

# Unit 3

## 3.1 Past Simple

### Spelling

- 1 The normal rule is to add *-ed*.

worked started

If the verb ends in *-e*, add *-d*.

lived loved

- 2 If the verb has only one syllable + one vowel + one consonant, double the consonant.

stopped planned

- 3 If the verb ends in a consonant + *-y*, change the *-y* to *-ied*.

studied carried

There are many common irregular verbs. See the list on p143.

### Form

The form of the Past Simple is the same for all persons.

#### Positive

I	finished arrived went	yesterday.
He/She/It		
We		
You		
They		

#### Negative

The negative of the Past Simple is formed with *didn't*.

He walk<sup>ed</sup>.

He <sup>didn't</sup> walk<sup>ed</sup>.

I	didn't (did not)	arrive yesterday.
He/She/It		
We		
You		
They		

#### Question

The question in the Past Simple is formed with *did*.

She finish<sup>ed</sup>.

When <sup>did</sup> she finish<sup>ed</sup>?

When did	she you they etc.	arrive?
----------	----------------------------	---------

#### Short answer

Did you go to work yesterday?	Yes, I did.
Did it rain last night?	No, it didn't.

## Use

- The Past Simple expresses a past action that is now finished.  
We **played** tennis last Sunday.  
I **worked** in London from 1994 to 1999.  
John **left** two minutes ago.
- Notice the time expressions that are used with the Past Simple.

I did it	last year.
	last month.
	five years ago.
	yesterday morning. in 1985.

## 3.2 Past Continuous

### Form

was/were + -ing  
(present participle)

### Positive and negative

I He She It	was wasn't (was not)	working.
We You They	were weren't (were not)	

### Question

What	was	I he she it	doing?
	were	we you they	

### Short answer

Were you working yesterday?	Yes, I was.
Was she studying when you arrived?	No, she wasn't.

## Use

- The Past Continuous expresses a past activity that has duration.  
I met her while I **was living** in Paris.  
You **were making** a lot of noise last night.  
What **were you doing**?
- The activity began *before* the action expressed by the Past Simple.  
She **was making** coffee when we arrived.  
When I phoned Simon he **was having** dinner.
- The Past Continuous expresses an activity in progress *before*, and probably *after*, a time in the past.  
When I woke up this morning, the sun **was shining**.  
What **were you doing** at 8.00 last night?

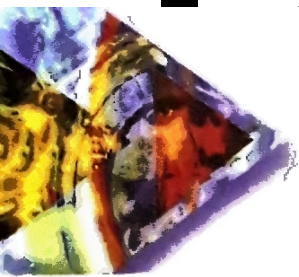
## 3.3 Past Simple and Past Continuous

- The Past Simple expresses past actions as simple facts.  
I **did** my homework last night.  
'What **did you do** yesterday evening?' 'I **watched** TV.'
- The Past Continuous gives past activities time and duration. The activity can be interrupted.  
'What **were you doing** at 8.00?' 'I **was watching** TV.'  
I **was doing** my homework when Jane arrived.
- In stories, the Past Continuous can describe the scene. The Past Simple tells the action.  
It **was** a beautiful day. The sun **was shining** and the birds **were singing**, so we **decided** to go for a picnic. We **put everything** in the car ..
- The questions below refer to different time periods. The Past Continuous asks about activities before, and the Past Simple asks about what happened after.

What were you doing What did you do	when it started to rain?	We were playing tennis. We went home.
--	--------------------------	--

## 3.4 Prepositions in time expressions

at	in	no preposition
at six o'clock at midnight at New Year at the weekend	in the morning/afternoon/evening in December in summer in 1995 in two weeks' time	today yesterday tomorrow the day after tomorrow the day before yesterday last night last week two weeks ago next month yesterday evening tomorrow evening this evening tonight
on		
on Saturday on Monday morning on New Year's Day on January 18		



# 3

## It all went wrong

Past tenses • Word formation • Time expressions

### STARTER



Here are the past tense forms of some irregular verbs. Write the infinitives.

1 were were

4 told told

7 took took

10 could could

2 saw saw

5 said said

8 gave gave

11 made made

3 went went

6 had had

9 got got

12 did did

### THE BURGLARS' FRIEND

Past Simple

1 T 3.1 Read and listen to the newspaper article. Why was Russell the burglars' friend?

# The burglars' friend

IT was 3 o'clock in the morning when four-year-old Russell Brown woke up to go to the toilet.

His parents were fast asleep in bed. But when he heard a noise in the living room and saw a light was on, he went downstairs.

There he found two men. They asked him his name, and told him they were friends of the family.

Unfortunately, Russell believed them. They asked him where the video recorder

## His parents were fast asleep in bed

was. Russell showed them, and said they had a stereo and CD player, too.

The two men carried these to the kitchen. Russell also told them that his mother kept her purse in a drawer in the kitchen, so they took that. Russell even gave them his pocket money - 50p.

They finally left at 4 a.m.

They said, 'Will you open the back door while we take these things to the car, because we don't want to wake Mummy and Daddy, do we?' So Russell held the door open for them. He then went back to bed.

His parents didn't know about the burglary until they got up the next day. His father said, 'I couldn't be angry with Russell because he thought he was doing the right thing.'

Fortunately, the police caught the two burglars last week.



## GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 What tense are nearly all the verbs in the article? Why? How do we form the question and negative?
- 2 Write the Past Simple of these verbs.

a ask asked  
show showed  
want wanted  
walk walked  
start started

b try tried  
carry carried

c like liked  
believe believed  
use used

d stop stopped  
plan planned

**T 3.3** Listen and repeat.

- 3 How is the regular past tense formed?  
How is the past tense formed when the verb ends in a consonant + y?  
When do we double the final consonant?  
There is a list of irregular verbs on p143.

▶▶ Grammar Reference 3.1 p131



# PRACTICE

## Discussing grammar

1 Choose the correct verb form.

- 1 I saw / *was seeing* a very good programme on TV last night.
- 2 While I *shopped* / was shopping this morning, I lost / *was losing* my money. I don't know how.
- 3 Last week the police stopped / *were stopping* Alan in his car because he *drove* / was driving at over eighty miles an hour.
- 4 How did you cut / *were you cutting* your finger?
- 5 I *cooked* / was cooking and I dropped / *was dropping* the knife.
- 6 When I arrived / *was arriving* at the picnic, everyone *had* / was having a good time.

2 Complete the sentences with the verbs in the Past Simple or Past Continuous.

- 1 While I was going (go) to work this morning, I met (meet) an old friend.
- 2 I didn't want (not want) to get up this morning. It was raining (rain) and it was cold, and my bed was so warm.
- 3 I was listening (listen) to the news on the radio when the phone rang (ring).
- 4 But when I picked (pick) up the phone, there was no one there.
- 5 I said (say) hello to the children, but they didn't say anything because they were watching (watch) television.



# VOCABULARY AND PRONUNCIATION

## Noun, verb, and adjective endings

- 1 Look at these sentences from the story of Sherlock Holmes on page 27. Are the underlined words nouns, adjectives or verbs?

He and I examined the room very carefully.

Are they all taking this examination?

Good luck in Africa.

It was such a lucky chance that you were staying in town.

- 2 Look at these noun and adjective endings.

nouns	-ation -sion -ment -ness -ence -ance
adjectives	-y -ly -ous -ful -less

Complete the charts below and mark the stress.

Noun	Verb	Noun	Adjective
<u>explanation</u>	explain	<u>friend</u>	'friendly
<u>invitation</u>	invite	fame	<u>famous</u>
<u>translation</u>	trans'late	'laziness	<u>lazy</u>
<u>decision</u>	<u>decide</u>	<u>patience</u>	'patient
<u>enjoyment</u>	enjoy	<u>happiness</u>	'happy
<u>employment</u>	em'ploy	care	<u>careful</u>
<u>improvement</u>	im'prove	<u>difference</u>	'different
<u>discussion</u>	<u>discuss</u>	help	<u>helpful</u>
<u>organization</u>	'organize	'beauty	<u>beautiful</u>
<u>imagination</u>	i'magine	guilt	<u>guilty</u>
<u>advertisement</u>	'advertise	<u>importance</u>	im'portant
<u>improvement</u>	im'prove	'danger	<u>dangerous</u>

- 3 Complete the sentences with one of the words from exercise 1.

- I asked the teacher for help, but unfortunately, I didn't understand his explanation.
- Please, can you help me translate this into English?
- My English improved a lot after I lived in London for a month.
- Watch out! Be careful or you'll fall.
- There are many differences between my two children. They aren't similar at all.
- Motor racing is a very dangerous sport.
- Didn't you enjoy the film? I thought it was wonderful.
- Thank you for your advice. It was very helpful.
- The United Nations is an international organization.
- We received an invitation to Ted and Sarah's wedding.

**T 3.8** Listen and check.

## Making negatives

- 3 We can make adjectives and verbs negative by using these prefixes.

adjectives	un- im- in- il-
verbs	un- dis-

Complete the sentences, using a word from the box and a prefix.

pack possible agree tidy fair like  
appear employed legal polite



- Don't go into my bedroom. It's really untidy.
- I can't do maths. For me, it's an impossible subject.
- I don't dislike fish. I just prefer meat.
- In England it's very impolite to ask someone how much they earn.
- When we arrived at the hotel, we unpacked our suitcases.
- I was unemployed for two years. Then I got a job in an office.
- 'I think learning languages is stupid.' 'I disagree. I think it's a good idea.'
- The thief stole my bag, ran into the crowd and disappeared. I never saw him again.
- It's illegal to drive if you aren't insured.
- You gave her more money than me! That's unfair!

**T 3.9** Listen and check.