Simple Past Tense

What is Simple Past Tense?

The Simple Past Tense is used to talk about actions that happened in the past—yesterday, last night, last week, last year, etc.

Time Words that Signal Simple Past

Look for these time indicators to identify simple past tense usage:

- yesterday
- last night
- last week
- last month
- last year
- ago

How to Form Simple Past Tense

Regular Verbs

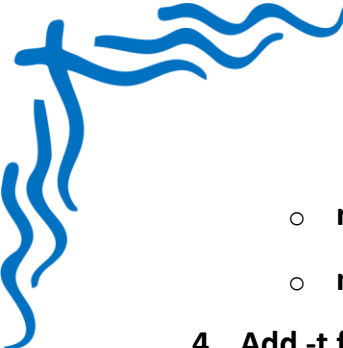1. **Add –d or –ed to the base verb:**
   - **pla**y → played
   - **walk** → walked
   - **smile** → smiled

2. **If verb ends in -y, replace -y with -ied:**
   - **try** → tried
   - **carry** → carried
   - **fry** → fried

3. **Double the final consonant and add -ed (for some short verbs):**
   - **hop** → hopped

- o **rub →** rubbed
- o **mop →** mopped

4. **Add -t for some verbs:**

- o **sleep →** slept
- o **dream →** dreamt
- o **learn →** learnt

Irregular Verbs

Some verbs don't follow regular rules. You must memorize their past forms:

- o **go →** went
- o **do →** did
- o **teach →** taught
- o **see →** saw
- o **buy →** bought
- o **write →** wrote
- o **give →** gave
- o **eat →** ate
- o **drink →** drank

Examples

- ❖ We played a friendly match yesterday.
- ❖ Mother made idles for breakfast.
- ❖ I bought a new dress last Sunday.

Points to Remember

- The verb changes to show that an action already happened.
- Watch out for irregular verbs – they don't follow the typical -ed pattern.
- Use time expressions like "yesterday", "last week", etc., with past tense.
- Practice helps in remembering verb forms better!