RULE SHEET

Simple past: regular verbs



Use the **simple past** for actions in the past. They are finished. Signal words: **yesterday, last week, last Saturday, two days ago, in 2024**. The verb has one form for all people: I / you / he / she / it / we / they **watched** a film.

Spelling

Verb	Simple past	Rule
play, watch, open	play**ed**, watch**ed**, open**ed**	+ **ed**
live, dance, smile	live**d**, dance**d**, smile**d**	verb ends in -e: + **d**
study, carry, try	stud**ied**, carr**ied**, tr**ied**	consonant + y: y → **ied**
stay, enjoy	stay**ed**, enjoy**ed**	vowel + y: + **ed**
stop, plan, chat	sto**pped**, pla**nned**, cha**tted**	one syllable, one vowel + one consonant: double the consonant + **ed** (not after w, x or y: snow → snow**ed**, fix → fix**ed**)

Examples

- Yesterday I **played** tennis.
- Last Saturday Mia **visited** her grandma.
- We **cooked** pasta two days ago.

Watch out! One form for all people: he **played** (not: he playeds). · Present or past? Every day I **walk** to school. Yesterday I **walked** to school. · Two syllables, stress on the first syllable: visit → visit**ed**, open → open**ed** (no double consonant). · British English: travel → travel**led**.

PRACTICE 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Spelling: -ed, -d, -ied, double consonant

1 Complete the table.

Verb	Simple past
clean	
dance	
cry	
stay	
stop	
want	
tidy	
hug	

2 Tick the correct verb.

1. Yesterday Ben _____ his bike. ○ cleans ○ cleaned
2. Every morning Ben _____ his teeth. ○ brushes ○ brushed
3. Last week we _____ a new game. ○ tried ○ try
4. My cat usually _____ on my bed. ○ stayed ○ stays
5. Last month the school _____ a new library. ○ opens ○ opened
6. We _____ football every Friday. ○ play ○ played
7. Last night Mum _____ pizza for us. ○ orders ○ ordered
8. Lily _____ to music every evening. ○ listens ○ listened