

SCENE 41 • GRAMMAR

played, looked, helped

Past simple regular actions

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

The festival

English

Read & listen online



Past simple regular actions

The past simple describes a completed past event. Most regular verbs add **-ed**: **play → played, look → looked, help → helped**. The form is the same for all subjects.

Useful spelling patterns include **live → lived, stop → stopped, study → studied**. The endings sound different in speech, but the written ending stays **-ed**.

For an ordinary past question use **did** plus base verb: **Did you help?**

Negation uses **didn't** plus base verb: **I didn't help**. Keep past **was/were** in its own question pattern.

Form	Example	Meaning
played	Jack played yesterday.	Describe a completed past action.
helped	I helped at the stall.	Describe help given in the past.
looked	We looked for Milo.	Describe a past search.
Did	Did you help?	Ask about a past action.
help	I didn't help.	Negate an ordinary past action.
stopped	The music stopped.	Use the correct regular-past spelling.

Jack played yesterday.

Describe a completed past action.

I helped at the stall.

Describe help given in the past.

We looked for Milo.

Describe a past search.

Did you help?

Ask about a past action.

I didn't help.

Negate an ordinary past action.

The music stopped.

Use the correct regular-past spelling.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE PATTERNS

Underline the form described in this unit.

1 Jack played yesterday.

Meaning: Describe a completed past action.

2 I helped at the stall.

Meaning: Describe help given in the past.

- 3 We looked for Milo.

Meaning: Describe a past search.

- 4 Did you help?

Meaning: Ask about a past action.

- 5 I didn't help.

Meaning: Negate an ordinary past action.

- 6 The music stopped.

Meaning: Use the correct regular-past spelling.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Choose the right word for the gap.

- 1 Jack _____ yesterday.

- (A) played
- (B) plays
- (C) playing

Meaning: Describe a completed past action.

2 I _____ at the stall.

- ☐ (A) helped
- ☐ (B) helping
- ☐ (C) help

Meaning: Describe help given in the past.

3 We _____ for Milo.

- ☐ (A) looked
- ☐ (B) looking
- ☐ (C) look

Meaning: Describe a past search.

4 _____ you help?

- ☐ (A) Does
- ☐ (B) Do
- ☐ (C) Did

Meaning: Ask about a past action.

5 I didn't _____.

- ☐ A helped
- ☐ B help
- ☐ C helps

Meaning: Negate an ordinary past action.

6 The music _____.

- ☐ A stoped
- ☐ B stopped
- ☐ C stops

Meaning: Use the correct regular-past spelling.

G3) COMPLETE A SHORT MESSAGE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

plays played

Jack _____ yesterday.

Meaning: Describe a completed past action.

help helped

I _____ at the stall.

Meaning: Describe help given in the past.

look looked

We _____ for Milo.

Meaning: Describe a past search.

Do Did

_____ you help?

Meaning: Ask about a past action.

helped help

I didn't _____.

Meaning: Negate an ordinary past action.

stoped stopped

The music _____.

Meaning: Use the correct regular-past spelling.

G4) BUILD USEFUL SENTENCES

Put the words in order.

1 played Jack yesterday.

Meaning: Describe a completed past action.

2 the I stall. helped at

Meaning: Describe help given in the past.

3 We for looked Milo.

Meaning: Describe a past search.

4 Did you help?

Meaning: Ask about a past action.

5 didn't I help.

Meaning: Negate an ordinary past action.

6 The stopped. music

Meaning: Use the correct regular-past spelling.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Describe a completed past action. You say:

- ☐ A Jack plays yesterday.
- ☐ B Jack played yesterday.

2 Describe help given in the past. You say:

- ☐ A I helped at the stall.
- ☐ B I help at the stall.

3 Describe a past search. You say:

- ☐ A We looked for Milo.
- ☐ B We look for Milo.

4 Ask about a past action. You say:

- (A) Did you help?
- (B) Do you help?

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| (1) I didn't help. | (A) Negate an ordinary past action. |
| (2) The music stopped. | (B) Describe help given in the past. |
| (3) I helped at the stall. | (C) Use the correct regular-past spelling. |
| (4) We looked for Milo. | (D) Ask about a past action. |
| (5) Jack played yesterday. | (E) Describe a completed past action. |
| (6) Did you help? | (F) Describe a past search. |