Unit: 8
The simple past tense

- **Meaning & Use**
- **Form (structure)**
- **Exercise**

Meaning & Use

When do we use the **Simple Past** tense?

■ We use the **Simple Past** to express the idea that an action started and finished at a specific time in the past.

■ What are some common time expressions used with the past tense?

In 1980

last month

last

yesterday

ago

last year

week

Examples:

I <u>saw</u> Maria **yesterday**.

Last Friday, the students <u>took</u> their spelling and vocabulary tests.

They <u>got</u> married **two years ago**.

These actions are over, finished!

How do we form the simple past tense . . .?

English has two types of verbs in the past tense:

- **Regular verbs**
- **Irregular verbs**

Look at the following list of past tense verbs…

which verbs are regular, and which are irregular?

- **taught** — irregular
- **walked** — regular
- **studied** — regular
- **gave** — irregular
- **became** — irregular
- **cried** — regular
- **lived** — regular
- **did** — irregular

Regular verbs are verbs that ....

…end with –ed

Simple Form

Walk

Study

Cry

Live

Past Tense

walked

studied

cried

lived

Irregular verbs are verbs that . . . .

…DON'T end with –ed

some irregular verbs
Have a vowel change in the past tense:

Examples

Simple Form	**Past Tense**
bec**o**me	bec**a**me
g**i**ve	g**a**ve
dr**i**ve	dr**o**ve
forg**e**t	forg**o**t

other irregular verbs
Have a different kind of change:

Examples:

Simple	Past
teach	taught
bring	brought
Leave	left
Hear	heard
Buy	bought

Celia bought a new computer last weekend.

And some irregular verbs
don't change at all . . .

examples:

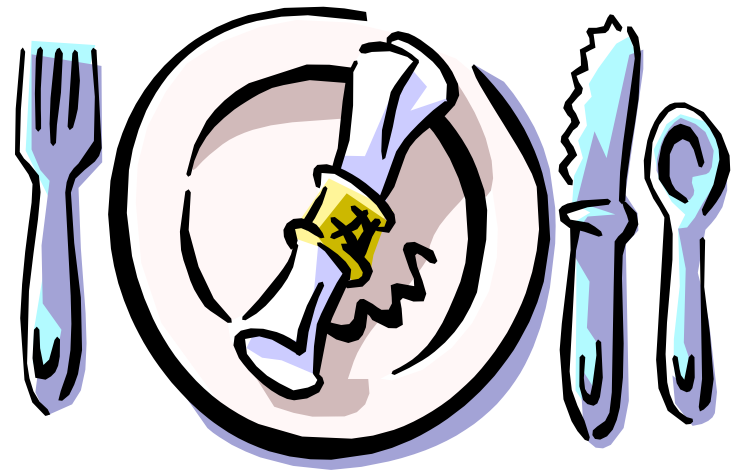| **Simple**	**Past**
hit	hit
put	put
set	set

The children <u>set</u> the table every Sunday.

The children <u>set</u> the table last night.

For **regular** verbs, simply use the **–ed** form of the verb in a positive sentence.

When I was a child, I *played* the piano. **(play)**

Donna *visited* Paris. **(visit)**

**Be careful with spelling changes!

For <u>irregular</u> verbs, use the correct past tense form in positive sentences. *(We use the same form with different subjects .)*

Unfortunately, these forms must be memorized!

Last week, I ___*sent*___ you a letter. **(send)**

The students ___*had*___ an English exam. **(have)** They ___*did*___ a great job! **(do)**

For negative sentences, USE

DiD Not
or
didn't

+

verb,
base
Form
(Infinitive)

I went to work yesterday.

I didn't go to work yesterday.

Exception =
VERB *BE*!

The verb be is special.

Never use DID NOT or DIDN'T with the verb BE. Instead, just use:

Was
or + not
were

For Yes/No questions, USE

$$DiD + subject + \begin{array}{c}verb,\\base\\Form\end{array} (Infinitive)$$

Did you go to work yesterday?

Did you come yesterday?

Put the verbs (between brackets) into the correct form (simple past).

Last year, I *(spend)* __spent__ my holiday in Ireland. It *(be)* __was__ great. I *(travel)* __travelled__ around the city by car with two friends and we *(visit)* __visited__ lots of interesting places. In the evenings, we usually *(go)* __went__ to a café.

We *(be)* __were__ very lucky with the weather. It *(not / rain)* __didn't rain__ a lot. We *(see)* __saw__ some beautiful rainbows.

I *(have)* __had__ an amazing holiday!

Student Practice:

Go to this website with a classmate to practice what you have learned or reviewed today:

http://www.quia.com/quiz/664418.html

Good Luck!!!

Sources:

- http://www.authorstream.com/Presentation/bbogage-11679-simple-past-tense-education-ppt-powerpoint/

- http://www.slideshare.net/LALA28/the-past-simple-ppt-presentation