



# Mastering the Past Tense: A Day in the City

## THE FOREGROUND

### What is this topic about?

This module is about the **Simple Past Tense**. We use this to talk about things that happened and finished in the past.

### Why do people get confused?

Many learners focus on memorizing long tables of irregular verbs. But in real life, we use these verbs to tell stories. If you learn them through a story, you'll remember them much more easily.

### Who is this for?

Beginner to Pre-Intermediate learners who want to move beyond basic present tense and start sharing their experiences and stories naturally.

### Our Approach

We use a **Mini-Story Method**. We follow a day in the city through short scenes, highlighting the base form, the past tense, and real-world examples.

## The Introduction: Why the Past Tense Matters

Every time you tell someone about your weekend, your last vacation, or what you did yesterday, you are using the past tense. It's the "storyteller's tense." Mastering these common verbs allows you to share your history and connect with others through your experiences.

## THE STORYTELLER FORMULA

***"We went to a small restaurant and ordered some food."***

\*Insight: Combining irregular (went) and regular (ordered) verbs is the key to natural storytelling.\*

# 1. The Morning

Base Form	Past Tense	Example from the Story
wake up	woke up	I <b>woke up</b> at seven o'clock last Saturday.
get out of	got out of	I <b>got out of</b> bed.
wash	washed	I <b>washed</b> my face and brushed my teeth.
brush	brushed	I washed my face and <b>brushed</b> my teeth.
go	went	I <b>went</b> straight to the kitchen.
make	made	I <b>made</b> a hot cup of tea.
drink	drank	I <b>drank</b> it by the window.
take	took	I <b>took</b> a bath.
get dressed	got dressed	I <b>got dressed</b> quickly.
have	had	I <b>had</b> breakfast.
leave	left	I <b>left</b> the house at 9 o'clock.

# 2. Catching the Bus

Base Form	Past Tense	Example from the Story
walk	walked	I <b>walked</b> to the bus stop.

Base Form	Past Tense	Example from the Story
wait	waited	I <b>waited</b> for ten minutes.
arrive	arrived	The bus finally <b>arrived</b> .
pay	paid	I <b>paid</b> for my ticket and sat down.
sit down	sat down	I paid for my ticket and <b>sat down</b> .
arrive	arrived	I <b>arrived</b> in the city.

### 3. Meeting Leo

Base Form	Past Tense	Example from the Story
meet	met	I <b>met</b> my friend Leo in the city.
walk	walked	We <b>walked</b> to a beautiful park.
shine	shone	The sun <b>shone</b> brightly in the sky.
take	took	We <b>took</b> a lot of nice pictures.

### 4. A Delicious Lunch

Base Form	Past Tense	Example from the Story
go	went	We <b>went</b> to a small restaurant.
sit	sat	We <b>sat</b> at a small table.
look at	looked at	We <b>looked at</b> the menu.
order	ordered	We <b>ordered</b> our food.
eat	ate	I <b>ate</b> a big sandwich.
talk	talked	We <b>talked</b> and laughed a lot.

Base Form	Past Tense	Example from the Story
laugh	laughed	We talked and <b>laughed</b> a lot.

## 5. Going Home

Base Form	Past Tense	Example from the Story
finish	finished	We <b>finished</b> our food and paid the bill.
pay	paid	We finished our food and <b>paid</b> the bill.
say	said	We <b>said</b> goodbye to each other.
take	took	I <b>took</b> the bus back home.
have	had	I <b>had</b> a really great day.

### Mastery Workshop

#### PART 1: The Story Reconstruction

Rewrite these sentences in the past tense to tell a short story.

1. "I **walk** to the station."
2. "I **take** the train."
3. "I **sit** next to a famous person!"

#### PART 2: Your Day

Write 3 sentences about what you did yesterday. Use at least one regular verb (-ed) and one irregular verb.

## The Final 10 Challenge

*Test your mastery with these targeted exercises.*

1. "Yesterday, I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the park with my dog."
2. "We \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) a delicious pizza for dinner."
3. "The sun \_\_\_\_\_ (shine) all day long."
4. "I \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) my boss at the coffee shop."
5. "They \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) for three hours!"
6. "I \_\_\_\_\_ (arrived home) very late last night."
7. "We \_\_\_\_\_ (take) some great photos."
8. "I \_\_\_\_\_ (say) hello to my neighbor."
9. "She \_\_\_\_\_ (pay) for the coffee."
10. "I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a wonderful time."

## The Logic & Explanation Key

*Check your work and understand the "Why" behind the correct answers.*

1. **went:** Irregular. One of the most common verbs.
2. **ate:** Irregular. Notice the spelling change from "eat."
3. **shone:** Irregular. Used for weather or lights.
4. **met:** Irregular. Used for people you know or new meetings.
5. **talked:** Regular. Just add -ed.
6. **got in:** Natural way to say "arrived home."
7. **took:** Irregular. Used for transport or photos.
8. **said:** Irregular. The past of "say."
9. **paid:** Irregular. Notice the spelling change from "pay."
10. **had:** Irregular. The past of "have."