

The simple past tense: regular verbs

We use the **simple past tense** to show action that *took place in the past* and *finished taking place in the past*. When we write a sentence in the simple past tense we change the verb from the present tense to the simple past tense.

We add <i>-ed</i> to some verbs in the past tense.	Example: I climb the tree. → I <u>climbed</u> the tree.
We add <i>-d</i> to some verbs in the past tense.	Example: I move the box. → I <u>moved</u> the box.
We add <i>-t</i> to some verbs in the past tense.	Example: I burn the food. → I <u>burnt</u> the food.

1. Form the simple past tense of the underlined verbs below.

Present tense	Past tense
a) You <u>look</u> for the keys.	You _____ for the keys.
b) She <u>picks</u> the flowers.	She _____ the flowers.
c) He <u>polishes</u> the floor.	He _____ the floor.
d) She <u>likes</u> the movie.	She _____ the movie.
e) I <u>learn</u> the poem.	I _____ the poem.
f) They <u>wash</u> the cloth.	They _____ the cloth.
g) He <u>argues</u> a lot.	He _____ a lot.
h) We <u>leap</u> over the rock.	We _____ over the rock.

2. Choose the correct form of the verb in brackets to create sentences in the simple past tense.

- The dog (chase/chased) _____ the bird.
- The flag (waved/waves) _____ in the breeze.
- The branch (knocks/knocked) _____ against the window.
- The boat (sailed/sails) _____ around the bay.
- I (wrap/wrapped) _____ the presents.
- She (tied/ties) _____ a knot in the rope.
- He (pulls/pulled) _____ the chain.
- The fire (burns/burnt) _____ all night.

The simple past tense: irregular verbs

When we write a sentence in the past tense, we need to change the verb in the sentence. Some past tense verbs are **irregular** and need to be learnt.

Examples: We eat supper at 7 p.m. → We ate supper at 7 p.m.

I see the rainbow → I saw the rainbow.

Cindi runs in the race. → Cindi ran in the race.

Take note of how the irregular verb *to be* changes in the past tense.

I <i>am</i> . → I <i>was</i> .	We <i>are</i> . → We <i>were</i> .
You <i>are</i> . → You <i>were</i> .	You <i>are</i> . → You <i>were</i> .
He/She/It <i>is</i> . → He/She/It <i>was</i> .	They <i>are</i> . → They <i>were</i> .

1. Choose the correct verbs from the margin to create sentences in the simple past tense.

- The mirror (hang) _____ on the wall.
- The ship (sink) _____ at sea.
- The man (ring) _____ the bell.
- I (think) _____ it (is) _____ a good plan.
- She (wear) _____ a red dress.
- Kabelo (throw) _____ the ball and Gita (catch) _____ it.
- He (say) _____ that he (feel) _____ happy.
- We (go) _____ to the party and (have) _____ a good time.

went
thought
caught
hung
had
felt
threw
was
said
rang
sank
wore

2. Read the paragraph below. Replace the verb in brackets with the simple past tense form.

Last night we (go) _____ to the movies. I (wear) _____ my new jeans. Mr father (drive) _____ us to the cinema. We (see) _____ a comedy. I (think) _____ it (is) _____ very funny. Our parents (watch) _____ an action film. Afterwards, we (eat) _____ at a restaurant. We (have) _____ pizza and (drink) _____ cooldrinks.



Turn to the back of this book for a list of *irregular verbs*.