

Past simple (1) *was/were*

- Form positive sentences in the past like this:

	Positive
I	I was
you	You were
he/she/it	He/She/It was
we	We were
you	You were
they	They were

- There was* + singular :
There was a teacher in the classroom.
- There were* + plural:
There were 10 students in the classroom.
- Form the negative with *not*:

	Negative
I	I wasn't
you	You weren't
he/she/it	He/She/It wasn't.
we	We weren't
you	You weren't
they	They weren't

- To make questions, put the verb first:
You were on holiday. \longrightarrow *Were you on holiday?*
- We normally use short answers:
No, I wasn't on holiday. \longrightarrow *No, I wasn't.*

Past simple (2)

- Use the past simple to talk about finished past actions and events.
- We usually say when something happened: *I started university last year. I didn't meet my friends at the weekend.*
- In positive sentences the verb doesn't change. Form the negative with the auxiliary *didn't*:

Positive	
I you he/she/it we they	started met

Negative	
I you he/she/it we they	didn't start didn't meet

Regular verbs

To form the past simple of regular verbs:

- Most verbs, add *-ed*: start - *started*; finish - *finished*
- Verbs ending in *-e*, add *-d*: die - *died*
- Verbs ending in *-y*, change *-y* to *-ied*: study - *studied*

Irregular verbs

Many common verbs are irregular.

Infinitive	Past simple
be born	was born
come	came
get	got
go	went
have	had
know	knew
make	made
meet	met
read /ri:d/	read /red/
speak	spoke
win	won
write	wrote

Past simple (3) questions

- Form the question with question word + *did* + subject + infinitive:

What	did	I	eat?
When		you	
Where		he/she/it	
How		we	
Which (food)		you	
Why		they	

- For Yes / No questions don't use the question word:

Did	I	eat?
	you	
	he/she/it	
	we	
	you	
	they	