runway 2?

Fill in the blanks by using the past tense form of the verb given within brackets:

1 I _____saw_____ you at the coffee shop yesterday. (see)

2 I _____ chocolate cake for her birthday. (bake)

3 I _____ cotton candy when I was a kid. (love)

4 I _____ football with them last summer. (play)

5 _____ it rain last night? (do)

6 Why _____ you score less marks in English? (do)

7 I _____ him a letter. (write)

8 The teacher asked me why I _____ up in the middle of the class. (stand)

9 It was not _____ for me. (mean)

10 You _____ too soon the other day. (leave)

11 I _____ my finger when I was chopping tomatoes last evening. (cut)

12 I _____ with an accident last week. (meet)

13 We _____ the heavy box across the street. (carry)

14 We _____ in a beautiful church. (marry)

15 I _____ about the meeting last night. (forget)