**Lesson on the Past Simple Tense**

**1. What is the Past Simple Tense?**

The **Past Simple tense** is used to describe completed actions or events that happened in the past. These actions are not connected to the present, and we often use specific time markers to indicate when they occurred.

**2. Forms of the Past Simple Tense**

The Past Simple has three forms: **affirmative**, **negative**, and **interrogative**.

**A. Affirmative Form**

**Structure**:  
**Subject + Verb (Past Form)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Subject | Regular Verb: "play" | Irregular Verb: "go" | Example Sentence |
| I/You/We/They | played | went | I played football yesterday. |
| He/She/It | played | went | She went to the park last week. |

**Key Notes**:

* For **regular verbs**, add **-ed** to the base form of the verb (*play → played, work → worked*).
* For **irregular verbs**, the past form varies (*go → went, see → saw, eat → ate*). There’s no fixed rule; these must be memorized.

**B. Negative Form**

**Structure**:  
**Subject + did not (didn’t) + Base Verb**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Subject | Negative Verb | Example Sentence |
| I/You/We/They | didn’t play | We didn’t play football yesterday. |
| He/She/It | didn’t go | He didn’t go to the park last week. |

**Key Notes**:

* Use **did not (didn’t)** with the **base form** of the verb (not the past form).  
  *Example*: *She didn’t eat* (not "She didn’t ate")

**C. Interrogative Form**

**Structure**:  
**Did + Subject + Base Verb?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Question Format | Example Sentence |
| Did + I/you/we/they + verb? | Did you watch the movie yesterday? |
| Did + he/she/it + verb? | Did she visit her grandmother? |

**3. Uses of the Past Simple Tense**

The Past Simple is used in the following contexts:

**A. Completed Actions in the Past**

To describe actions or events that happened and finished in the past.

**Examples**:

* I watched a movie last night.
* They traveled to Paris in 2019.

**Time Expressions Often Used**:

* Yesterday, last night/week/month/year, in 2010, two days ago

**B. A Series of Completed Actions**

To describe a sequence of actions that happened one after another in the past.

**Examples**:

* I woke up, brushed my teeth, and left for work.
* She packed her bag, took a taxi, and caught the train.

**C. Past Habits or Routines**

To describe habits or routines in the past (sometimes used with "used to").

**Examples**:

* I walked to school every day when I was a child.
* He often played video games after school.

**4. Examples in Sentences**

1. **Affirmative**:
   * I visited my grandparents last weekend.
   * They bought a new car last month.
2. **Negative**:
   * She didn’t go to the party last night.
   * We didn’t see the movie on Saturday.
3. **Interrogative**:
   * Did you finish your homework?
   * Did he call you yesterday?

**5. Irregular Verbs in the Past Simple**

Here are some common irregular verbs and their past forms:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Base Form | Past Simple | Example Sentence |
| Go | Went | She went to the store yesterday. |
| See | Saw | I saw a beautiful sunset last evening. |
| Eat | Ate | They ate dinner at 8 p.m. |
| Have | Had | He had a meeting in the morning. |
| Take | Took | We took a taxi to the airport. |

For a full list, it’s helpful to refer to an **irregular verb table** for memorization.

**6. Common Mistakes to Avoid**

1. **Using the Past Form with "did" in negatives or questions**:
   * *Incorrect*: She didn’t **went** to school.
   * *Correct*: She didn’t **go** to school.
2. **Forgetting to change irregular verbs**:
   * *Incorrect*: He **go** to the park yesterday.
   * *Correct*: He **went** to the park yesterday.
3. **Misplacing time expressions**:
   * *Incorrect*: Last night I watch a movie.
   * *Correct*: Last night I **watched** a movie.