39 Simple Past Tense of Regular Verbs

**EXAMPLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BASE FORM</th>
<th>PAST FORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dream</td>
<td>dreamed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>start</td>
<td>started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>invent</td>
<td>invented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXPLANATION**

For regular verbs, the simple past tense ends in -ed.

**LANGUAGE NOTES:**

1. The past form is the same for all persons.
2. The verb after to does not use the past form.
   - The Wright Brothers wanted to fly.
3. Spelling of the past tense of regular verbs:
   a. Add -ed or -d to most regular verbs: start → started  live → lived.
   b. When the base ends in consonant + y, change y to i and add -ed: carry → carried.
   c. When the base ends in vowel + y, do not change the y: stay → stayed.
   d. When a one-syllable verb ends in a C-V-C, double the final consonant + -ed:
      - stop → stopped  hug → hugged.
   e. Do not double final w or x: fix → fixed  show → showed.
   f. When a two-syllable verb ends in a C-V-C, double the final consonant and add -ed:
      - only if the last syllable is stressed: permit → permitted.
   g. When the last syllable of a two-syllable verb is not stressed, do not double the final consonant: open → opened.

**EXERCISE 1** Rewrite the sentences below, changing the verbs to the simple-past-tense verbs.

**Example:** I need a ticket.  *I needed a ticket.*

1. I live in a small house.  
2. We need money.  
3. He starts school on Monday.  
4. They offer me a ride.  
5. Chris fixes my computer.  
6. The tree moves in the wind.  
7. The automatic doors will open.  
8. Joanna looks out the window.  
9. The cat cries at the door.  
10. We open the presents.  
11. She types her compositions.  
12. We watch TV all day.
13. They drop the dishes. ____________________________
14. The boys play soccer. ____________________________
15. He permits games in class. ________________________
16. The teacher wants us to do well. _________________
17. They paint pictures. _____________________________
18. We travel to Tokyo. ______________________________

**Exercise 2** Write each sentence in the simple past tense.

Example: He (marry) _______________ his sweetheart.

1. The doctor (treat) _______________ her patients well.
2. We (try) _______________ to listen to the instructions.
3. The girls (study) _______________ their piano lessons.
4. The bus (arrive) _______________ on time yesterday.
5. The landlord (rent) _______________ the apartment last week.
6. Your friend (phone) _______________ to say hello.
7. I (stop) _______________ typing my composition two hours ago.
8. The woman (cancel) _______________ her dentist appointment five minutes ago.

**Exercise 3** Write six sentences about your childhood using the simple past tense. Use the verbs in the box.

Example: I played with dolls.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>play</th>
<th>like</th>
<th>climb</th>
<th>enjoy</th>
<th>learn</th>
<th>start</th>
<th>want</th>
<th>need</th>
<th>live</th>
<th>move</th>
<th>watch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pretend</td>
<td>stay</td>
<td>jump</td>
<td>love</td>
<td>hate</td>
<td>use</td>
<td>decide</td>
<td>attend</td>
<td>visit</td>
<td>collect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. _______________________________________________________
2. _______________________________________________________
3. _______________________________________________________
4. _______________________________________________________
5. _______________________________________________________
6. _______________________________________________________

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