

English A2 · Past simple

Elementary English for Chinese speakers; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The closed door

The past simple reports finished events with the door closed behind them — and this time every person shares one form.

The -ed dances

Verb ending	The dance	Example
most verbs	add -ed	work → worked
ends in -e	add -d	like → liked
consonant + y	y → ied	study → studied
short vowel + consonant	double it	stop → stopped

Use the evidence

Short verbs panic again: stopped, planned. Calm ones don't: rained.

The rebels

Base	Past	Base	Past
go	went	eat	ate
see	saw	buy	bought
have	had	take	took
come	came	write	wrote
is / am	was	are	were

Use the evidence

There is no rule; there is a list. Ten a week and the list runs out in a month.

did eats the past

- 1 **Statement** You watched the film.
- 2 **Hire the helper** did arrives — and eats the past.
- 3 **Question** Did you watch the film?
- 4 **The rule** After did/didn't, the verb returns to base form.

Decision

Never Did you went — did already ate it.

Your turn: the helper's appetite

Your turn

Which question is correct?

- A. Did you went home?
- B. Did you go home?
- C. Did you were tired?
- D. You did go home?

is not the past simple

Chinese: completion

— le marks the action complete.

The verb itself never changes.

English: time

I watched a film yesterday. — the verb carries the past.

I walk to school yesterday is impossible: the verb must change.

Your turn: which door

Your turn

I ____ breakfast at seven this morning. (It is now evening.)

- A. eat
- B. ate
- C. have eaten
- D. am eating

Say it aloud

Start a true story: I woke up late.



Add motion: I ran to the bus stop. The bus left without me.



Add philosophy: The bus always knows.



Interview: What did you eat for dinner? Tell the truth.

Check yourself

- I watched a film yesterday — regular verb, closed door.
- She went to Beijing last week — a rebel; the list, not the rule.
- Did you see the game? — did eats the past.
- They were happy — be needs no helper, even in the past.