

## PRAKTISCHE LEKTION

# Have - Past Simple

Lektionskategorie: Mësimet në gjuhë angleze

Use **had** for past possessions, relationships, meals and experiences. Covers the single form **had** for every subject, negatives and questions with **did**, why the main verb returns to **have**, and **had to** for past obligation.

## Have - Past Simple (had)

The past simple of **have** is refreshingly easy: there is only one form, **had**, and it works for every subject. All the difficulty sits in the negative and the question, where **had** disappears and the base form **have** comes back after **did**.

### Learning objectives

- Use **had** for all subjects in positive sentences.
- Form negatives and questions with **did** and the base form **have**.
- Give correct short answers.
- Use **had to** for past obligation.
- Distinguish main-verb *had* from auxiliary *had* in the past perfect.

### Meaning and usage

| Use                  | Example                                   |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Past possession      | We <b>had</b> a small flat in the centre. |
| Past relationships   | She <b>had</b> three sisters.             |
| Past features        | The house <b>had</b> a big garden.        |
| Past illnesses       | He <b>had</b> a bad cold last week.       |
| Meals and activities | They <b>had</b> dinner at eight.          |
| Experiences          | We <b>had</b> a great time in Vlorë.      |
| Past obligation      | I <b>had to</b> work on Saturday.         |

### The affirmative form

| Subject | Form | Example                   |
|---------|------|---------------------------|
| I       | had  | I <b>had</b> a bicycle.   |
| you     | had  | You <b>had</b> my number. |

| Subject       | Form | Example                       |
|---------------|------|-------------------------------|
| he / she / it | had  | <i>She had long hair.</i>     |
| we            | had  | <i>We had time.</i>           |
| they          | had  | <i>They had two children.</i> |

There is no third-person change and no contraction of main-verb *had*. The contraction *'d* belongs to the auxiliary: *She'd already left* means *She had already left*.

## The negative form

| Full form    | Contraction | Example                           |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| did not have | didn't have | <i>I <b>didn't have</b> time.</i> |

The same rule as in the present applies, one step further: the tense marker moves onto *did*, so the main verb goes back to **have**. *She didn't **have** a car* — never *didn't had*.

## Questions and short answers

| Question                                                          | Positive       | Negative         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <i><b>Did</b> you <b>have</b> breakfast?</i>                      | Yes, I did.    | No, I didn't.    |
| <i><b>Did</b> she <b>have</b> a good time?</i>                    | Yes, she did.  | No, she didn't.  |
| <i><b>Did</b> they <b>have</b> any problems with the booking?</i> | Yes, they did. | No, they didn't. |

Wh- questions: *What **did** you **have** for lunch?* *How many rooms **did** the flat **have**?*

## Had to — past obligation

| Form                       | Example                                    | Meaning                  |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| had to + base verb         | <i>I <b>had to</b> leave early.</i>        | It was necessary         |
| didn't have to + base verb | <i>We <b>didn't have to</b> pay.</i>       | It was not necessary     |
| Did ... have to ...?       | <i><b>Did</b> you <b>have to</b> work?</i> | Question about necessity |

Be careful: *didn't have to* means there was **no obligation**. It does not mean something was forbidden — for that English uses *couldn't* or *wasn't allowed to*.

## Signal words and time expressions

**yesterday, last night / week / summer, two years ago, in 2015, when I was a child, at that time, then.** Any of these means the time is finished, which is exactly when the past simple is required.

## Main verb or auxiliary?

*Had* appears in two very different roles. Tell them apart by what follows.

| Role                          | Followed by       | Example                                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Main verb (possession, meals) | a noun            | <i>I <b>had</b> a car.</i>                |
| Auxiliary (past perfect)      | a past participle | <i>I <b>had</b> seen the film before.</i> |

The two can even meet in one sentence: *I **had had** that car for ten years before I sold it.* The first *had* is the auxiliary; the second is the main verb.

## Formal and informal usage

- **Didn't have** is standard in all registers.
- The form *hadn't* for possession (*I hadn't a car*) is old-fashioned; use *didn't have*.
- In formal writing, prefer *did not have* to the contraction.

## Common mistakes

| Mistake                                            | Correct                            | Why                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <i>Did you had breakfast?</i>                      | <b>Did you have breakfast?</b>     | after <i>did</i> , use the base form      |
| <i>She didn't had time.</i>                        | <b>She didn't have time.</b>       | same reason                               |
| <i>I hadn't a car.</i>                             | <b>I didn't have a car.</b>        | main-verb <i>have</i> needs <i>did</i>    |
| <i>I had 20 years then.</i>                        | <b>I was 20 then.</b>              | age uses <i>be</i>                        |
| <i>We didn't have to enter — it was forbidden.</i> | <b>We couldn't enter.</b>          | <i>didn't have to</i> means no obligation |
| <i>Yesterday I have had a headache.</i>            | <b>Yesterday I had a headache.</b> | a finished time needs the past simple     |

## A comparison with the present

| Present                           | Past                             |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| I <b>have</b> a car.              | I <b>had</b> a car.              |
| She <b>has</b> a car.             | She <b>had</b> a car.            |
| I <b>don't have</b> time.         | I <b>didn't have</b> time.       |
| <b>Does</b> he <b>have</b> a dog? | <b>Did</b> he <b>have</b> a dog? |
| I <b>have to</b> go.              | I <b>had to</b> go.              |

## Learning tips

1. Remember that *did* is greedy: it takes the past tense for itself and leaves the main verb bare.
2. Tell the story of a childhood home in six sentences using *had*, then turn three of them into questions.
3. Whenever you write *did ... had*, treat it as an automatic error and correct it to *did ... have*.

## Summary checklist

- Did I use **had** for every subject in positive sentences?
- After *did* or *didn't*, is the verb the base form **have**?
- Are my short answers *Yes, I did* / *No, I didn't*?
- If I meant past obligation, did I use **had to**?
- Is there a finished past time expression in the sentence or context?

## Shpjegim në gjuhën shqipe

### Rregulli i anglishtes, i shpjeguar në shqip

Në kohën e shkuar folja **have** ka një formë të vetme, **had**, të njëjtë për të gjitha vetat. Kjo e bën fjalinë pohore shumë të thjeshtë.

Vështirësia qëndron te pyetja dhe mohimi. Aty hyn folja ndihmëse **did**, e cila e merr përsipër kohën e shkuar, prandaj folja kryesore **kthehet në formën bazë**: *Did you **have** breakfast?* dhe *She didn't **have** time.* Format *did ... had* janë gjithmonë të gabuara.

Kuptimet janë të njëjta me kohën e tashme: zotërim, marrëdhënie, tipare, sëmundje, vakte dhe përvoja në një çast të mbyllur të së shkuarës.

Ndërtimi **had to** shpreh detyrim në të shkuarën. Kujdes me mohimin: *didn't have to* do të thotë se **nuk ishte e nevojshme**, jo se ndalohej. Ndalimi shprehet me *couldn't* ose *wasn't allowed to*.

### Ekuivalenti në gjuhën shqipe

Forma angleze **had** i përgjigjet formave shqipe **kisha** (e pakryer) dhe **pata** (e kryer e thjeshtë). Anglishtja ka një formë të vetme për të gjitha vetat; shqipja i ndryshon të dyja sipas vetës dhe sipas kuptimit.

### Ekuivalenti i formave

| Anglisht     | Shqip            | Shembull                                               |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| I had        | unë kisha        | <i>I had a bicycle.</i> — Kisha një biçikletë.         |
| you had      | ti kishe         | <i>You had time.</i> — Ti kishe kohë.                  |
| he / she had | ai / ajo kishte  | <i>She had long hair.</i> — Ajo kishte flokë të gjatë. |
| we had       | ne kishim        | <i>We had a flat.</i> — Ne kishim një banesë.          |
| they had     | ata / ato kishin | <i>They had problems.</i> — Ata kishin probleme.       |

### Pyetja dhe mohimi me did

Anglishtja e kalon kohën e shkuar te folja ndihmëse **did** dhe e lë foljen kryesore në formën bazë. Shqipja nuk ka asgjë të ngjashme: ajo e ruan foljen në të shkuarën dhe shton vetëm **nuk** ose **a**.

| Shqip         | Anglisht                  |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| A kishe kohë? | <b>Did you have</b> time? |

| Shqip                   | Anglisht                                   |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Nuk kisha para.         | I <b>didn't have</b> money.                |
| Çfarë hëngre për drekë? | What <b>did</b> you <b>have</b> for lunch? |

**Kujdes: kjo strukturë nuk përkthehet fjalë për fjalë.** Në shqip folja mbetet në të shkuarën (*kishe*), kurse në anglisht ajo kthehet në formën bazë (*have*), sepse koha e shkuar shënohet vetëm një herë, te *did*.

## Had to — detyrimi në të shkuarën

| Anglisht                          | Shqip                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <i>I had to work on Saturday.</i> | <b>Më duhej</b> të punoja të shtunën.     |
| <i>We didn't have to pay.</i>     | <b>Nuk ishim të detyruar</b> të paguanim. |
| <i>Did you have to wait?</i>      | A <b>duhej</b> të prisje?                 |

Vini re se *didn't have to* nuk do të thotë ndalim, por **mungesë detyrimi**. Ekuivalenti shqip është *nuk ishte e nevojshme*, jo *nuk lejohej*.

## Gabime të zakonshme të folësve të shqipes

| Gabimi                                  | E saktë                            | Pse                              |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Did you had breakfast?</i>           | <b>Did you have breakfast?</b>     | pas <i>did</i> vjen forma bazë   |
| <i>She didn't had time.</i>             | <b>She didn't have time.</b>       | e njëjta arsye                   |
| <i>I had 20 years then.</i>             | <b>I was 20 then.</b>              | mosha me <i>be</i>               |
| <i>I hadn't a car.</i>                  | <b>I didn't have a car.</b>        | folja kryesore kërkon <i>did</i> |
| <i>Yesterday I have had a headache.</i> | <b>Yesterday I had a headache.</b> | koha e mbyllur                   |