

# 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 shop.
- 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 (stopped, studied etc.), see Appendix 6.

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

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

<b>did</b>	you	enjoy?
	she	see?
	they	go?

I		enjoy
she	<b>didn't</b>	see
they		<b>go</b>

- 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**.'

Be careful when **do** is the main verb in the sentence:

- 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	<b>was/wasn't</b>
we/you/they	<b>were/weren't</b>

<b>was</b>	I/he/she/it?
<b>were</b>	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?

1 Read what Sharon says about a typical working day:



SHARON

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. I always sleep well.

Yesterday was a typical working day for Sharon. 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 .....                  | 9 .....  | a meal yesterday evening. |
| 4 It ..... to get to work.   | 10 ..... | out yesterday evening.    |
| 5 ..... at 8.45.             | 11 ..... | at 11 o'clock.            |
| 6 ..... lunch.               | 12 ..... | well last night.          |

2 Put one of these verbs in each sentence:

buy catch cost drink fall hurt sell spend teach throw win write

- Mozart ~~wrote~~ more than 600 pieces of music.
- 'How did you learn to drive?' 'My father ..... me.'
- We couldn't afford to keep our car, so we ..... it.
- I was very thirsty. I ..... the water very quickly.
- Paul and I played tennis yesterday. He's much better than me, so he ..... easily.
- Don ..... down the stairs this morning and ..... his leg.
- Jim ..... the ball to Sue, who ..... it.
- Ann ..... a lot of money yesterday. She ..... a dress which ..... £100.

A friend has just come back from holiday. You ask him about it. Write your questions.

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 (where/go?) <b>Where did you go?</b> | 6 (how/travel?) .....                |
| 2 (go alone?) .....                    | 7 (the weather / fine?) .....        |
| 3 (food/good?) .....                   | 8 (what / do in the evenings?) ..... |
| 4 (how long / stay there?) .....       | 9 (meet anybody interesting?) .....  |
| 5 (stay / at a hotel?) .....           |                                      |

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

- It was warm, so I ~~took~~ off my coat. (take)
- The film wasn't very good. I ~~didn't enjoy~~ it very much. (enjoy)
- I knew Sarah was very busy, so I ..... her. (disturb)
- I was very tired, so I ..... to bed early. (go)
- The bed was very uncomfortable. I ..... very well. (sleep)
- Sue wasn't hungry, so she ..... anything. (eat)
- We went to Kate's house but she ..... at home. (be)
- It was a funny situation but nobody ..... (laugh)
- The window was open and a bird ..... into the room. (fly)
- The hotel wasn't very expensive. It ..... very much. (cost)
- I was in a hurry, so I ..... time to phone you. (have)
- It was hard work carrying the bags. They ..... very heavy. (be)



EXERCISES

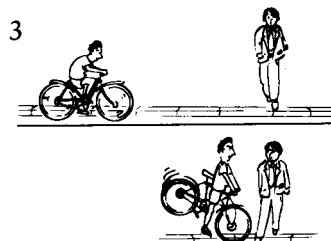
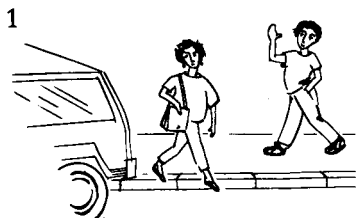
6.1 What were you doing at the following times? Write one sentence as in the examples. The past continuous is not always necessary (see the second example).

- 1 (at 8 o'clock yesterday evening) ... I was having dinner with some friends.
- 2 (at 5 o'clock last Saturday) ... I was on a train on my way to London.
- 3 (at 10.15 yesterday morning) .....
- 4 (at 4.30 this morning) .....
- 5 (at 7.45 yesterday evening) .....
- 6 (half an hour ago) .....

6.2 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences. Use the past continuous.

- 1 Tom burnt his hand while he was cooking the dinner.
- 2 The doorbell rang while I .....
- 3 We saw an accident while we .....
- 4 Mary fell asleep while she .....
- 5 The television was on but nobody .....

6.3 Put the verbs into the correct form, past continuous or past simple.



I saw (see) Sue in town yesterday but she ..... (not/see) me. She ..... (look) the other way.

I ..... (meet) Tom and Ann at the airport a few weeks ago. They ..... (go) to Berlin and I ..... (go) to Madrid. We ..... (have) a chat while we ..... (wait) for our flights.

I ..... (cycle) home yesterday when suddenly a man ..... (step) out into the road in front of me. I ..... (go) quite fast but luckily I ..... (manage) to stop in time and ..... (not/hit) him.

6.4 Put the verbs into the correct form, past continuous or past simple.

- 1 Jane was waiting (wait) for me when I arrived (arrive).
- 2 'What ..... (you/do) this time yesterday?' 'I was asleep.'
- 3 '..... (you/go) out last night?' 'No, I was too tired.'
- 4 'Was Carol at the party last night?' 'Yes, she ..... (wear) a really nice dress.'
- 5 How fast ..... (you/drive) when the accident ..... (happen)?
- 6 John ..... (take) a photograph of me while I ..... (not/look).
- 7 We were in a very difficult position. We ..... (not/know) what to do.
- 8 I haven't seen Alan for ages. When I last ..... (see) him, he ..... (try) to find a job in London.
- 9 I ..... (walk) along the street when suddenly I ..... (hear) footsteps behind me. Somebody ..... (follow) me. I was frightened and I ..... (start) to run.
- 10 When I was young, I ..... (want) to be a bus driver.

- 16 does your father do ... isn't working / 's not working / is not working
- 17 enjoy ... 'm not enjoying / am not enjoying
- 18 always leaves
- 19 's always leaving / is always leaving (always leaves is also possible)

### 3.3

- 2 It's always breaking down.
- 3 I'm always making the same mistake. / ...that mistake.
- 4 You're always leaving the lights on.

## UNIT 4

### 4.1

- 2 *right*
- 3 *wrong* - Do you believe
- 4 *wrong* - It tastes
- 5 *wrong* - I think

### 4.2

- 2 What are you doing?  
I'm thinking.
- 3 Who does this umbrella belong to?
- 4 The dinner smells good.
- 5 Is anybody sitting here?
- 6 I'm having dinner.

### 4.3

- 2 doesn't belong / does not belong
- 3 'm using / am using
- 4 need
- 5 does he want
- 6 is he looking
- 7 believes
- 8 don't remember / do not remember
- 9 'm thinking / am thinking
- 10 think ... don't use / do not use
- 11 prefer
- 12 consists

### 4.4

- 2 is being      4 are you being
- 3 is              5 Is she

## UNIT 5

### 5.1

- 2 had
- 3 She walked to work
- 4 It took her (about) half an hour.
- 5 She started work
- 6 She didn't have (any) lunch. / ... (any) lunch.

- 7 She finished work
- 8 She was tired when she got home.
- 9 She cooked
- 10 She didn't go
- 11 She went to bed
- 12 She slept

### 5.2

- 2 taught
- 3 sold
- 4 drank
- 5 won
- 6 fell ... hurt
- 7 threw ... caught
- 8 spent ... bought ... cost

### 5.3

- 2 Did you go alone?
- 3 Was the food good?
- 4 How long did you stay there?
- 5 Did you stay at a hotel?
- 6 How did you travel?
- 7 Was the weather fine?
- 8 What did you do in the evenings?
- 9 Did you meet anybody interesting?

### 5.4

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 3 didn't disturb | 8 laughed      |
| 4 went           | 9 flew         |
| 5 didn't sleep   | 10 didn't cost |
| 6 didn't eat     | 11 didn't have |
| 7 wasn't         | 12 were        |

## UNIT 6

### 6.1

*Example answers:*

- 3 I was working.
- 4 I was in bed asleep.
- 5 I was having a meal in a restaurant.
- 6 I was watching TV at home.

### 6.2

*Example answers:*

- 2 was having a shower.
- 3 were waiting for the bus.
- 4 was reading the paper.
- 5 was watching it.

### 6.3

- 1 didn't see ... was looking
- 2 met ... were going ... was going ... had ... were waiting / waited
- 3 was cycling ... stepped ... was going ... managed ... didn't hit

### 6.4

- 2 were you doing
- 3 Did you go
- 4 was wearing (wore is also possible)
- 5 were you driving ... happened
- 6 took ... wasn't looking
- 7 didn't know

- 8 saw ... was trying
- 9 was walking ... heard ... was following ... started
- 10 wanted

## UNIT 7

### 7.1

- 2 My father has started a new job.
- 3 I've given up smoking. / I have given...
- 4 Charles and Sarah have gone to Brazil.
- 5 Suzanne has had a baby.

### 7.2

- 2 She has broken her leg. / She's broken...
- 3 Her English has improved. / It has improved. / It's improved.
- 4 He has grown a beard. / He's grown...
- 5 The letter has arrived. / It has arrived. / It's arrived.
- 6 The bus fare has gone up. / It has gone up. / It's gone up.

### 7.3

- 2 've just seen / have just seen
- 3 's already left / has already left
- 4 haven't read it yet
- 5 's already seen / has already seen
- 6 've just arrived / have just arrived
- 7 haven't told him yet

### 7.4

- 2 he's just gone out / he has just gone out
- 3 I haven't finished yet.
- 4 I've already done / I have already done
- 5 Have you found a job yet?
- 6 she's just come back / she has just come back

### 7.5

- 2 been
- 3 gone
- 4 gone
- 5 been

## UNIT 8

### 8.1

- 2 Have you ever been to California?
- 3 Have you ever run a marathon?
- 4 Have you ever spoken to a famous person?
- 5 Have you always lived in this town?
- 6 What's the most beautiful place you've ever visited?