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GRAMMAR STRUCTURE OF THE SIMPLE PAST TENSE

Presenta:

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USE

We use the past simple

- For actions which happened or finished in the past. The time is either started or implied.

EXAMPLES

He **made** a cake last night. (When? Last night. The time is started).

They **went** to Lisbon on Saturday. (When? On Saturday).

They **travelled** by plane. (When? The time is implied. They travelled on Saturday).

TIME EXPRESSIONS

We use the past simple with these **time expressions**:

Yesterday, last week, last month, last year, two days/ weeks/ months/ years ago, in 1957, etc.

SPELLING

- We form the past simple of most **regular verbs** by adding **-ed** to the main verb.
I play-I **played**, I work-I **worked**
- We add **-d** to verbs ending in consonant **-y**, we drop the **-y** and add **-ied**.
I tidy-I **tidied**, I carry-I **carried**
- For verbs ending in a stressed vowel between two consonants, we double the last consonant and add **-ed**, stop-**stopped**

FORM

- We form questions with the auxiliary verb **did** + **the subject pronoun**+ **the base form of the verb**.

Did he tidy his room yesterday?

- We form negations with **did not/ didn't** + **the base form of the verb**.

He didn't tidy his room yesterday.

- Some verbs have **irregular affirmative past forms**.

I give- I **gave**, I go-I **went**.

By Virginia Evans-Neil O'Sullivan

Click On 1 Workbook and Grammar Book, Virginia Evans-Neil O'Sullivan (2004)