

## 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	yesterday.
He/She/It	arrived	
We	went	
You		
They		

#### Negative

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

He walk<sup>ed</sup>.

He **didn't** walk .

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 **did** she finish .

When did	she you they etc.	arrive?
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#### 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	when it started to rain?	We were playing tennis.
What did you do		We went home.

## 3.4 Prepositions in time expressions

at	in	no preposition
at six o'clock at midnight at Christmas 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 Saturday on Monday morning on Christmas Day on January 18		

in: parts of the day, months, years, and seasons.

on: days and parts of specific days and months.

at: times of days and holidays.