



7C past simple: irregular verbs

Remember to use *did* / *didn't* in past simple questions and negatives.

¿A dónde fuiste anoche? = Where did you go last night? NOT ~~Where you went last night?~~

No tuvimos tiempo. = We didn't have time. NOT ~~We not had time.~~

Use the infinitive (not past simple) after *did* / *didn't*.

¿A dónde fuiste ayer? = Where did you go yesterday? NOT ~~Where did you went yesterday?~~

¿Con quién hablaste? = Who did you speak to? NOT ~~Who did you spoke to?~~

No hablé con nadie. = I didn't speak to anybody. NOT ~~I didn't spoke to anybody.~~

English has the past simple. Spanish has the *pretérito indefinido* and the *pretérito imperfecto*.

¿A qué colegio fuiste el año pasado? = What school did you go to last year?

¿A dónde fuiste ayer? = Where did you go yesterday?

Cuando llegó a casa, yo estaba en la cocina. = When he arrived home, I was in the kitchen.

Estaba en París cuando me llamaste. = I was in Paris when you called me.

Don't confuse *be* and *go* in the past simple.

Fui feliz de niño. = I was happy as a child.

Ayer fui a Madrid. = I went to Madrid yesterday. NOT ~~I was to Madrid yesterday.~~

Siempre fueron amables. = They were always kind.

¿A dónde fueron de vacaciones? = Where did they go for their holidays? NOT ~~Where were they for their holidays?~~

PRONUNCIATION

The vowel sound in these irregular past simples is the same, /ɔ:/.

bought /bɔ:t/

brought /brɔ:t/

caught /kɔ:t/

taught /tɔ:t/

thought /θɔ:t/

The '-gh' is always silent.

The 'o' is pronounced in the same way in these irregular past simples, /ɔ:/.

broke /brɔ:k/

chose /tʃɔ:z/

drove /drɔ:v/

spoke /spɔ:k/

wrote /rɔ:t/

The final '-e' is always silent.





7A past simple of *be*: *was* / *were*

Remember that both *ser* and *estar* = *to be*.

Somos españoles.

= We are Spanish.

Estamos en casa.

= We are at home.

This is also true in the past simple.

Fui feliz en Nueva York.

= I was happy in New York.

Su casa estaba enfrente de la nuestra.

= Their house was opposite ours.

Las películas de Fernando Rey eran muy populares.

= Fernando Rey's films were very popular.

¿Dónde estuviste anoche?

= Where were you last night?

Remember to use the verb *be* with *born*.

Nací en Zamora.

= I was born in Zamora. NOT ~~I born in Zamora.~~



PRONUNCIATION

The auxiliary verbs *was* and *were* are not normally stressed and have a 'weak' pronunciation.

was /wəz/ *were* /wə(r)/

Be careful with the stressed words in sentences with the past of *be*.

He *was* /wəz/ a great actor.

We *were* /wə/ too late.

I *was* /wəz/ born in Glasgow.





7B past simple: regular verbs

The past simple is for finished actions in the past. We usually say *when the action happened*.

Le llamé hace una hora.

= I called him an hour ago.

Anoche me quedé en casa.

= I stayed at home last night.

Jugamos al tenis el fin de semana pasado.

= We played tennis last weekend.

No marcharon hasta la medianoche.

= They didn't leave until midnight.

Remember to use *did* and *didn't* in the past simple of questions and negatives.

¿Trabajaste ayer?

= Did you work yesterday?

No llegaron hasta las once.

= They didn't arrive until eleven.

PRONUNCIATION

Be careful with the pronunciation of the '-ed' of regular verbs in the past simple. It is never pronounced /ed/.

For infinitives ending in the sounds /s/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/, /k/, /p/ and /tʃ/, the '-ed' is pronounced /t/.

dance danced

finish finished

laugh laughed

park parked

stop stopped

watch watched

For infinitives ending in the sounds /l/, /m/, /v/, /n/ or any vowel sound, the '-ed' is pronounced /d/.

arrive arrived

climb climbed

call called

open opened

stay stayed

study studied

For infinitives ending in the sounds /t/ or /d/, the '-ed' is pronounced /ɪd/.

decide decided

land landed

need needed

start started

wait waited

want wanted

