Il passato

Past simple: to be e to have (got)

Forma affermativa (to be)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>presente</th>
<th>passato</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am</td>
<td>I was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are</td>
<td>You were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He is</td>
<td>He was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She is</td>
<td>She was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is</td>
<td>It was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are</td>
<td>We were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are</td>
<td>You were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are</td>
<td>They were</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Il Past simple indica un’azione iniziata e conclusa nel passato, anche nel passato recente.
- Corrisponde al passato prossimo, al passato remoto e all’imperfetto.

When was Tom born?   Quando è nato Tom?
He was born in 2000.   È nato nel 2000.

... Our fridge was full yesterday!

Sorry, I was hungry!
Il passato

### Forma negativa (to be)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>estesa</th>
<th>contratta</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I was not</td>
<td>I wasn’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You were not</td>
<td>You weren’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He was not</td>
<td>He wasn’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She was not</td>
<td>She wasn’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was not</td>
<td>It wasn’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We were not</td>
<td>We weren’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You were not</td>
<td>You weren’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They were not</td>
<td>They weren’t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- La **forma negativa** del **Past simple** di *to be* si forma aggiungendo *not* dopo *was* e *were*.
- Le **forme contratte**, assai frequenti nel parlato e nello scritto informale, sono *wasn’t* e *weren’t*.

She was not happy when she was a child.

→ She wasn’t happy when she was a child.

They were not with their friends yesterday.

→ They weren’t with their friends yesterday.

### Forma interrogativa (to be)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>risposte brevi (short answers)</th>
<th>affermativa</th>
<th>negativa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Was I...?</td>
<td>Yes, you were.</td>
<td>No, you weren’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were you...?</td>
<td>Yes, I was.</td>
<td>No, I wasn’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was he...?</td>
<td>Yes, he was.</td>
<td>No, he wasn’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was she...?</td>
<td>Yes, she was.</td>
<td>No, she wasn’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was it...?</td>
<td>Yes, it was.</td>
<td>No, it wasn’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were we...?</td>
<td>Yes, you were.</td>
<td>No, you weren’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were you...?</td>
<td>Yes, we were.</td>
<td>No, we weren’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were they...?</td>
<td>Yes, they were.</td>
<td>No, they weren’t.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- La **forma interrogativa** del **Past simple** di *to be* si ottiene mettendo il verbo davanti al soggetto.
- Le **risposte brevi** hanno costruzione analoga a quella del **Present simple** ( pagina 22).

#### Examples

- Was Dante a great poet?
  - Yes, he was.
- Was Dante born in Pisa?
  - No, he wasn’t.
- Were they at school this morning?
  - Yes, they were. / No, they weren’t.
**Past simple: to be e to have (got)**

### Forma affermativa (have got)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>presente</th>
<th>passato</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have (got)</td>
<td>I had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You have (got)</td>
<td>You had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He has (got)</td>
<td>He had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She has (got)</td>
<td>She had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It has (got)</td>
<td>It had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We have (got)</td>
<td>We had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You have (got)</td>
<td>You had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They have (got)</td>
<td>They had</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Il **Past simple** di *to have* / *have got* ha un’unica forma (*had*) per tutte le persone.
- Le forme **negativa** e **interrogativa** seguono la costruzione del **Past simple** dei verbi irregolari (➤ pagina 165).

** Alla forma **had** NON si aggiunge mai il rafforzativo **got**.**

We’ve got a red car. ➔ We had a red car two years ago.
(NON I **had got** a red car two years ago.)

### 1 Coniuga il verbo to be al Past simple.

- I was... at Mario’s last night.

1. Last night there ............ a lot of food at the party.
2. My grandparents ............ from Argentina.
3. Mark ............ late again yesterday.
4. My dog ............ in the garden yesterday afternoon.
5. Your homework ............ very good.
6. You ............ born in the USA.

### 2 Riscrivi alla forma negativa le frasi dell’esercizio precedente.

### 3 Riscrivi al Past simple utilizzando i suggerimenti dati.

- I have a big dog. (last year) ➔ I had a big dog last year.

1. Leyla has a headache. (yesterday morning)
2. We have fun on holiday. (on our last holiday)
3. They have a lot homework. (last week)
Ieri c’è stata una festa di compleanno. Completa le domande e le risposte.

1. Lisa and her brother Jim there?
   - Yes, they were. But they weren’t late as usual!

2. How the food? It very good. There a lot of sandwiches and crisps, but they too spicy (troppo piccanti) for me!

3. there any desserts?
   - Yes, there a lot, and they good!

4. the birthday cake big?
   - Yes, it! And it delicious too!
   - It a fantastic strawberry cheesecake!

5. Marta happy?
   - Yes, she. But her parents (not)!

6. Why? Because there a lot of noise until midnight and, at the end, there (not) a single thing (una sola cosa) in its place! Martha’s house a mess.

7. they very angry?
   - No, they . They just a bit tired and worried about the mess.

5 Grammar Rocks! Quiz Time. Completa con il Past simple di to be e poi abbina il personaggio giusto.

2. He the first Englishman to navigate the Strait of Magellan to get to the Pacific Ocean.
3. He the first president of the United States of America.

a Francis Drake.
b William Shakespeare.
c George Washington.
Past simple: verbi regolari e irregolari (forma affermativa)

### Forma affermativa (to walk)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>walked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You</td>
<td>walked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He / She / It</td>
<td>walked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We</td>
<td>walked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You</td>
<td>walked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They</td>
<td>walked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Il Past simple dei verbi regolari si forma aggiungendo -ed alla forma base del verbo. Ciò vale per tutte le persone. Il verbo può subire una trasformazione ortografica:

  - Se il verbo termina in -e: dance, love si aggiunge solo -d: danced, loved.
  - Se il verbo termina in consonante + -y: study, la -y diventa i e si aggiunge -ed: studied.
  - Se il verbo termina in vocale + -y: play, dopo la -y si aggiunge -ed: played.
  - Se il verbo è composto da una sola sillaba e termina con una vocale + consonante: stop, si raddoppia la consonante e si aggiunge -ed: stopped.

- I verbi irregolari al Past simple hanno una forma diversa da quella in -ed. La maggior parte dei verbi irregolari al Past simple ha una forma propria che deve essere imparata a memoria ( pagina 165):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forma base</th>
<th>Past simple</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>did</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go</td>
<td>went</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buy</td>
<td>bought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eat</td>
<td>ate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forma base</th>
<th>Past simple</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>find</td>
<td>found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>see</td>
<td>saw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>write</td>
<td>wrote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>speak</td>
<td>spoke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Last year Sara went on holiday to Spain. = Lo scorso anno Sara è andata / andò in vacanza in Spagna.

We bought a lot of souvenirs when we went to Thailand. = Abbiamo comprato / Comprammo molti souvenir quando siamo andati / andammo in Tailandia.

- Alcuni verbi irregolari hanno forma identica al Present simple e al Past simple:
  - cut → cut
  - let → let
  - put → put
  - cost → cost

1 Riscrivi i verbi regolari tra parentesi al Past simple.

✓ You .................. (like) the show very much.

1 Alex .................. (live) in Australia for a long time.
2 They .................. (open) a new shop in Regent Street.
3 Your letter .................. (arrive) before Christmas.
4 We .................. (work) hard on that project.

2 Leggi e completa con l’opzione corretta.

Last summer we .......... to Greece for two weeks. We ..........¹ with a group of friends and we ..........² a great time there. We ..........³ a house by the sea in a small village called Koroni, on the Peloponnesian coast. There ..........⁴ two wonderful beaches, and we often ..........⁵ the whole day (= l’intera giornata) there. We ..........⁶, ..........⁷ great food and relaxed! One day, we also ..........⁸ some new-born sea turtles leaving their nest (= nido) and going towards the sea. It ..........⁹ a fantastic experience!

✓ a go  b wanted  c went
1 a live  b left  c leaved
2 a had  b have  c haved
3 a rented  b rent  c rents
4 a was  b wasn’t  c were
5 a spend  b spent  c spent
6 a swimmmed  b swam  c swim
7 a ate  b eat  c eated
8 a see  b seed  c saw
9 a wasn’t  b were  c was
Past simple: verbi regolari e irregolari (forme negativa e interrogativa)

3 Riscrivi al Past simple utilizzando le espressioni date.
✓ I leave for Ireland with my parents. (last Monday)
→ I left for Ireland with my parents last Monday.

1 I go to school by bus. (yesterday)
2 We meet a lot of friends at your birthday party. (last Saturday)
3 Anna and Tom fall in love at first sight (= a prima vista). (last month)
4 Clare writes to her parents every day. (yesterday afternoon)
5 They speak French with their cousins. (last year)
6 You buy a lot of books for your children. (last week)

Forma negativa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>estesa</th>
<th>contratta</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I did not do</td>
<td>I didn’t do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You did not go</td>
<td>You didn’t go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He did not have</td>
<td>He didn’t have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She did not watch</td>
<td>She didn’t watch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It did not work</td>
<td>It didn’t work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We did not study</td>
<td>We didn’t study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You did not wait</td>
<td>You didn’t wait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They did not buy</td>
<td>They didn’t buy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- La forma negativa del Past simple dei verbi regolari e irregolari si ottiene, per tutte le persone, inserendo did + not prima della forma base.
  I didn’t understand the lesson this morning.
- Nel parlato e nello scritto informale si usa maggiormente la forma contratta, didn’t.

Forma interrogativa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>did</th>
<th>soggetto + forma base</th>
<th>risposte brevi (short answers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did</td>
<td>I / you / he / she / it / we / you / they work?</td>
<td>Yes, I / you / he / she / it / we / you / they did.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No, I / you / he / she / it / we / you / they didn’t.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Il passato

1 Scriveri frasi alla forma negativa del Past simple usando i suggerimenti.

1 I / ride my bike / to work / this morning
2 it / rain / yesterday
3 Lisa / take the bus / yesterday morning
4 Mum / make dinner / last night

2 Riscrivi le frasi alla forma negativa.

✓ I won the lottery last week
→ I didn’t win the lottery last week.

1 Carlo and Camilla got married last year.
2 We read Gullivers’ Travels in class.
3 My mother enjoyed London very much.
4 George seemed very happy last night.
5 I bought a present for my dad’s birthday.
6 They spent their weekend at home.

3 Utilizzando gli elementi dell’esercizio precedente, scrivi frasi alla forma interrogativa del Past simple.

Anche con il Past simple le question words (Who, What, Where, etc.) si mettono sempre all’inizio della frase interrogativa.

- Who did Little Red Riding Hood meet in the woods?
- She met the wolf.

La forma interrogativa dei verbi regolari e irregolari si ottiene inserendo l’ausiliare did prima del soggetto e della forma base del verbo.

Did they meet Judy last night?
What did you do on holiday?

Nelle risposte brevi si ripete solo l’ausiliare.

Did you like the film?
Yes, I did. / No, I didn’t.
4 Scrivi delle domande con le espressioni date. Poi rispondi con le short answers.

✓ You / turn off the TV? (✓)
   → Did you turn off the TV? Yes, I did.

1 Her parents / divorce last year? (✘)
2 Your brother / speak with the principal? (✓)
3 Virgil / write The Odyssey? (✘)
4 You / paint your house yourself? (✓)
5 Mark / help you with your homework? (✘)
6 She call / the police when she crashed her car? (✓)

Past continuous

Il Past continuous descrive ciò che stava accadendo in un certo momento del passato.

Si forma con il Past simple di to be + la forma in -ing del verbo principale e corrisponde alle forme italiane “stare (all’imperfetto) + gerundio” e all’imperfetto.

Yesterday at 4 p.m. I was reading. = Ieri alle quattro del pomeriggio stavo leggendo / leggevo.
Il passato

- Descrive azioni che hanno una certa continuità e azioni interrotte da altre azioni (che di norma sono espresse al Past simple).

  I was sleeping when the phone rang. = Stavo dormendo / Dormivo quando squillò il telefono.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forma negativa</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>was not (wasn’t)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He / She / It</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We</td>
<td>were not (weren’t)</td>
<td>walking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- La forma negativa si esprime con il: Past simple di to be + not + forma in -ing del verbo principale.

  They weren’t working when the director called.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forma interrogativa</th>
<th>Was</th>
<th>I / he / she / it</th>
<th>was.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>He / She / It</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walking?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were</td>
<td>We</td>
<td>We</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Were not (weren’t)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>You</td>
<td>You</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>They</td>
<td>They</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- La forma interrogativa si ottiene invertendo la posizione di to be e quella del soggetto.

  Were you playing tennis yesterday at 5 p.m.?

- Nelle risposte brevi si ripete il verbo to be al passato.

  - Were they studying when the news arrived?
  - Yes, they were. / No, they weren’t.

Ricorda: il Past simple descrive un’azione iniziata e conclusa nel passato, il Past continuous descrive un’azione in corso di svolgimento nel passato.

Ricorda anche che con i verbi di sentimento (like, love, ...), di attività mentale (know, understand, ...), di possesso (have got), di stato (be, need, ...), di volontà (want) NON si usa né il Present né il Past continuous. Think fa eccezione se ha significato di “valutare la possibilità”.

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1 Riscrivi i verbi tra parentesi al Past continuous.

✓ It **was snowing** (snow) when I got home.

1 Mary ................................ (make) dinner when she cut her finger.

2 They ................................ (watch) TV last night.

3 I ................................ (wait) outside when it started raining.

4 Miss Marple ................................ (ask) some questions when the police arrived.

5 We ................................ (dance) and ................................ (have fun) last Friday.

6 Simon ................................ (listen) to music this afternoon.

2 Scrivi alla forma negativa e interrogativa del Past continuous le frasi dell’esercizio precedente.

3 Bill (B) e Lucy (L) discutono di una festa interrotta dall’arrivo dei genitori di Bill. Completa coniugando i verbi tra parentesi al Past continuous.

✓ L: What **was Ellie doing** when your parents arrived?
   B: She **was dancing**... wildly (= scatenata) with Linda and Clare.

   L: What .......................... Alvie and Sammy ..........................1 (do)?
   B: They ..........................2 (eat) popcorn and ..........................3 (drink) cola on the floor.

   L: .......................... Martha ..........................4 (play) the piano?
   B: No, she wasn’t. She ..........................5 (try on = provare) my mother’s shoes!

   L: ............. Amy ..........................6 (play) the piano?
   B: Yes, she ..........................7. And Arnold ..........................8 (sing) loudly.

   L: What .......................... your cousin Tyron ..........................9 (do)?
   B: He ..........................10 (read) my father’s books on the sofa.

   L: And you? What .......................... you ..........................11 (do)?
   B: I ..........................12 (eat) ice cream and ..........................13 (have) fun. And I ..........................14 (think): ‘I love parties!’
1 Completa con il Past simple dei verbi dati.

like • live • meet • buy • be • go • have • become • break

1 Jenny and Anna .......... a nice gift for their mum yesterday.
2 Mrs Thomson .......... my English teacher from 2001 to 2003.
3 I .......... a big house when I .......... in Venice.
4 We .......... to Spain for Christmas. We really .......... it!
5 Tom and Fred .......... at school and .......... friends.
6 My leg hurts! I .......... it last week, during a football match.

2 Scrivi alla forma negativa del Past simple le seguenti frasi.

1 My dog ate my lunch! .............................................
2 I sent your letter from the post office. .....................................
3 We enjoyed the show. .............................................
4 They came by bus and were tired. .............................................
5 She wrote a love song for her boyfriend. .............................................
6 The museum closed at 6 p.m. .............................................

3 Scrivi alla forma interrogativa del Past simple e rispondi con le short answers.

1 J.K. Rowling / write / Harry Potter (✔)
2 you / sleep well (✘)
3 Bart / wash / his socks (✘)
4 they / call / their parents (✔)

4 Completa con il Past continuous o il Past simple.

Joe: .......... you ..........1 (work) when I ..........2 (arrive)!
Nina: No, I ..........3 (be). I ..........4 (read) the paper. I ..........5 (be). I ..........5 (take) a break after a long day!
Joe: And what .......... the children ..........6 (do) when I ..........7 (ring) the bell?
Nina: They ..........8 (be) in bed, but they ..........9 (not sleep).