

Unit 21: PAST SIMPLE

This formation means 'not here and not now'. Something happened at a definite past time. Now it is finished.

1 Formation

a AFFIRMATIVE (past form)

EXAMPLES: I **washed** before breakfast.
They **arrived** twenty minutes ago.

NOTICE: Many important verbs do not have an **-ed** past form. For example:

Brazil **won** the match. [past of **win**]
We **saw** her yesterday. [past of **see**]

They are irregular. Look at Appendices 10 and 11.

b QUESTIONS AND NEGATIVES (**did** + base form)

EXAMPLES: When **did** they **arrive**?
They **did** not **arrive** until four o'clock.
He **didn't** **wash** the car yesterday.

NOTICE: Do not use **did** for a subject question. (Unit 10)

2 Use

a PAST STATES AND HABITS

EXAMPLES: He **lived** in Rome for eight years. [but not now]
Shakespeare **worked** in London all his life. [he is dead now]

b PAST EVENTS AT A DEFINITE TIME OR PLACE

EXAMPLES: **Did** you **have** a good time on holiday?
Shakespeare **died** in his home town of Stratford.

c IMAGINING (Unit 86.2)

EXAMPLES: I wish I **had** a lot of money. If I **did**, I'd travel all over the world.

d POLITE REQUESTS AND SUGGESTIONS

EXAMPLES: I **thought** we could go to the cinema together.

NOTICE: Past simple or past continuous or present perfect? (Unit 40)