

Past simple

1 You use the past simple to talk about things that happened in the past:

I **stayed** in that hotel last week.

He **worked** all night and finally **finished** the project when the secretaries **arrived** in the morning.

2 You also use the past simple to talk about the general past, and about regular actions:

We **lived** in Rome for a year when I was a child.

Our friends often **visited** us there.

3 For most verbs, the past simple form ends in -ed.

Some verbs have an irregular past form:

Can you match these 20 irregular past simple forms and their infinitives?

begin _____	give _____
break _____	go _____
buy _____	have _____
come _____	make _____
do _____	pay _____
drink _____	say _____
drive _____	see _____
eat _____	take _____
find _____	tell _____
get _____	write _____

did saw found came went had told drove paid bought got
 ate broke wrote took

4 For all regular and irregular verbs (except be: see Unit 7), the form is the same for all persons: I/you/he/she/it/we/you/they said.

5 You use did ... + infinitive to form questions in the past:

- Did you **get** home all right?
- Did he **go** out last night?
- Did you **tell** them about the party?
- Who did you **see**?
- Where did you **buy** that hat?
- When did she **arrive**?

6 You use did not (or didn't) + infinitive to form negatives in the past:

I **didn't** understand, so I asked a question.
 He **didn't** give me his address.

