

Lesson Plan: PAST SIMPLE

Level: Advanced Low (ACTFL scale)

Context: IEP, 15 Adult ESL students, technology enriched classroom

Topic: Past Simple Tense

Duration: 50 minutes

Prerequisites: Students should already be familiar with:

- Basic verb tenses (Present Simple, Present Continuous, Present Perfect).
- Common time expressions (e.g., yesterday, last week).
- Regular and irregular verbs (basic understanding).

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Identify and use the Past Simple tense in affirmative, negative, and interrogative forms.
2. Understand when to use the Past Simple for completed actions and time-specific events in the past.
3. Accurately produce Past Simple sentences in creative, meaningful contexts.

1. Presentation (Homework Pre-Activity)

Material: A short level-appropriate story titled “The Lucky Day” featuring multiple examples of Past Simple.

Homework Instructions (30 minutes):

1. **Read the story** and highlight all the verbs in bold.
2. **Classify verbs:** In a provided chart, list verbs as regular or irregular.
3. **Answer comprehension questions** about the story to ensure understanding of meaning.
 - o Example: Why did Anna decide to buy lunch for Sarah?

2. Warm-Up (5 minutes)

Activity: Verb Race

1. Write a mix of regular and irregular verbs on the board (e.g., go, work, play, eat).
 2. Divide students into two teams. One student from each team races to the board to write the past tense form of a verb.
 3. Award points for correct answers.
 4. Briefly review irregular forms as needed.
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3. Attention (5 minutes)

Objective: Highlight the Past Simple tense and its use.

1. Project two sentences from the story:
 - Last Friday, Anna **found** a \$20 bill.
 - She **picked** it up and **looked** around.
 2. Ask students:
 - What do you notice about the verbs? (They describe completed actions in the past.)
 - Which words indicate the actions happened in the past? (e.g., "Last Friday.")
 3. Circle verbs and time expressions. Introduce the term "Past Simple tense."
 4. Briefly explain the structure:
 - Regular verbs: Base form + -ed (e.g., pick → picked).
 - Irregular verbs: No fixed rule (memorized forms, e.g., find → found).
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4. Co-Construction (15 minutes)

Guiding Questions:

1. How do we form the Past Simple for regular verbs? (Write examples: work → worked, play → played.)
2. What about irregular verbs? (Provide examples: go → went, eat → ate.)
3. How do we form negatives in the Past Simple? (Anna didn't buy anything. Use "did not" + base verb.)
4. How do we ask yes/no questions? (Did Anna buy anything? Use "did" + subject + base verb.)
5. What are some time expressions we often use with the Past Simple? (e.g., yesterday, last week, in 2020.)
6. When do we use the Past Simple instead of Present Perfect? (For completed actions at a specific time.)

Write the collaboratively constructed rules on the board for reference.

1. To form the Past Simple for regular verbs, add -ed to the base verb (e.g., work → worked, play → played). For verbs ending in -e, add only -d (e.g., love → loved), and for verbs ending in a consonant + y, change y to i and add -ed (e.g., study → studied).
 2. Irregular verbs do not follow a set pattern and must be memorized (e.g., go → went, eat → ate).
 3. To form negatives in the Past Simple, use did not (or didn't) + the base verb (e.g., Anna didn't buy anything).
 4. To form yes/no questions, use Did + subject + base verb (e.g., Did Anna buy anything?).
 5. Common time expressions with the Past Simple include yesterday, last week/month/year, two days ago, and in 2020.
 6. The Past Simple is used for actions that are completed at a specific time in the past, such as : I visited Paris in 2019 or She finished her homework last night.
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5. Extension (20 minutes)

Activity 1: Sentence Reconstruction (10 minutes)

- Distribute slips of paper with mixed-up sentences from the story (e.g., found / a \$20 bill / Anna / last Friday).
- Students work in pairs to reconstruct the sentences using the Past Simple.

Activity 2: Personal Story Sharing (10 minutes)

1. Students pair up and share a story about a time something surprising happened to them (3-4 sentences).
 2. They should include at least three Past Simple verbs.
 3. Partners then share each other's stories with the class.
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6. Homework (30 minutes)

1. Give students printed grammar worksheets to fill out. See the worksheet below.
 2. Tell students to write a short paragraph (8-10 sentences) about a memorable event from their past. Use at least 10 Past Simple verbs.
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7. Post-it lesson Plan

- Warm-up: verb race game, review homework
 - Present: Past Simple theory
 - Class Discussion: co-construction of the rules
 - Sentence reconstruction activity
 - Speaking practice: past simple story sharing
 - Homework assignment
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Materials Provided:

1. Story (*The Lucky Day*) with comprehension questions and verb chart.
2. List of regular and irregular verbs for warm-up.
3. Sentence slips for reconstruction activity.
4. Grammar worksheet for homework.

1. The Lucky Day

Last Friday, Anna found a \$20 bill on her way to work. She picked it up and looked around, but no one seemed to notice. Feeling a little guilty, she decided to wait for a few minutes to see if anyone came back to look for it. After ten minutes, no one appeared, so she tucked the bill into her pocket and continued walking.

At lunchtime, Anna told her friend Sarah about the money. Sarah joked, “Maybe it’s your lucky day!” Anna smiled and decided to do something kind. She bought lunch for Sarah and herself, using part of the money she had found.

Later that evening, as Anna walked home, she saw a man sitting on the sidewalk with a sign that read, “*Hungry and need help.*” She felt a tug in her heart and handed him the rest of the money. The man looked up, smiled, and said, “Thank you, ma’am. God bless you.”

That night, Anna went to bed feeling happy. She thought, “Maybe it wasn’t just my lucky day—it was his lucky day, too.”

24. Hold → Held
25. Know → Knew

2. Common Verbs: Irregular and Regular

Irregular Verbs (25 Examples)

1. Be → Was/Were
2. Become → Became
3. Begin → Began
4. Break → Broke
5. Bring → Brought
6. Build → Built
7. Buy → Bought
8. Catch → Caught
9. Choose → Chose
10. Come → Came
11. Do → Did
12. Drink → Drank
13. Drive → Drove
14. Eat → Ate
15. Fall → Fell
16. Feel → Felt
17. Find → Found
18. Forget → Forgot
19. Get → Got
20. Give → Gave
21. Go → Went
22. Have → Had
23. Hear → Heard

Regular Verbs (25 Examples)

1. Accept → Accepted
2. Add → Added
3. Allow → Allowed
4. Arrive → Arrived
5. Ask → Asked
6. Call → Called
7. Clean → Cleaned
8. Close → Closed
9. Cook → Cooked
10. Dance → Danced
11. Describe → Described
12. Enjoy → Enjoyed
13. Finish → Finished
14. Fix → Fixed
15. Help → Helped
16. Jump → Jumped
17. Learn → Learned
18. Listen → Listened
19. Look → Looked
20. Open → Opened
21. Paint → Painted
22. Play → Played
23. Start → Started
24. Talk → Talked
25. Work → Worked

3. Sentence Slips for Reconstruction Activity

1. found / \$20 bill / a / Anna / last Friday.
2. went / yesterday / to the park / we.
3. bought / Sarah / lunch / Anna / for.
4. finished / my homework / I / late last night.
5. took / train / this morning / the / they.
6. didn't / the movie / enjoy / she.
7. wrote / a letter / yesterday / he.
8. made / her favorite dessert / mom / last weekend.
9. saw / beautiful sunset / we / at the beach.
10. decided / to help / Anna / the man.
11. played / soccer / after school / the children.
12. cooked / dinner / for the family / dad.
13. visited / last summer / my grandparents / we.
14. didn't / the meeting / attend / they.

15. broke / her phone / by accident / she.

4. Grammar Worksheet: Past Simple Tense

Part 1: Convert to Past Simple (10 sentences)

Convert the following present tense sentences into the Past Simple.

1. She walks to school every day.
2. They eat lunch at noon.
3. We go to the park on weekends.
4. He writes letters to his family.
5. I see my friend at the library.
6. The children play soccer in the afternoon.
7. The teacher explains the lesson clearly.
8. They buy groceries on Saturdays.
9. She talks to her boss about the project.
10. We visit the museum on holidays.

Part 2: Form Questions (5 prompts)

Write a Past Simple yes/no question based on the prompts.

1. you / watch / a movie / last night?
2. she / finish / her homework / on time?
3. they / travel / to another country / last summer?
4. he / cook / dinner / yesterday?
5. we / study / for the test / last weekend?

Part 3: Fill in the Blanks (5 sentences)

Complete each sentence using the correct Past Simple form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Anna _____ (find) a \$20 bill on the street.
2. They _____ (not go) to the park because it rained.
3. I _____ (see) a beautiful sunset at the beach.
4. The students _____ (finish) their project before the deadline.
5. He _____ (bring) a gift to the party.

Part 4: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Yesterday, I _____ (visit) my grandparents.
2. Sarah _____ (not/go) to school last Monday.
3. They _____ (watch) a movie last night.
4. My brother _____ (study) for his exam all evening.
5. We _____ (not/see) the new exhibition at the museum.
6. _____ you _____ (call) your friend yesterday?

7. The train _____ (arrive) at 6:30 PM.
8. John _____ (not/play) football because it rained.
9. The children _____ (eat) all the cookies.
10. Where _____ you _____ (spend) your summer vacation?

Part 5: Rewrite the sentences in the negative form.

1. I walked to school this morning.
➡ _____
2. She finished her homework on time.
➡ _____
3. They visited New York last year.
➡ _____
4. We cooked dinner together.
➡ _____
5. He studied French in college.
➡ _____

Part 6: Write questions in the past simple tense.

1. _____ (she/buy) a new car last week?
2. Where _____ (you/go) on your last holiday?
3. What time _____ (the train/leave)?
4. _____ (he/work) at the office yesterday?
5. Why _____ (they/not/come) to the party?