

Il past simple di *be* – Forma affermativa

Il *past simple* (passato) di **be** ha due forme:

- **was** per la prima e la terza persona singolare
- **were** per tutte le altre

La costruzione della forma affermativa è: soggetto + verbo (*was / were*)

I was at Bob's party on Thursday.

Sono stato alla festa di Bob giovedì.

Dorota was there, too.

C'era anche Dorota.

Bob and Serena were so excited.

Bob e Serena erano così emozionati.

Il *past simple* di *be* corrisponde all'imperfetto, al passato prossimo e al passato remoto italiani del verbo "essere".

1 Usa le parole date e scrivi le frasi al passato, come nell'esempio.

It / cold / last night

It was cold last night.

1. The test / difficult

2. In 1990 / she / 23

3. We / at home / at 5 o'clock

4. You / in Edinburgh / last week

5. My dad / at work / on Friday morning

6. Mr and Mrs Green / with their friends / at the restaurant

7. It / a great party

8. My sister and I / on holiday / with our parents

9. The English lesson / very interesting

10. My children / at school / on Thursday

2 Riscrivi le frasi dal presente al passato. Ricordati di cambiare anche le indicazioni di tempo, se necessario.

The exam is today.

The exam was yesterday.

1. The weather is good today.

2. You are late for the lesson!

3. She is a beautiful woman.

4. My grandparents are from Russia.

5. Rachel and her boyfriend are at the cinema.

6. I'm at the pub with Paul, now.

7. The bank is closed this morning.

8. We are very hungry.

9. Your cell phone is on the shelf.

10. Mr Bingley is our Maths teacher.

Il *past simple* di *be* – Forma interrogativa e negativa

La costruzione della forma interrogativa è: verbo (*was* o *were*) + soggetto

Was Annie in Oxford yesterday?

Annie era a Oxford ieri?

Were Bob's parents at home?

I genitori di Bob erano a casa?

La costruzione della forma negativa è: soggetto + verbo (*was* o *were*) + *not*

Wasn't è la forma contratta di *was not* e *weren't* è la forma contratta di *were not*

Rachel wasn't at school today.

Rachel non era a scuola oggi.

The children weren't hungry yesterday

I ragazzi non avevano fame ieri.

Quadro riassuntivo del <i>past simple</i> di <i>be</i>		
Forma affermativa	Forma interrogativa	Forma negativa
I was...	Was I... ?	I was not (wasn't)...
You were...	Were you... ?	You were not (weren't)...
He was....	Was he... ?	He was not (wasn't)...
She was....	Was she... ?	She was not (wasn't)...
It was....	Was it... ?	It was not (wasn't)...
We were....	Were we... ?	We were not (weren't)...
You were....	Were you... ?	You were not (weren't)...
They were....	Were they... ?	They were not (weren't)...

3 Riordina le parole date e scrivi frasi corrette alla forma interrogativa e negativa.

night / Bob / last / the pub / was / at?
 Was Bob at the pub last night?

1. in / were / summer / the / where / 2005
 / you / of

2. the / on / weren't / Monday / open /
 museums

3. home / morning / mother / at /
 yesterday / was / your

4. after / tired / the / weren't / trip / they

5. Friday / I / last / wasn't / here

6. yesterday / wasn't / it / Sunday

7. yesterday / at / were / work / you

8. weather / nice / the / was

9. favourite / primary / your / who /
 teacher / school / at / was

10. you / old / 2007 / were / how / in

4 Completa le frasi con *was/were* oppure *wasn't/weren't*.

1. Harry happy because it
 his birthday.

2. the dog out this morning?

3. Where Peter and Richard last
 night?

4. you at the pub yesterday?

5. The concert very long but the
 musicians great.

6. Why you at home yesterday?
 the school closed?

7. All your friends at the party.
 Where you?

8. Tim and his sister at the theatre
 on Sunday. They don't like opera.

9. Who with you at the cinema?

10. It cold. The temperature
 about 25°.

5 Trasforma le frasi prima nella forma interrogativa, poi in quella negativa.

The train was late.

Was the train late? The train wasn't late.

1. My mum was at home yesterday.

2. Bob and Kate were married in 2001.

3. We were on holiday.

4. The hotel was expensive.

Risposte brevi con *was* e *were*

Le risposte brevi con **was** e **were** si formano così:

Yes + soggetto + *was* / *were* oppure No + soggetto + *wasn't* / *weren't*

Was Stuart at the party? Yes, he was.

Stuart era alla festa? Sì.

Were Bob and Serena excited? Yes, they were.

Erano emozionati Bob e Serena? Sì.

Was Annie at the party? No, she wasn't.

Annie era alla festa? No.

Were Bob's parents at the party? No, they weren't.

I genitori di Bob erano alla festa? No.

6 Abbina le domande con le risposte appropriate.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Was Mrs Brown your English teacher? | a. No, it wasn't. Cold and rainy. |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Were the Smiths on holiday in May? | b. No, they weren't. I prefer the students in this class. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Were your classmates nice at primary school? | c. Yes, they were. Under my bed. |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Was the weather good at the weekend? | d. Yes, it was. I was very worried. |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Was the exam difficult? | e. Yes, she was. She was my favourite teacher. |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Were your shoes in your bedroom? | f. Yes, they were. They always go to the sea in spring. |

7 Costruisci brevi dialoghi utilizzando le parole date, come nell'esempio.

you / out / Saturday night? // No / home

A *Were you out on Saturday night?*

B *No, I wasn't. I was at home.*

1. Mrs Green / work / yesterday? // Yes

2. where / you and your friend Bob /

Sunday afternoon? // pub

3. the restaurant expensive? // Yes, but / food / very good

4. the film / good // No / boring

5. Why / you / home / this morning? // Because / we / holiday

Il *past simple* dei verbi

I lived in London for a long time.

Ho vissuto (*Vissi*) a Londra per molto tempo.

I wrote a letter to my friend.

Ho scritto (*Scrissi*) una lettera al mio amico.

Il **past simple** inglese corrisponde al *passato prossimo*, al *passato remoto* e, in qualche caso, anche all'*imperfetto* italiano. Si usa per parlare di un'azione avvenuta nel passato in un periodo di tempo completamente concluso.

Per questo motivo il **past simple** è spesso accompagnato da espressioni di tempo che si riferiscono ad un momento passato.

<i>Yesterday</i>	Ieri
<i>Yesterday morning / afternoon / evening</i>	Ieri mattina, pomeriggio / sera
<i>Last week</i>	La settimana scorsa
<i>This morning</i>	Stamattina (se quando si parla è pomeriggio)

Watch out! La forma verbale del **past simple** è la stessa per tutte le persone (l'unica eccezione è il **past simple** di *be*).

In inglese i verbi si dividono in due categorie, verbi regolari e verbi irregolari.

Forma affermativa dei verbi regolari

I verbi regolari formano il **past simple** aggiungendo **-ed** alla forma base del verbo.
watch → *watched* *play* → *played*

Variazioni ortografiche

Il verbo termina in **-e** si aggiunge solo **-d**.

live → *lived*

Il verbo termina in **-y** preceduta da consonante la **y** cambia in **-i** e si aggiunge **ed**.

study → *studied*

Il verbo che termina con una consonante preceduta da una sola vocale raddoppia la consonante finale quando:

- hanno una sola sillaba *stop* → *stopped*
- l'accento cade sull'ultima sillaba *prefer* → *preferred*

Forma affermativa dei verbi irregolari

I verbi irregolari, invece, hanno una forma particolare per il **past simple**. Un elenco dei verbi irregolari più comuni si trova a pag. 62 della *Illustrated grammar*.

go → *went* *see* → *saw* *get up* → *got up* *do* → *did*

Alcuni verbi non cambiano forma al passato. Ad esempio:

put → *put* *read* → *read*

Watch out! La forma del **past simple** di **read** si scrive come la forma base ma si pronuncia in modo diverso: /rɛd/.

8 Completa le frasi con il **past simple** dei verbi tra parentesi.

1. I (*arrive*) in London at 10 o'clock in the morning.
2. I was hungry so I (*decide*) to have a pizza in a fast food restaurant.

3. In the afternoon I (*visit*) the city centre and I (*love*) it a lot!
4. My friend George (*invite*) me to a musical. They (*play*) the Lion king. I (*enjoy*) it very much.

PAST SIMPLE REVIEW

NAME

CLASS

DATE

5. The next day I (*phone*)
George and I (*thank*)
him for the lovely day.

..... (*drive*) straight to
Kate's house.

7. Kate was so happy that she
(*buy*) the woman a big present!

9 Completa le frasi con il past simple dei verbi dati tra parentesi.

1. Last week Kate (*lose*) her
cat. She was desperate.

2. She (*write*) a message
and then (*put*) in
the supermarket near our house.

3. A woman (*see*) the
message. She (*think*):
"This cat (*come*) into
my garden yesterday.

4. It (*sleep*) under my car,
then I (*give*) it some
milk and it (*drink*) it all."

5. The woman (*go*)
immediately home. She
(*find*) the cat on a tree.

6. She (*take*) it and

10 Completa le frasi inserendo la forma corretta dei verbi dati.

answer • be • begin • break • eat • go
• make • meet • send • stop • be
• stay • watch

1. I a leg in the mountains.

2. My mum the phone.

3. I hungry and I a
sandwich.

4. The film at 8 o'clock but
we late.

5. My friends me a lot of
postcards last summer.

6. He to Paris with his family.

7. I at home and a
video.

8. She a cake for his birthday.

Forma interrogativa del *past simple*

La forma interrogativa del *past simple* si costruisce con l'ausiliare **did** (passato dell'ausiliare **do**).

Did + soggetto + forma base (regolari e irregolari)

*Did you have your guitar with you
this morning?*

Avevi la chitarra con te questa mattina?

Did you go to Paris last summer?

Sei andato a Parigi la scorsa estate?

Se la frase inizia con *who, what, where* oppure *how* la costruzione non cambia:

What did you do yesterday?

Cosa hai fatto ieri?

How did you go to school?

Come sei andato a scuola?

Tuttavia, quando il soggetto della frase è un pronome interrogativo *non* si usa l'ausiliare **did** e la costruzione è: pronome interrogativo + verbo al *past simple*

Who wrote the message?

Chi ha scritto il messaggio?

What happened?

Cosa è successo?

11 Scrivi le domande appropriate.

0. Did you play tennis yesterday?
Yes, I played tennis yesterday.
1. ?
Yes, I did the shopping.
2. ?
Yes, I liked Paris very much.
3. ?
Yes, she passed the exam with a good mark.
4. ?
Yes, I took a plane.
5. ?
Yes, my mother came to school yesterday.

12 Scrivi le domande appropriate alle risposte, facendo riferimento alle parole sottolineate. Usa la question word corretta.

0. I went to school by train.
How did you go to school?

1. Columbus discovered America in 1492.
2. We had lunch at home.
3. I saw a horror film.
4. He bought a present for me.
5. I met Harry at the cafeteria.
6. Yesterday? Nothing special, I relaxed and read a book.
7. John got up at 7.
8. They studied Maths because they have a test tomorrow.

13 Sottolinea la forma corretta.

1. Who *did win* / *won* the World Cup last year?
2. What *did John want* / *John wanted*?
3. Who *write* / *wrote* Pride and Prejudice?
4. What *did Jane Austen write* / *wrote Jane Austen*?

Forma negativa del past simple

La forma negativa del *past simple* si costruisce con **did not** (contratto in **didn't** nella lingua parlata)

Soggetto + *didn't* + forma base (regolari e irregolari)

I didn't sleep well last night.
He didn't close the door.

Non ho dormito bene la scorsa notte.
Non ha chiuso la porta.

Watch out! Il verbo **have** si comporta come un comune verbo irregolare e non usa il rafforzativo *got* nelle forme del *past simple*. La sua forma del *past simple* è **had**.

I had my pocket money last Saturday.
What time did you have breakfast?
I didn't have time to finish the work.

Ho avuto la mia paghetta sabato scorso.
A che ora hai fatto colazione?
Non ho avuto tempo di finire il lavoro.

14 Scrivi frasi corrette alla forma negativa del past simple dei verbi dati.

feel • phone • stop • want • watch

1. I to travel by train because it was too slow.
2. She him last night and he was very sad.
3. The train at the station.
4. The children television.
5. I very well yesterday.

PAST SIMPLE REVIEW

NAME

CLASS

DATE

15 Completa le frasi con la forma negativa appropriata, utilizzando le parole date.

0. Janet went to England but (*not / Scotland*)
She *didn't go to Scotland.*
1. They spoke English (*not / French*)
.....
2. He knew the name of the restaurant

- but (*not / the address*)
3. The teacher wrote the exercise on the blackboard, but she (*not / the answer*)
.....
 4. We liked the story of the film but we (*not / actors*)
 5. I cleaned the windows but (*not / the kitchen*)

Risposte brevi al past simple

Le risposte brevi al **past simple** si formano così:

Yes + pronome personale + *did*
No + pronome personale + *didn't*

Did you study for the test? Yes, I did. / No, I didn't. Hai studiato per il test? Sì / No.
Did Sarah like the film? Yes, she did. / No, she didn't. A Sarah è piaciuto il film? Sì / No

16 Rispondi a queste domande in modo che siano vere per te.

1. Did you study English at primary school?
2. Did you go to England last summer?
3. Did you watch a video yesterday?
4. Did you get up at 7 o'clock this morning?
5. Did you have cereal for breakfast?
6. Did your best friend call you yesterday?

- A And what about you?
you do anything special?
- B No, I I very tired, so I decided to stay at home.

17 Completa la conversazione con *was, wasn't, were, weren't, did, didn't*.

- A Hello, what you do at the weekend?
- B I went to the sea with some friends.
A the weather nice?
- B No, it It was very cold.
A Kate and George with you?
- B No, they They
at home because their son Kevin ill.

18 Completa i dialoghi con una domanda adeguata. Utilizza i suggerimenti indicati.

- 0 A Liz goes to the airport today.
(*she / get / ticket*)
B *Did she get the tickets?*
1. A The team played very well.
(*win / match?*)
B ?
2. A I lost my glasses.
(*where / put / them?*)
B ?
3. A I didn't pass the exam!
(*it / difficult?*)
B ?
4. A Linda works for a German company.
(*she / study / German / university?*)
B ?

- 5. A The boss is angry with me.
(What / he / tell / you?)
B
- 6. A I miss my boyfriend.
(Why / leave / him?)
B
- 7. A I didn't go to school yesterday.
(you / ill?)
B

19 Completa il brano con i verbi al past simple, scegliendoli tra quelli dati.

- be • not sleep • not walk • plant • be
- put • say • speak • take • watch

Neil Armstrong the first man to walk on the moon. The American astronaut his left foot on the moon at 2.56 on July 21st, 1969. Then he: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."
There two other astronauts with him. Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. Neil and Buzz the American flag, a lot of photographs and many pieces of stones. Michael on the moon, he stayed inside the spaceship.

Millions of people that night they him on television. From the White House, in Washington, the President of the USA to the nation. It was an important moment for everybody.

20 Cosa hai fatto durante il weekend? Scrivi cinque cose che hai fatto e cinque che non hai fatto.

I didn't study because I didn't have any homework. I went to the park with my dog.

.....

PAST SIMPLE ANSWER KEYS

1

1. The test was difficult.
2. In 1990 she was 23.
3. We were at home at 5 o'clock.
4. You were in Edinburgh last week.
5. My dad was at work on Friday morning.
6. Mr and Mrs Green were with their friends at the restaurant.
7. It was a great party.
8. My sister and I were on holiday with our parents.
9. The English lesson was very interesting.
10. My children were at school on Thursday.

2

1. The weather was good yesterday.
2. You were late for the lesson!
3. She was a beautiful woman.
4. My grandparents were from Russia.
5. Rachel and her boyfriend were at the cinema.
6. I was at the pub with Paul last night.
7. The bank was closed this morning.
8. We were very hungry.
9. Your cell phone was on the shelf.
10. Mr Bingley was our Maths teacher.

3

1. Where were you in the summer of 2005?
2. The museums weren't open on Monday.
3. Was your mother at home yesterday morning?
4. They weren't tired after the trip.
5. I wasn't here last Friday.
6. It wasn't Sunday yesterday
7. Were you at work yesterday?
8. Was the weather nice?
9. Who was your favourite teacher at primary school?
10. How old were you in 2007?

4

1. was / was; 2. was; 3. were; 4. Were; 5. wasn't / were; 6. were / Wasn't; 7. were / were you? 8. weren't. 9.was; 10. wasn't / was.

5

1. Was my mum at home yesterday? My mum wasn't at home yesterday.
2. Were Bob and Kate married in 2001? Bob and Kate weren't married in 2001.
3. Were we on holiday? We weren't on holiday.

4. Was the hotel expensive? The hotel wasn't expensive.

6

1. e; 2. f; 3. b; 4. a; 5. d; 6. c.

7

1. A Was Mrs Green at work yesterday?
B Yes, he was.
2. A Where were you and your friend Bob on Sunday afternoon?
B We were at the pub.
3. A Was the restaurant expensive?
B Yes, but the food was very good.
4. A Was the film good?
B No, it was boring.
5. A Why were you at home this morning?
B Because we were on holiday.

8

1. arrived; 2. decided; 3. visited, loved; 4. invited, played, enjoyed; 5. phoned, thank.

9

1. lost; 2. wrote, put; 3. saw, thought, came; 4. slept, gave, drank; 5. went, found; 6. took, drove; 7. bought.

10

1. broke; 2. answered; 3. was, ate; 4. began, were; 5. sent; 6. went; 7. stayed, watched; 8. made.

11

1. Did you do the shopping?
2. Did you like Paris?
3. Did she pass the exam?
4. Did you take a plane? 5. Did your mother come to school?

12

1. When did Columbus discover America?
2. Where did you have lunch?
3. What film did you see at the cinema?
4. What did he buy?
5. Who did you meet?
6. What did you do yesterday?
7. What time did John get up?
8. Why did they study Maths?

13

1. won; 2. did John want; 3. wrote; 4. did Jane Austen write.

14

1. didn't want; 2. didn't phone; 3. didn't stop;
4. didn't watch; 5. didn't feel.

15

1. They didn't speak French. 2. He didn't know the address. 3. She didn't write the answer.
4. We didn't like the actors. 5. I didn't clean the kitchen.

16 *Open answers.*

17

A Hello, what did you do at the weekend?

B I went to the sea with some friends.

A Was the weather nice?

B No, it wasn't. It was very cold.

A Were Kate and George with you?

B No, they weren't. They were at home because their son Kevin was ill.

A And what about you? Did you do anything special?

B No, I didn't. I was very tired, so I decided to stay at home.

18

1. Did they win the match?
2. Where did you put them?
3. Was it difficult?
4. Did she study German at university?
5. What did he tell you?
6. Why did you leave him?
7. Were you ill?

19

Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon. The American astronaut put his left foot on the moon at 2.56 on July 21, 1969. Then he said: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

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20 *Open answers.*