

LESSON A: CHILDHOOD THE  
SIMPLE PAST



TIME EXPRESSIONS

**Unit**  
**5**

# Growing up

*In Unit 5, you learn how to . . .*

- use the simple past in statements and questions (review).
- use time expressions to talk about the past.
- use *all, most, a lot of, a few*, etc.
- talk about memories of childhood, school, and your teenage years.
- correct yourself with expressions like *Wait, Actually*, and *I mean*.



# LESSON A

*You will learn how to use the simple past*

## Childhood

**Isabel** That's a great baseball shirt, Mei.  
Are you from Seattle?

**Mei** Um, kind of. I lived there, but  
I wasn't born there.

**Isabel** Oh, yeah? Where were you born?

**Mei** In São Paulo, actually.

**Isabel** São Paulo? Brazil?

**Mei** Yeah. My parents were born in  
Hong Kong, but they moved to  
São Paulo in 1986, just before  
I was born.

**Isabel** Wow. How long did you live there?

**Mei** Until I was six. Then we moved to  
the U.S.

**Isabel** To Seattle?

**Mei** Yeah. We lived there for ten  
years, and we came here to San  
Francisco about three years ago.

**Isabel** Huh. So did you grow up bilingual?

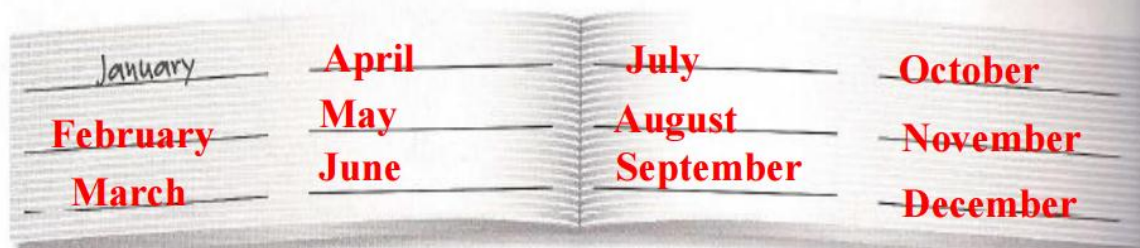
**Mei** Well, we always spoke Chinese  
at home. I couldn't speak English  
until I went to school. And actually,  
I can still speak a little Portuguese.



**B** Can you complete the sentences? Use the conversation above to help you.

1. Ling's family left Hong Kong **in** \_\_\_\_\_ 1986.
2. Ling lived in São Paulo **for** \_\_\_\_\_ six years.
3. Her family stayed there **until** \_\_\_\_\_ she was six.
4. They moved to Seattle. **then** \_\_\_\_\_ they came to San Francisco.
5. They moved to San Francisco three years **ago** \_\_\_\_\_ .

**A** Write the months in the correct order.





Write the years in numbers or words.

- |                           |             |         |                              |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------|------------------------------|
| 1. twenty ten             | <u>2010</u> | 5. 1982 | <u>nineteen eighty-two</u>   |
| 2. nineteen oh-four       | <u>1904</u> | 6. 2006 | <u>Two thousand six</u>      |
| 3. two thousand eight     | <u>2008</u> | 7. 2013 | <u>Twenty thirteen</u>       |
| 4. nineteen seventy-seven | <u>1977</u> | 8. 1998 | <u>Nineteen ninety eight</u> |

## 2 Grammar be born; simple past (review); time expressions

Where **were** you **born**?

I **was born** in São Paulo.

I **wasn't born** in Seattle.

Where **were** your parents **born**?

They **were born** in Hong Kong.

They **weren't born** in the U.S.

Did you live there **for a long time**?

Yes, (I did). I lived there **for six years**.

No, (I didn't). I didn't live there **long**.

How long did you live in São Paulo?

We lived there **until** I was six. **From** 1986 **to** 1992.

We didn't leave **until** 1992. **Then** we came to the U.S.

Did she move here **last year**?

Yes, (she did). She moved **in May**.

No, (she didn't). She moved **in 2002**.

When did they come here?

They came here about **three years ago**.

They came **when** Ling was sixteen.

### Saying years

1906 = "Nineteen oh-six"

1988 = "Nineteen eighty-eight"

2007 = "Two thousand (and) seven"

2015 = "Twenty fifteen"

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# The Simple Past Tense

Regular and irregular forms

# The Simple Past Tense.

**The simple past tense describes actions and states that began and ended at a specific time in the past.**

**Example: I lived in France in 1980.  
He was sick last week.  
They were late yesterday.**

## FORM

There are regular verbs and irregular verbs.

♦ All regular past tense verbs end in "ed"

Regular: *study*                      *studied*  
                  *live*                      *lived*  
                  *stay*                      *stayed*

♦ Some verbs have irregular past tense forms:

Irregular:    *go*                      *went*  
                  *be*                      *was – were*  
                  *do*                      *did*

**These verbs don't follow any spelling rules.  
Irregular past verb forms must be learned.**

# Spelling of "ed" form

## ♦ Most verbs – add "ed"

|          |       |                 |
|----------|-------|-----------------|
| Example: | walk  | walk <b>ed</b>  |
|          | order | order <b>ed</b> |

## ♦ Verbs that end in "e" – add only "d"

|          |        |                 |
|----------|--------|-----------------|
| Example: | live   | live <b>d</b>   |
|          | decide | decide <b>d</b> |

## ♦ Verbs that end in consonant "y" – change y to i and add "ed"

|          |       |                 |
|----------|-------|-----------------|
| Example: | study | studie <b>d</b> |
|          | carry | carrie <b>d</b> |

## ♦ Verbs that end in CVC [stressed vowel] double the last consonant

|          |                 |                            |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Example: | <u>sh</u> op    | shopp <b>e</b> d           |
|          | <u>st</u> op    | stop <b>p</b> e <b>d</b>   |
|          | per <u>mi</u> t | permi <b>tt</b> e <b>d</b> |
|          | ad <u>mi</u> t  | admi <b>tt</b> e <b>d</b>  |

Do not double the last consonant if the last syllable is not stressed:

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| <u>li</u> sten | listene <b>d</b> |
|----------------|------------------|

# Negative Statements

## ♦ To form negative statements:

**did** + not (didn't) + **base form**

Example: He **didn't** **call** me.

She **didn't** **study** French.

## ♦ Don't use didn't with the verb TO BE use **to be** + not:

Example: He wasn't there yesterday.

They weren't happy.



| (+)         | (-)              | (?)            |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| I played    | I didn't play    | Did I play?    |
| You played  | You didn't play  | Did you play?  |
| He played   | He didn't play   | Did he play?   |
| She played  | She didn't play  | Did she play?  |
| It played   | It didn't play   | Did it play?   |
| We played   | We didn't play   | Did we play?   |
| They played | They didn't play | Did they play? |

**Short answers:**

When you go home? - Yes, {I/we/you/he} **did**  
 Who **did** he speak to? - No, {I/you/we/they} **didn't**

**The Simple Past Tense is used**

**1. To talk about actions that happened at a specific time in the past. You state when it happened using a time expression (yesterday, last month):**

"Last year I took my exams".



**2. It can be used to describe events that happened over a period of time in the past but not now:**

"I lived in Asia for two years"



**3. It is also used to talk about habitual or repeated actions that took place in the past:**

"When I was a child we always went to the seaside on bank holidays."

# Time Phrases

**Some common time expressions used with the past tense are:**

yesterday                      many years ago  
a long time ago              before this year  
at that time                    for many years  
in 19—  
last night, Saturday, weekend, year...

## Time expressions:

### 1. For

Did you live there **for a long time**?

### 2. Until { up to a specific point in time. }

e.g. We lived here **until 1992/ February**.

### 3. From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ {two points of time}

e.g. I stayed in Riyadh **from March to September**.

### 4. ago {time expression + ago}

e.g. My family moved to the UK **ten years ago**.

### 5. Then: (and then)

e.g. We lived in Brazil. **Then** we moved to the U.S.

e.g. We lived in Brazil, **and then** we moved to the U.S.

### 6. When: {conjunction} + clause with a specific point in time.

e.g. We left **when I was six**



# Yes/No questions & short answers

♦ To form **yes/no questions**, use:

**did + subject + base form**

Example: **Did he study** English last night?

**Did they learn** to play the piano?

♦ To form **short answers to yes/no questions**, use:

**yes + subject pronoun + did**

Or

**no + subject pronoun + didn't**

Example: **Yes, he did.**

**No, they didn't.**



## Form of Simple Past

Positive

Negative

Question

He spoke.

He did not speak.

Did he speak?

-I \_\_\_\_\_ to the cinema last week.

was go

went

did go

goed

-The film wasn't very good. I \_\_\_\_\_ it very much.

enjoyed

wasn't enjoy

didn't enjoyed

didn't enjoy

-What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ last weekend?

were / do

did / did

did / do

do / did