

PRACTICAL LESSON

Do - Past Simple

Lesson category: Mësimet në gjuhë angleze

Learn **did** as the past auxiliary for questions, negatives and emphasis, and **did** as the past of the main verb **do**. Explains why we say *Did he go*, never *Did he went*, and how one **did** can appear twice.

Do - Past Simple (did)

In the past simple, the auxiliary **do** has a single form: **did**. It works for every subject, which removes one difficulty — but it introduces another. Because *did* already carries the past tense, the main verb must go back to its **base form**. This is why *Did he went?* is wrong and *Did he go?* is right.

Learning objectives

- Use **did** to form past questions and negatives.
- Keep the main verb in its base form after *did* and *didn't*.
- Use **did** for emphasis in positive sentences.
- Distinguish auxiliary *did* from the main verb *did*.
- Recognise when *did* is not needed at all.

Did as an auxiliary verb

Function	Structure	Example
Yes/No question	Did + subject + base verb	Did you see the film?
Wh- question	Wh- + did + subject + base verb	Where did she go?
Negative	subject + didn't + base verb	He didn't call me.
Emphasis	subject + did + base verb	I did tell you!
Short answer	Yes/No + subject + did	Yes, I did .
Question tag	..., didn't + subject?	You called her, didn't you?

Because *did* is the same for all subjects, there is no agreement to worry about: *Did I ...? Did you ...? Did she ...? Did they ...?*

The rule that matters most

The past tense is marked **once**. In a positive sentence it sits on the main verb (*went, worked, saw*). As soon as *did* appears, the tense moves onto it and the main verb becomes bare.

Sentence type	Correct	Wrong
Positive	He went home.	—
Negative	He didn't go home.	<i>He didn't went home.</i>
Question	Did he go home?	<i>Did he went home?</i>
Wh- question	Why did he go home?	<i>Why did he went home?</i>

This applies to irregular verbs too, and that is where learners slip most often: *Did you **see** it?* not *Did you saw it?*; *She didn't **take** it* not *She didn't took it.*

Did as a main verb

Form	Example
Positive	<i>I did my homework last night.</i>
Negative	<i>I didn't do my homework.</i>
Question	<i>What did you do yesterday?</i>
Short answer	<i>Did you do the shopping? — Yes, I did.</i>

In *What did you do yesterday?* the first *did* is the auxiliary and the second *do* is the main verb. In *I didn't do it*, the same pair appears in the negative.

When did is NOT used

Situation	Correct	Wrong
Main verb is <i>be</i>	Were you at home?	<i>Did you were at home?</i>
Main verb is <i>be</i> , negative	She wasn't there.	<i>She didn't was there.</i>
With a modal	Could you swim?	<i>Did you could swim?</i>
Subject question with <i>who/what</i>	Who called you?	<i>Who did call you?</i> (unless emphatic)

The last row is worth attention. When *who* or *what* is the **subject** of the question, no auxiliary is used: *Who broke the window?* But when it is the **object**, *did* returns: *Who did you see?*

Did for emphasis

- *I **did** send the email — check your spam folder.*
- *She **did** apologise, actually.*
- *We **did** enjoy the concert.*

Emphatic *did* often answers an accusation or corrects a wrong assumption. The main verb still stays in the base form.

Signal words and time expressions

yesterday, last night / week / year, three days ago, in 2020, when I was a child, then, at that moment. A finished time expression is a reliable signal that you need the past simple, and therefore *did* in questions and negatives.

Formal and informal usage

- **Didn't** is standard in speech and informal writing; formal writing prefers *did not*.
- Emphatic *did* is natural in conversation and in persuasive writing, but overusing it sounds defensive.
- In very informal speech people sometimes drop the auxiliary entirely (*You see that?*). Avoid this in writing.

Common mistakes

Mistake	Correct	Why
<i>Did he went?</i>	Did he go?	<i>did</i> already carries the past
<i>She didn't came.</i>	She didn't come.	same reason
<i>Did you saw it?</i>	Did you see it?	irregular verbs follow the same rule
<i>Where you went?</i>	Where did you go?	the auxiliary is required
<i>Did you were tired?</i>	Were you tired?	<i>be</i> needs no <i>did</i>
<i>Who did break the window?</i>	Who broke the window?	subject question, no auxiliary
<i>I didn't nothing.</i>	I didn't do anything.	standard English avoids double negatives

A comparison with the present

Present	Past
Do you work here?	Did you work here?
Does she live here?	Did she live here?
He doesn't smoke.	He didn't smoke.
I do know.	I did know.
What do you do ?	What did you do ?

The simplification is real: three present forms (*do, does, don't, doesn't*) collapse into two past ones (*did, didn't*).

Learning tips

1. Treat *did + past form* as a spelling error you can spot instantly, like a double capital letter.
2. Practise with irregular verbs specifically. Regular verbs rarely trigger the mistake; *went, saw, took, came* do.
3. Tell someone about your last weekend, then have them ask you five questions about it. The answers use past forms; the questions use *did + base form*.

Summary checklist

- Is the main verb in its **base form** after *did* or *didn't*?
- Did I avoid *did* with **be** and with modals?
- Is my question a subject question? If so, no auxiliary is needed.
- Are my short answers *Yes, I did* / *No, I didn't*?
- Is there a finished past time expression justifying the tense?

Shpjegim në gjuhën shqipe

Rregulli i anglishtes, i shpjeguar në shqip

Në kohën e shkuar folja ndihmëse ka një formë të vetme: **did**, të njëjtë për të gjitha vetat. Kjo e thjeshton njëren anë të gramatikës dhe e ndërlikon tjetrën.

Rregulli kryesor është ky: koha e shkuar shënohet **vetëm një herë** në fjali. Në fjalinë pohore ajo qëndron te folja kryesore (*He went*). Sapo shfaqet *did*, koha kalon tek ajo dhe folja kryesore **kthehet në formën bazë** (*Did he go?*). Prandaj *Did he went?* është gabim: koha do të ishte shënuar dy herë. E njëjta gjë vlen edhe për foljet e parregullta.

Folja *did* përdoret për pyetjen, mohimin (*didn't*), përgjigjen e shkurtër dhe theksimin: ***I did tell you!***

Ajo **nuk përdoret** në tri raste: kur folja kryesore është *be*, kur ka një folje modale, dhe kur fjala pyetëse *who* ose *what* është vetë kryefjala e fjalisë — *Who called you?*

Ekuivalenti në gjuhën shqipe

Forma **did** nuk ka asnjë ekuivalent në gjuhën shqipe. Ajo nuk përkthehet: roli i saj është thjesht gramatikor, të mbajë kohën e shkuar që folja kryesore e humbet. Shqipja e ruan kohën te vetë folja dhe shton veç **a** për pyetjen ose **nuk** për mohimin.

Krahasimi i strukturave

Funksioni	Shqip	Anglisht
Pohore	Ai shkoi në shtëpi.	He went home.
Mohore	Ai nuk shkoi në shtëpi.	He didn't go home.
Pyetëse	A shkoi ai në shtëpi?	Did he go home?
Me fjalë pyetëse	Ku shkoi ai?	Where did he go ?
Përgjigje e shkurtër	Po. / Jo.	Yes, he did . / No, he didn't .

Vini re dallimin thelbësor: në shqip folja mbetet **shkoi** në të tria rastet. Në anglisht ajo është *went* vetëm në fjalinë pohore; kudo tjetër bëhet *go*.

Pse ndodh kjo

Në anglisht koha e shkuar shënohet **vetëm një herë** në fjali. Kur shfaqet *did*, ajo e merr përsipër këtë detyrë dhe folja kryesore kthehet në formën bazë. Kjo shpjegon plotësisht pse *Did he went?* është gabim: koha do të ishte shënuar dy herë.

E saktë	Gabim	Shqip
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She came late.	—	Ajo erdhi vonë.
She didn't come late.	<i>didn't came</i>	Ajo nuk erdhi vonë.
Did she come late?	<i>Did she came</i>	A erdhi ajo vonë?

Kur did nuk përdoret

Rasti	Anglisht	Shqip
Folja është <i>be</i>	Were you at home?	A ishte në shtëpi?
Folje modale	Could you swim?	A dije të notoje?
Pyetje për kryefjalën	Who called you?	Kush të mori në telefon?

Rasti i fundit është i rëndësishëm: kur *who* ose *what* është vetë kryefjala, anglishtja nuk përdor folje ndihmëse — pikërisht si shqipja.

Did si folje e mëvetësishme

What **did** you **do** yesterday? — **Çfarë bëre dje?** E para është ndihmëse dhe nuk përkthehet; e dyta përkthehet me *bëj*.

Gabime të zakonshme të folësve të shqipes

Gabimi	E saktë	Pse
<i>Did he went?</i>	Did he go?	koha shënohet vetëm te <i>did</i>
<i>She didn't came.</i>	She didn't come.	e njëjta arsye
<i>Where you went?</i>	Where did you go?	pyetja kërkon ndihmësen
<i>Did you were tired?</i>	Were you tired?	<i>be</i> nuk merr <i>did</i>
<i>Who did break the window?</i>	Who broke the window?	pyetje për kryefjalën