**The Simple Past Tense :**

Before you continue the lesson read the following passage and try to see how the verbs are formed and used.

|  |
| --- |
| Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart **was** an Austrian musician and composer. He **lived** from 1756 to 1791. He **started** composing music at the age of five years old and **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music. He **was** only 35 years old when he **died**.  The verbs "**was**, **lived**,**started**, **wrote**, **died**" are in the simple past tense.  Notice that:   * **lived**, **started**,**died** are regular past forms. * **was, wrote** are irregular past forms. |

**Regular verbs :**

The verbs "**lived, started, died**" are **regular** past forms. The rule is the following:

|  |
| --- |
| **Verb + ed** |

**Examples:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The infinitive** | **The simple past** |
| live | liv**ed** |
| start | start**ed** |
| die | di**ed** |
| visit | visit**ed** |
| play | play**ed** |
| watch | watch**ed** |
| phone | phon**ed** |
| marry | marri**ed** |

**Irregular Verbs :**

The verbs "**was**, **wrote**" are **irregular** past forms. "Was" is the simple past of "to be"; "wrote" is the simple past of "write".

There is no rule for these verbs. You should learn them by heart.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The infinitive** | **The simple past** |
| be | **was/were** |
| write | **wrote** |
| come | **came** |
| do | **did** |
| meet | **met** |
| speak | **spoke** |

**The forms of the simple past :**

**The Affirmative form of the simple past:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I, you, he, she, it, we, they | played. |
| wrote |
| did. |

**Examples:**

* I **played** tennis with my friends yesterday.
* I **finished** lunch and I **did** my homework.

**The interrogative form of the simple past:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Did | I, you, he, she, it, we, they | play? |
| write |
| do? |

**Examples:**

* **Did you play** basketball yesterday?
* **Did you watch** television?
* **Did you do** the homework?

**The negative form of the simple past:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I, you, he, she, it, we, they | did not/didn't | play |
| write |
| do |

* I **didn't like** the food served in the wedding party last Saturday.
* I **didn't ea**t it.

**The use of the simple past :**

The **simple past** is used principally to describe events in the past, but it also has some other uses. Here are the main uses of the simple past.

**Finished events in the past**

* William Shakespeare **wrote** *Hamlet*.
* Christoph Columbus **discovered** America in 1492.
* He **kissed** her and **left.**

**Past habitual action**

* I **visited** them every day for a year.
* I **drove** to work every day when I worked with that company.

**Remember :**

***didn't*** is the short form of ***did not***. You can say either:

* I ***did not* play** basketball, or
* I ***didn't* play** basketball.