



Simple Past Tense

Tutor Annotated Lesson

STEP 1: Assessment

- What do you know about the simple past tense?

Useful Expressions

- How do you say _____ in English?
- Could you repeat, please?
- I don't understand.

STEP 2: Theory

TIP **FORM:** Conjugate the verb “work” in the simple past tense in the chart below.

AFFIRMATIVE		NEGATIVE		YES/NO QUESTION		SHORT ANSWER
I	<i>worked</i>	I	<i>didn't work</i>			
You	<i>worked</i>	You	<i>didn't work</i>	<i>Did</i>	you <i>work</i> ?	Yes, <i>I did</i>
He/She/It	<i>worked</i>	He/She/It	<i>didn't work</i>	<i>Did</i>	he <i>work</i> ?	No, <i>he didn't</i>
We	<i>worked</i>	We	<i>didn't work</i>			
They	<i>worked</i>	They	<i>didn't work</i>	<i>Did</i>	they <i>work</i> ?	No, <i>they didn't</i>

TIP **USE:** When is the simple past used? Which definition below describes the exact use of the simple past tense?

an action that happened at a specific time in the past.

an action that was in progress in the past.

TIP **KEYWORDS:** Keywords tell you what verb tense to use. What keywords are used with simple past tense?

last week, yesterday. two years ago,

in 1981

Important

- Click on “TIP” for more keywords.
- If necessary, ask for a translation.

STEP 3: Controlled and Communicative Exercises

TIP

- Write the irregular simple past form of the verb.

wake *woke*

have *had*

begin *began*

tell *told*

make *made*

be *was* and *were*

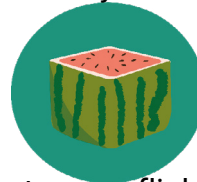
Tutor Note

- Write down the irregular verbs the tutee has trouble with and review as necessary.

TIP

EXERCISE 1: Point out the keyword and fill in the blanks with the simple past tense.
If necessary, click on "TIP" for **Simple Past Tense -Spelling and Punctuation**.

1. In 2018, Hiro (*plan*) *planned* to go on a trip to Japan, but he (*not, go*) *didn't go* because of COVID.
 - Why is the "n" doubled? double the last consonant of one-syllable verbs that in in "consonant - vowel - consonant"
 - Did you know watermelons are square in Japan?
 - Did you ever go to Japan? Would you like to?



Tutor Note

- Don't ask the "why" questions if your tutee's answers are correct.

2. Yesterday, I (*try*) *tried* to book a window seat on my flight to Australia, but there were only aisle seats left.
 - Why is the ending "ied"? change the "y" to "i" and add "ed" when the verb ends in "consonant + Y"
 - Did you have an aisle, middle or window seat the last time you took a plane? Which would you prefer?
 - Did you ever go to Australia? Would you like to?



3. I (go) **went** to India three years ago.

- What kind of verb is “go”?
- Did you know India has a population of about 1.4 billion people?
- Did you ever go to India? Would you like to?

Useful Expression

- What is the past tense of _____?

EXERCISE 2: Answer truthfully with a short answer.

1. Did you go camping last year? **Yes, I did**

2. Were you at home all last summer? **No, I wasn't**

TIP

EXERCISE 3: Make questions to go with the highlighted answers.

1. **who did Jack travel with last year?** ?

Jack travelled in Europe **by himself** last year.

- Did you ever travel by yourself? Would you like to?

2. **Were you at a cottage last summer?** ?

No, I wasn't at a cottage last summer.

- Were you at a cottage last summer?

Note

- **If necessary, click on ‘TIP’ for the *Step-by Step Question Formation Chart.***

STEP 4: Production task

EXERCISE 4: Play *Simple Past Snakes and Ladders*.

You will need a die for this game. If you don't have one, find one on your phone or click on the die.

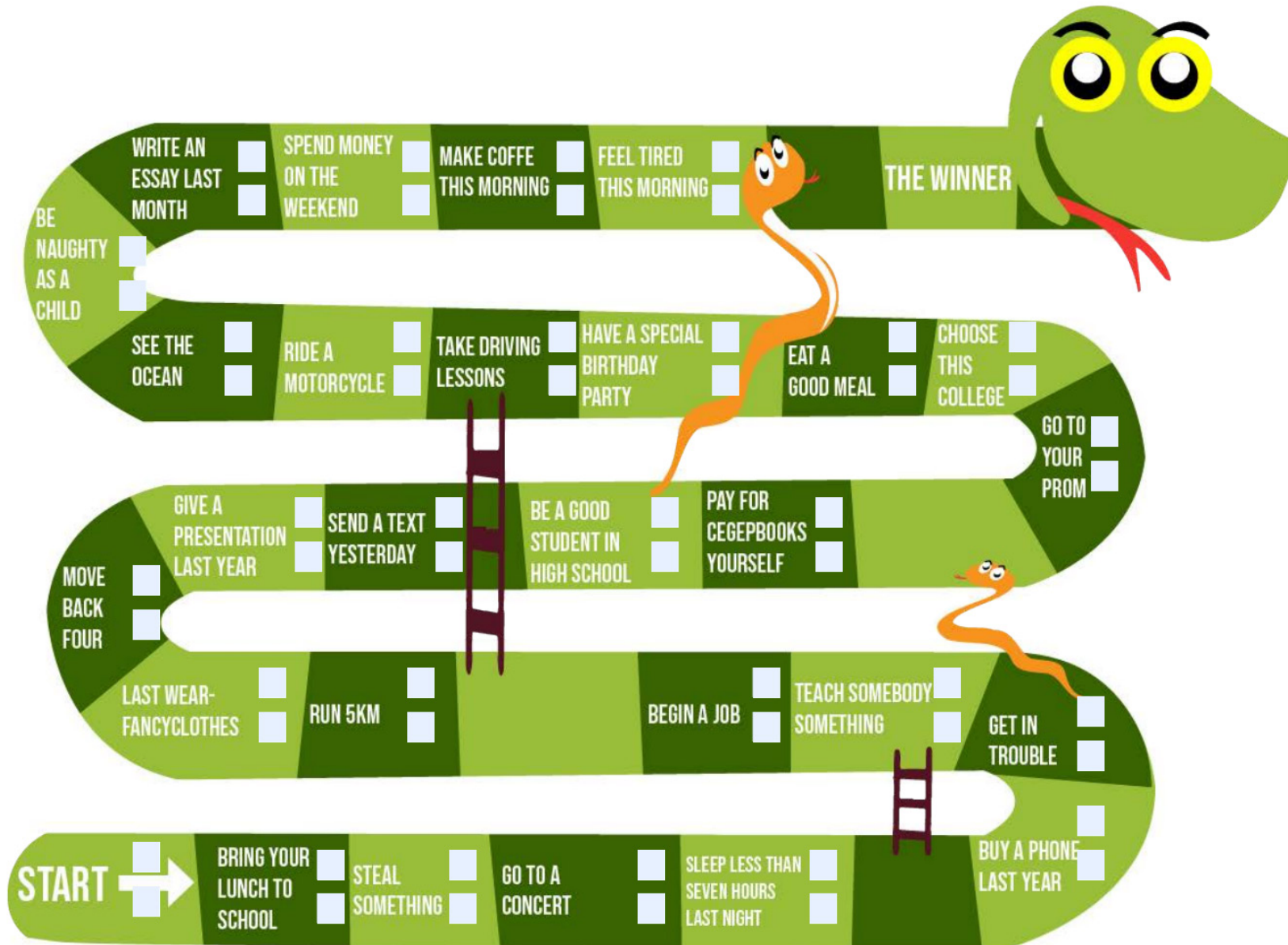


Instructions:

- Roll a die and type your initials in the appropriate square.
- Then, make a true statement about yourself in the simple past tense with the vocabulary provided.
- After, ask your partner a question using the same vocabulary.
- Lastly, find out more details about your partner's answer by asking questions and chatting.
- If you land at the bottom of a ladder, move to the top of it.
- If you land on a snake head, move down to its tail.

Note: If you land on the same square as your partner, you miss a turn.

TUTORING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: SIMPLE PAST TENSE



STEP 5: Final Review

Tutor Note

- Ask, “what is the past tense of the verb” and “how do you say” questions with the new vocabulary the tutee doesn’t mention.

- What past tense forms of irregular verbs did you learn today?
- What other words did you learn today?
- Conjugate the verb “study” **orally** in the simple past tense using the following chart.

AFFIRMATIVE

He *studied*

NEGATIVE

He *didn't study*

YES/NO QUESTION

Did he *study* ?

SHORT ANSWER

No, *he didn't*

- What keywords do you use with the simple past tense?

Important

- Write down the words you learned today and study them.



Verb "be" Past Tense

Tutor Annotated Lesson

STEP 1: Assessment

- What do you know about the verb “be” in the simple past?

Useful Expressions

- How do you say _____ in English?
- Could you repeat, please?
- I don't understand.

STEP 2: Theory

TIP

- Conjugate the verb “be” in the simple past tense in the chart below.

AFFIRMATIVE		NEGATIVE		YES/NO QUESTION		SHORT ANSWER	
I	was	I	wasn't				
You	were	You	weren't	Were	you there ?	Yes,	I was
He/She/It	was	He/She/It	wasn't	Was	he there?	No,	he wasn't
We	were	We	weren't				
They	were	They	weren't	Were	they there?	No,	they weren't

STEP 3: Controlled and Communicative Exercise.

EXERCISE 1: Read the short text and fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in the simple past tense. Then, answer the yes/no questions with short answers (e.g., Yes, I was).

The first country to give women the right to vote (be) *was* New Zealand in 1893. However, women in Canada (have, not) *didn't have* the right to vote in federal elections until 1918 and women in Quebec (be, not) *weren't* able to vote in provincial elections until 1940. As well, Asians (be, not) *weren't* able to vote until 1948. The last people in Canada to be given the right to vote (be) *were* the Inuit in 1950.

1. Were women able to vote in Canada in 1893? *No, they weren't*
2. Was Canada the first country to give women the right to vote? *No, it wasn't*
3. Did you vote in the last federal election? *Yes, I did/No, I didn't*
4. What did you learn about the rights of women to vote from this short paragraph?



Pronunciation of Years

1893 = eightTEEN NINEty-three

1918 = nineTEEN eightTEEN

1948 = nineTEEN FORTy-eight

TUTORING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: VERB "BE" PAST TENSE

EXERCISE 2: Make questions to go with the answers in **bold** and respond to your tutor's prompts. If necessary, click on the "TIP" for the **Step-by- Step Question Formation Chart**.

TIP

1. *Where was your brother last night?*

My brother was **at home** last night.

- Ask me where I was last night.
- Ask me where my mother was last night.
- Where were you last night?

2. *Were her grandparents born in 1940?*

Yes, her grandparents were born in 1940.

- Ask me when I was born.
- Ask me when my father was born.
- Where were you born?

3. *Where did his aunt grow up?*

His aunt grew up in **Toronto**.

- Ask me where I grew up.
- Where did you grow up?

STEP 4: Production Task

EXERCISE 3: Discuss the following questions about when you were a child.

1. What was your favourite toy?
2. What was your favourite TV show?
3. What were you afraid of?
4. Were you an obedient or naughty child?
5. What was your favourite game?

STEP 5: Final Review

- What past tense forms of irregular verbs did you learn today?
- What other words did you learn today?
- Conjugate the verb "be" orally in the simple past tense using the following chart. Pay attention to the subject.

Tutor Note

- Ask, "what is the past tense of the verb..." and "how do you say" questions with the new vocabulary the tutee doesn't mention.

AFFIRMATIVE

NEGATIVE

YES/NO QUESTION

SHORT ANSWER

I **was** You **weren't** **Was** he at school? No, **he wasn't**

Important

- Write down the words you learned today and study them.

TUTORING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Tutorat par les pairs en anglais langue seconde



Tips

Tutor Annotated Lesson



2022

Québec 

STEP 1: Assessment

- What do you know about the simple past tense?

Useful Expressions

- How do you say _____ in English?
- Could you repeat, please?
- I don't understand.

STEP 2: Theory

TIP

Simple Past Tense - Form								
Auxiliary : did				didn't (did not)				
Affirmative		Negative		Yes/No Question		Short Answer		
		base form				base form		
I	worked.	I	didn't	Did	I	No,	I	didn't.
You	worked.	You	didn't	Did	you	Yes,	you	did.
He/She/It	worked.	He	didn't	Did	he	No,	he	didn't.
We	worked.	We	didn't	Did	we	No,	we	didn't.
You	worked.	You	didn't	Did	you	No,	you	didn't.
They	worked.	They	didn't	Did	they	Yes,	they	did.

SHORT ANSWER

I did

he didn't

they didn't

TIP

an action that happened at a specific time in the past.

an action that was in progress in the past.

TIP

KEYWORDS: Keywords tell you what verb tense to use. What keywords are used with simple past tense?

Important

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STEP 1: Assessment

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STEP 2: Theory

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FORM: Conjugate the verb “work” in the simple past tense in the chart below.

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He/She/It	<i>worked</i>	He/She/It	<i>didn't work</i>	<i>Did</i>	he <i>work</i> ?	No, <i>he didn't</i>	
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TIP

Simple Past Tense - Use	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an action that happens at a specific time in the past 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I stayed at home last night.

an action that was in progress in the past.

TIP

KEYWORDS: Keywords tell you what verb tense to use. What keywords are used with simple past tense?

Important

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TIP

USE: When is the simple past used? Which definition below describes the exact use of the simple past tense?

an action that happened at a specific time in the past.



Simple Present Tense – Keywords

last week last year	yesterday two years ago	in 1981
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TIP

Important

- Click on “TIP” for more keywords.
- If necessary, ask for a translation.

STEP 3: Controlled and Communicative Exercises

TIP



Irregular Simple Past Verb Chart

Base Form	Simple Past	Base Form	Simple Past	Base Form	Simple Past
be	was/were	forget	forgot	run	ran
become	became	get	got	say	said
begin	began	give	gave	see	saw
bite	bit	go	went	sell	sold
blow	blew	grow	grew	send	sent
break	broke	have	had	sit	sat
bring	brought	hear	heard	sing	sang
build	built	hide	hid	sleep	slept
buy	bought	hit	hit	slide	slid
catch	caught	held	held	speak	spoke
choose	chose	hurt	hurt	spend	spent
come	came	keep	kept	stand	stood
cost	cost	know	knew	steal	stole
cut	cut	lead	led	swim	swam
do	did	leave	left	take	took
draw	drew	let	let	teach	taught
drink	drank	lose	lost	tell	told
drive	drove	make	made	throw	threw
eat	ate	mean	meant	think	thought
fall	fell	meet	met	understand	understood
feel	felt	pay	paid	wake	woke
fight	fought	put	put	wear	wore
find	found	read	read	win	won
fly	flew	ride	rode	write	wrote

TIP

STEP 3: Controlled and Communicative Exercises

TIP

- Write the irregular simple past form of the verb.

Simple Past Tense Irregular Spelling		
Ending	Example	Rule
• silent <i>e</i>	hope → hoped	• add <i>d</i>
• consonant + <i>y</i>	study → studied	• change the <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> and add <i>ed</i>
• vowel + <i>y</i>	play → played	• add <i>ed</i>
• consonant-vowel consonant (one syllable)	stop → stopped	• double the last letter
• consonant – vowel- consonant (more than one syllable)	refer → referred	• double last letter when the verb ends in a stressed syllable

Note: For verbs the tutee has *v* as necessary.

Note: COVID. "consonant"

Note: additions if your tutee's

Simple Past Pronunciation		
"t"	"d"	"id"
brushed	learned	added
cooked	listened	decided
talked	used	wanted

The past tense suffix *-ed* has three different pronunciations: *t*, *d* and *id*, depending on whether the final sound of the verb is pronounced or not.

seats left.

TIP

Note: The sound should come quite naturally, but French speakers are often inclined to pronounce all *ed* endings as *id*. To help them with pronouncing the *ed* correctly, tell them not to force the *id* sound.

TUTORING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: SIMPLE PAST TENSE



Step-by-Step Question Formation Chart

Step-by-Step Questions

1. Is it an **auxiliary** question or a **be** question? Look at the complete answer to find out.
2. What is the verb tense?
3. Is it a **yes/no** question or an **information** question?
 - Now, use the appropriate chart to help you.

Auxiliary Questions: The main verb in the answer is NOT the verb "be."
(e.g., He **likes** dogs.)

Be Questions: The main verb in the answer is "be."
(e.g., Yes, he **is** at home.)

Auxiliary Questions

Tense	Question	Auxiliary	Subject	Verb	Rest of Sentence
Simple Present		do does		base form (no -s, ed, etc.)	
Present Progressive		am are is		verb-ing	
Simple Past		did		base form	
future		will		base form	
		am is are		going to +base form	
Modals		can could may should must		base form	

TIP

Step

Be Questions

Tense	Question	Verb <i>be</i>	Subject	Rest of Sentence
Simple Present		am are is		
Simple Past		was were		

Be	
Present	Past
I am	I was
You are	You were
She/He/It is	She/He/It was
We are	We were
They are	They were

Do	
I	do
You	do
He/She/It	does
We	do
They	do

STEP 1: Assessment

- What do you know about the verb “be” in the simple past?

Useful Expressions

- How do you say _____ in English?
- Could you repeat, please?
- I don't understand.

STEP 2: Theory

TIP

Verb “be”							
Affirmative		Negative		Yes/No Question		Short Answer	
I	was	I	wasn't	Was	I	No,	you weren't
You	were	You	weren't	Were	you	Yes	I was
He/She/It	was	She	wasn't	Was	she	No,	she wasn't
We	were	We	weren't	Were	we	No,	you weren't
You	were	You	weren't	Were	you	No,	we weren't
They	were	They	weren't	Were	they	Yes,	they were

TUTORING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: VERB "BE" PAST TENSE



Step-by-Step Question Formation Chart

the

TIP

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Simple Past		did		base form	
future		will		base form	
		am is are		going to +base form	
Modals		can could may should must		base form	

Be Questions

Tense	Question	Verb be	Subject	Rest of Sentence
Simple Present		am are is		
Simple Past		was were		

Be	
Present	Past
I am	I was
You are	You were
She/He/It is	She/He/It was
We are	We were
They are	They were

Do	
I	do
You	do
He/She/It	does
We	do
They	do