

## ПРАКТИЧНА ЛЕКЦИЈА

# Do - Past Simple

Категорија на лекцијата: 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       | <b>Did</b> you see the film?       |
| Wh- question    | Wh- + did + subject + base verb | Where <b>did</b> she go?           |
| Negative        | subject + didn't + base verb    | He <b>didn't</b> call me.          |
| Emphasis        | subject + did + base verb       | I <b>did</b> tell you!             |
| Short answer    | Yes/No + subject + did          | Yes, I <b>did</b> .                |
| Question tag    | ..., didn't + subject?          | You called her, <b>didn't</b> 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 <b>went</b> home.              | —                            |
| Negative      | He <b>didn't go</b> home.         | <i>He didn't went home.</i>  |
| Question      | <b>Did</b> he <b>go</b> home?     | <i>Did he went home?</i>     |
| Wh- question  | Why <b>did</b> he <b>go</b> 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 <b>did</b> my homework last night.</i>          |
| Negative     | <i>I <b>didn't do</b> my homework.</i>               |
| Question     | <i>What <b>did</b> you <b>do</b> yesterday?</i>      |
| Short answer | <i>Did you do the shopping? — Yes, I <b>did</b>.</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>                | <b>Were</b> you at home? | <i>Did you were at home?</i>               |
| Main verb is <i>be</i> , negative     | She <b>wasn't</b> there. | <i>She didn't was there.</i>               |
| With a modal                          | <b>Could</b> you swim?   | <i>Did you could swim?</i>                 |
| Subject question with <i>who/what</i> | <b>Who called</b> 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>              | <b>Did he go?</b>            | <i>did</i> already carries the past      |
| <i>She didn't came.</i>          | <b>She didn't come.</b>      | same reason                              |
| <i>Did you saw it?</i>           | <b>Did you see it?</b>       | irregular verbs follow the same rule     |
| <i>Where you went?</i>           | <b>Where did you go?</b>     | the auxiliary is required                |
| <i>Did you were tired?</i>       | <b>Were you tired?</b>       | <i>be</i> needs no <i>did</i>            |
| <i>Who did break the window?</i> | <b>Who broke the window?</b> | subject question, no auxiliary           |
| <i>I didn't nothing.</i>         | <b>I didn't do anything.</b> | standard English avoids double negatives |

## A comparison with the present

| Present                        | Past                            |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Do</b> you work here?       | <b>Did</b> you work here?       |
| <b>Does</b> she live here?     | <b>Did</b> she live here?       |
| He <b>doesn't</b> smoke.       | He <b>didn't</b> smoke.         |
| I <b>do</b> know.              | I <b>did</b> know.              |
| What <b>do</b> you <b>do</b> ? | What <b>did</b> you <b>do</b> ? |

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 <b>nuk shkoi</b> në shtëpi. | He <b>didn't go</b> home.                     |
| Pyetëse              | <b>A shkoi</b> ai në shtëpi?   | <b>Did</b> he <b>go</b> home?                 |
| Me fjalë pyetëse     | <b>Ku shkoi</b> ai?            | Where <b>did</b> he <b>go</b> ?               |
| Përgjigje e shkurtër | Po. / Jo.                      | Yes, he <b>did</b> . / No, he <b>didn't</b> . |

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 |
|---------|-------|-------|
|---------|-------|-------|

|                                  |                     |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| She <b>came</b> late.            | —                   | Ajo erdhi vonë.     |
| She <b>didn't come</b> late.     | <i>didn't came</i>  | Ajo nuk erdhi vonë. |
| <b>Did</b> she <b>come</b> late? | <i>Did she came</i> | A erdhi ajo vonë?   |

## Kur did nuk përdoret

| Rasti                 | Anglisht                 | Shqip                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Folja është <i>be</i> | <b>Were</b> you at home? | A ishte në shtëpi?       |
| Folje modale          | <b>Could</b> you swim?   | A dije të notoje?        |
| Pyetje për kryefjalën | <b>Who called</b> 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>              | <b>Did he go?</b>            | koha shënohet vetëm te <i>did</i> |
| <i>She didn't came.</i>          | <b>She didn't come.</b>      | e njëjta arsye                    |
| <i>Where you went?</i>           | <b>Where did you go?</b>     | pyetja kërkon ndihmësen           |
| <i>Did you were tired?</i>       | <b>Were you tired?</b>       | <i>be</i> nuk merr <i>did</i>     |
| <i>Who did break the window?</i> | <b>Who broke the window?</b> | pyetje për kryefjalën             |