Tikrit University

College of Nursing

Basic Nursing Sciences

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English

(Past Simple and Past Continuous   )

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Past Simple

We use the past simple to talk about an action that happened at a particular point in the past. We often use past time expressions (adverbs of time) such as: yesterday, last week, in month (in May)/ in season (in Winter) / in year (in 1999).

-The doctor examined me yesterday.

Positive

Subject + Verb (past) + Complement

I		
You		
We		
They	Slipped	on some ice.
He		
She		
It		

Negative

Subject + (did not (didn't) + infinitive)+ Complement

I		
You		
We		
They	did not break	any bones.
He		
She		
It		

Questions

Did + subject + infinitive+ ?

	I	
	You	
	We	

Did	They	fall?
	He	
	She	
	It	

Short Answers

Yes	I	did.
	You	
	We	
	They	
	He	
	She	
	It	

No	I	did not.
	You	
	We	
	They	
	He	
	She	
	It	

Spelling Rules for Past Simple

Infinitive	Addition	Past simple
Most verbs, e.g. wait	+ -ed	Waited
Verbs ending in -e e.g. arrive	+ -d	Arrived
Verbs ending in consonant + -y e.g. try	-y → -I + -ed	Tried
Verbs ending in vowel + consonant e.g. stop	Double the consonant + -ed	Stopped

If the final consonant is -w, -x, -y e.g. delay		Delayed

Many verbs have an irregular Past Simple form. These include:

Be	Was
Fall	Fell
Break	Broke
Go	Went
Have	Had
Take	Took

Past Continuous

Subject + was/ were + V.(ing) + complement

We use the past continuous to talk about an action that was happening in the background when another event happened. It is often used in a sentence with ***when + past simple.***

For Example:

-He was getting off the bus when he slipped.

We can change the order of the sentence:

-He slipped when he was getting off the bus.
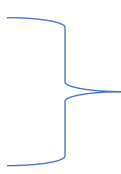
-He was getting off the bus, he slipped.

<u>Positive</u>

You

We   were waiting for the doctor.

They

Negative

Subject + was/ were + not + V.(ing) + complement

I

He   was not (wasn't) working in this hospital.

She

Question

Was / Were + subject + ing form +?

-Were you listening to him?