

# Past Simple Tense

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Many Filipino students as well as using the present tense to talk about the past, also make the same mistakes when doing the reverse.

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*The man, who knows everything, is a liar.*

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## Use of past simple.

The definition of the past simple is to talk about events or things, which began in the past, and finished in the past. There is no correlation to the present. (When we want to talk about the correlation of past-present, we mainly use the present perfect). The present perfect is not covered in this section but you would do well to study it.

Bakit? hindi ko kailangan iyan I hear you say!!

Well to describe the meaning of ‘from the past until now’, there is no better tense to use. It explains it perfectly.

(Using the present perfect will aid the listeners understanding of the time perspective. Remember, the listener in the exam will more often than not be a native speaker or a non-native of native standard).

Going back to the past simple, we use this verb to say that something happened in the past and it is finished. We use the time element only to inform/confirm the time in which the event took place.

Halimbawa:

I went to the doctor – the verb tells us that the event was in the past. WENT.

We add the time to express clarity.

I went to the doctor at 10am yesterday.

Even without the time we still know it happened in the past.

Now, let us look at an example. The day is last Thursday (if you are reading this on a Thursday, then it is 1 week ago). Imagine that I am explaining it to my friend at the time (last Thursday).

“I am late for work, I am going to miss the bus, and my boss will be angry because I have a report to finish and the deadline is 11.30am.

Fast forward to today (1 week later).

“Last Thursday, I **was** late for work, because I **overslept**. I **missed** the bus, and my boss **was** angry because I **had** report to finish and the deadline **was** 11.30am.

As you can see in the previous example, ALL of the verbs were in the past tense because the whole event was in the past. There is NO CONNECTION to the present.

This is a vital component of the tense. The verbs must match the time.

Change the following events into the past simple tense.

(Palitan ang mga pangungusap sa nakaraan panahon).

1. The increase in pollution is due to changes in the weather, which make the wind pick up and settle in the centre of the city which causes temperatures to rise and emissions from traffic go up.
2. If we create a leisure park in the centre of town, then people can take their lunch there instead of having to eat their before getting some fresh air outside, this will make their time at work more enjoyable.
3. For my birthday the plan is to wake up early, to go into town, to do some shopping, and then I am going to have lunch with my parents.
4. Many people drive too fast, and change lanes without looking. They also pull out from roads without looking, and pay no attention to what is behind them.
5. My best friend is always there to help me, and he encourages me when I feel down, and provides a shoulder to cry on. He listens to me and always gives me good advice.

E-mail your answers to: [teacher@dumagueteielts.com](mailto:teacher@dumagueteielts.com). Please mark you subject “Past Tense exercise” and I will try to reply as soon as I can.