

Le past simple anglais

Le past simple est aussi appelé prétérit. Aucune différence donc, il s'agit de la même chose. En français, past simple signifie 'passé simple'. Ça devrait être assez facile alors...

C'est vraiment un temps essentiel à connaître, donc ouvrez bien les yeux:

1/ A quoi sert le past simple en anglais ?

Le *past simple* sert à décrire une action, ou raconter un événement qui s'est passé avant le moment où on parle et qui est désormais terminé.

Regardez bien, les phrases suivantes utilisent toutes le past simple:

- *I went to the cinema yesterday* = Hier, je suis allé au cinéma.
- *She saw her mother last week* = Elle a vu sa mère la semaine dernière.
- *He was in Paris last year* = Il était à Paris l'an dernier.
- *Where did you go ?* = Où es-tu allé ?
- *I didn't like the movie* = Je n'ai pas aimé le film.
- *They worked together for two years* = Ils ont travaillé ensemble pendant deux ans.

Si on veut le traduire en français on peut utiliser aussi bien le passé simple, le passé composé ou l'imparfait:

'*They waited for two hours*' peut se traduire par:

- *Ils attendirent pendant deux heures.*
- *Ils attendaient...*
- *Ils ont attendus...*

2/ Formation du past simple en anglais:

- **Phrase affirmative** => sujet + Base verbale + ed (ou un **verbe irrégulier**)
- **Phrase négative** => sujet + **didn't** + verbe à l'infinitif (go, buy, work...)
- **Phrase interrogative** => **Did** + sujet + verbe à l'infinitif (go, buy, work...)

	Affirmative	Négative	Question
I / you / we / they	I played	I didn't (= did not) play	Did I play ?
he / she / it	He played	He didn't (= did not) play	Did he play ?

Exemples:

- *You played tennis.*
- *Did you play tennis ?*
- *You didn't (= did not) play tennis.*
- *She went to the supermarket.*
- *Did she go to the supermarket ?*
- *She didn't go to the supermarket.*
- *Did you pay for your train ticket ?*
- (+) *Yes, I paid for my train ticket. (ou= Yes, I did.)*
- (-) *No, I didn't pay for my train ticket. (ou= No, I didn't.)*

Pour une phrase interro-négative, on remplace **did** par **didn't**:

- *Didn't they have enough money to buy it ? => N'ont-ils pas eu assez d'argent pour l'acheter ?*

Au past simple, les **verbes réguliers** se terminent en -ed:

- *She waited for them at the train station.*

- *He finished work late last Friday.*
- *They decided to go to the cinema last night.*
- *They played baseball yesterday.*
- *I lived in London two years ago.*

Il y a aussi beaucoup de **verbes irréguliers** au past simple ! Ils ne terminent pas en -ed:

- *I went to the pub last night.*
- *He saw his girlfriend a few days ago.*
- *They said they met him at the club.*
- *She bought this hat last week.*

Il faut apprendre les verbes irréguliers par coeur car on ne peut pas les inventer ([cliquez-ici](#) pour la liste complète).

Attention, plusieurs verbes ne changent pas au past simple ([liste complète ici](#)):

- *I cuted faux*
- *I cut ok*
- *it costed faux*
- *it cost ok*
- *He leted faux*
- *He let ok*
- *She puted faux*
- *She put ok*
- *We quited faux*
- *We quit ok*

'read' ne change pas non plus au past simple à l'écrit, mais il se prononce 'red' à l'oral (comme la couleur !):

'He read a book last week' dans un texte se prononce à l'oral 'He red a book...'

A la forme interrogative, on peut aussi utiliser *when, why, who, what...*

- *When did you work at the bar ? I worked at the bar last week.*
- *Why did she go to the train station ? She went to the train station to say goodbye to her parents.*
- *Who did they meet at the club last night ? They met Tom with his girlfriend.*

'Do' peut aussi être le verbe principal dans la phrase:

- *What did you do last week ?*
- *I didn't do that !*

3/ Le verbe être (to be) au past simple:

Be devient **was / were**.

	Affirmative	Négative	Question
I / he / she / it	I was	I was not (= wasn't)	was I ?
we / you / they	you were	you were not (= weren't)	were you ?

exemples

- *I was tired last night.*
- *Were you tired last night ?*
- *He wasn't tired last night.*
- *How was the test ? It wasn't difficult at all !*

Attention, si on utilise was / were dans une phrase interrogative ou négative, il ne faut pas mettre did !

- *Did you were sick last night ? FAUX*
- *Were you sick last night ? OK*

4/ Le verbe avoir (to have) au past simple:

Have devient **Had** à toutes les personnes:

	Affirmative	Négative	Question
I / you / he / she / it / we / you / they	I had	I didn't have	Did I have ?

- He had a new car for his birthday.
- They had plenty of time to do it.
- They didn't have enough time to go there.
- Did you have enough money?
- How many beer did you have ?
-

A la forme négative et interrogative, il faut utiliser **have** (et pas *had* ou *has*)

- He didn't had his keys **FAUX**
- He didn't have his keys **OK**
- Did she has a baby ? **FAUX**
- Did she have a baby ? **OK**

5/ A savoir

Dans les questions et phrases négatives, attention à bien mettre l'**infinitif** après did / didn't !!!

- I didn't eat it **OK**
- I didn't ate it **FAUX**
- I didn't do it **OK**
- I didn't did it **FAUX**
- I didn't push him **OK**
- I didn't pushed him **FAUX**
- He didn't steal your money **OK**
- He didn't stole your money **FAUX**
- Did you see her ? **OK**
- Did you saw her ? **FAUX**
- Did she go there ? **OK**
- Did she went there ? **FAUX**

Dans beaucoup d'exemples de cette leçon vous aurez remarqué qu'il y a une *indication temporelle* (date ou durée):

before / last week end / last night / last friday / yesterday / before yesterday / a few days ago / two years ago / three month ago / for one year / for four months ...

Elle n'est pas forcément obligatoire:

- I enjoyed the show.
- He prefered that movie.
- She waited at the bus stop.
- We loved it !

On peut utiliser le past simple pour parler d'habitudes, de goûts ou de routines dans le passé:

- When I was a kid, I loved pizzas.
- He smoked cigarettes when he was young.
- I ran every day when I was in High School.