Simple Past Tense

Definition

The Simple Past Tense is used to describe:

- Actions that happened in the past
- Events that are completed

Example:

- My father left for Delhi yesterday.

Structure of the Simple Past Tense

Affirmative Sentences

Subject + Verb (Past form) + Object

- We played a friendly match yesterday.
- They went to Delhi last week.

Negative Sentences

Subject + did not + Base form of verb

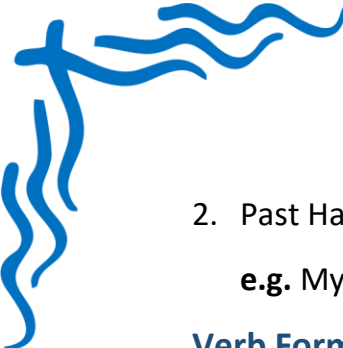- She did not eat her lunch.
- We did not watch TV.

Interrogative Sentences

Did + Subject + Base form of verb + Object?

- Did you go to the zoo?
- Did he call you?

When to Use Simple Past Tense

1. Completed Actions in the Past

   e.g. The teacher taught the student.

2. Past Habits

e.g. My grandfather played badminton with me.

Verb Forms

A verb has three main forms:

- Present
- Past
- Past Participle

Regular Verbs: Add -ed to the base form

- **play** → played
- **cook** → cooked

Irregular Verbs: Change completely or remain the same

- **go** → went
- **write** → wrote
- **see** → saw
- **meet** → met

Examples:

Verb (Present)	Past Tense
play	played
drink	drank
write	wrote
eat	ate
see	saw
teach	taught

Verb (Present)	Past Tense
sing	sang
know	knew

Sample Exercises

Fill in the blanks with Simple Past Tense:

1. The children played with toys.

2. You drank a cup of tea.

3. Ashok wrote a letter to his uncle.

Change to Simple Past Tense:

- **They swim in the pond.** → They swam in the pond.

- **I eat my lunch.** → I ate my lunch.

Grammar Byte
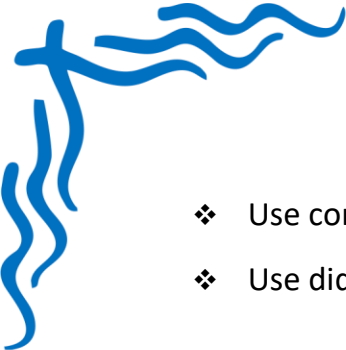
When talking about past habits, we use words like:

- always

- often

- generally

- usually

- every day

- sometimes

Example:

- I usually visited my grandparents during holidays.

Key Points to Remember

- ❖ Simple past is for completed past actions
- ❖ Use -ed for regular verbs

❖ Use correct irregular past forms

❖ Use did + base verb for negatives and questions