

# Unit 5

## Past simple (I did)

**A** Study this example:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart **was** an Austrian musician and composer. He **lived** from 1756 to 1791. He **started** composing at the age of five and **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music. He **was** only 35 years old when he **died**.

**Lived/started/wrote/was/died** are all *past simple*.



**B** Very often the past simple ends in **-ed** (*regular verbs*):

- I work in a travel agency now. Before that I **worked** in a department store.
- We **invited** them to our party, but they **decided** not to come.
- The police **stopped** me on my way home last night.
- Laura **passed** her exam because she **studied** very hard.

For spelling (stopped, studied etc.), see **Appendix 6**.

But many verbs are *irregular*. The past simple does **not** end in **-ed**. For example:

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| write → <b>wrote</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Mozart <b>wrote</b> more than 600 pieces of music. |
| see → <b>saw</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> We <b>saw</b> Tanya in town a few days ago.        |
| go → <b>went</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> I <b>went</b> to the cinema three times last week. |
| shut → <b>shut</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> It was cold, so I <b>shut</b> the window.          |

For a list of irregular verbs, see **Appendix 1**.

**C** In questions and negatives we use **did/didn't** + *infinitive* (**enjoy/see/go** etc.):

I she they	<b>enjoyed</b> <b>saw</b> <b>went</b>	<b>did</b>	you she they	<b>enjoy?</b> <b>see?</b> <b>go?</b>	I she they	<b>didn't</b>	<b>enjoy</b> <b>see</b> <b>go</b>
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- A: **Did** you **go** out last night?  
B: Yes, I **went** to the cinema, but I **didn't enjoy** the film much.
- 'When **did** Mr Thomas **die**?' 'About ten years ago.'
- They **didn't invite** us to the party, so we **didn't go**.
- '**Did** you **have** time to do the shopping?' 'No, I **didn't**'

In the following examples, **do** is the main verb in the sentence (**did ... do / didn't do**):

- What **did** you **do** at the weekend? (*not* What did you at the weekend?)
- I **didn't do** anything. (*not* I didn't anything)

**D** The past of **be** (**am/is/are**) is **was/were**:

I/he/she/it	<b>was/wasn't</b>	<b>was</b>	I/he/she/it?
we/you/they	<b>were/weren't</b>	<b>were</b>	we/you/they?

Note that we do not use **did** in negatives and questions with **was/were**:

- I **was** angry because they **were** late.
- Was** the weather good when you **were** on holiday?
- They **weren't** able to come because they **were** so busy.
- Did you go out last night or **were** you too tired?

## 5.1 Read what Laura says about a typical working day:



Laura

I usually get up at 7 o'clock and have a big breakfast. I walk to work, which takes me about half an hour. I start work at 8.45. I never have lunch. I finish work at 5 o'clock. I'm always tired when I get home. I usually cook a meal in the evening. I don't usually go out. I go to bed at about 11 o'clock, and I always sleep well.

Yesterday was a typical working day for Laura. Write what she did or didn't do yesterday.

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 <u>She got up</u> ..... at 7 o'clock. | 7 ..... at 5 o'clock.             |
| 2 She ..... a big breakfast.            | 8 ..... tired when ..... home.    |
| 3 She .....                             | 9 ..... a meal yesterday evening. |
| 4 It ..... to get to work.              | 10 ..... out yesterday evening.   |
| 5 ..... at 8.45.                        | 11 ..... at 11 o'clock.           |
| 6 ..... lunch.                          | 12 ..... well last night.         |

## 5.2 Complete the sentences using the following verbs in the correct form:

**buy catch cost fall hurt sell spend teach throw write**

- Mozart wrote more than 600 pieces of music.
- 'How did you learn to drive?' 'My father ..... me.'
- We couldn't afford to keep our car, so we ..... it.
- Dave ..... down the stairs this morning and ..... his leg.
- Joe ..... the ball to Sue, who ..... it.
- Ann ..... a lot of money yesterday. She ..... a dress which ..... £100.

## 5.3 You ask James about his holiday. Write your questions.

Hi. How are things?

Fine, thanks. I've just had a great holiday.

- Where did you go ?  
To the U.S. We went on a trip from San Francisco to Denver.
- How ..... ? By car?  
Yes, we hired a car in San Francisco.
- It's a long way to drive. How long ..... to get to Denver?  
Two weeks.
- Where ..... ? In hotels?  
Yes, small hotels or motels.
- ..... good?  
Yes, but it was very hot – sometimes too hot.
- ..... the Grand Canyon?  
Of course. It was wonderful.

## 5.4 Complete the sentences. Put the verb into the correct form, positive or negative.

- It was warm, so I took off my coat. (take)
- The film wasn't very good. I didn't enjoy it much. (enjoy)
- I knew Sarah was busy, so I ..... her. (disturb)
- We were very tired, so we ..... the party early. (leave)
- The bed was very uncomfortable. I ..... well. (sleep)
- The window was open and a bird ..... into the room. (fly)
- The hotel wasn't very expensive. It ..... much to stay there. (cost)
- I was in a hurry, so I ..... time to phone you. (have)
- It was hard carrying the bags. They ..... very heavy. (be)