

Le prétérit simple, verbes irréguliers

1. Le prétérit simple

Formation

Forme affirmative	Forme négative	Forme interrogative
I worked	I didn't work	Did I work... ?
You worked	You didn't work	Did you work...?
He worked	He didn't work	Did he work...?
She worked	She didn't work	Did she work...?
It worked	It didn't work	Did it work...?
We worked	We didn't work	Did we work...?
You worked	You didn't work	Did you work...?
They worked	They didn't work	Did they work...?

A la forme affirmative

Lorsque le verbe est régulier, on ajoute -ed ou -d à la base verbale.

Exemples

I painted.

I worked.

I arrived.

Les verbes irréguliers ont un prétérit et un participe passé qu'il faut apprendre.

Exemples

I went (prétérit de go)

I bought (prétérit de buy)

Aux formes affirmative et interrogative

Le verbe est en base verbale et la marque du prétérit est dans l'auxiliaire did.

Exemples

Where did you go ? Où es-tu allé ?

What did you buy ? Qu'avez-vous acheté ?

I didn't do anything special. Je n'ai rien fait de spécial.

I didn't buy anything. Je n'ai rien acheté.

Emploi

On utilise le prétérit pour raconter un fait qui est terminé et qui n'a pas de lien avec le moment où l'on parle : un événement passé, une histoire, un conte, une biographie...

Il n'y a pas nécessairement un adverbe de temps ou une date pour situer l'évènement. En revanche, les adverbes ou expressions tels que when (dans un contexte passé), ago, last year...imposent un prétérit.

Exemples

He flew across the Atlantic in 1927.

Il traversa l'Atlantique en avion en 1927.

I went to London with my class two years ago.

Je suis allé à Londres avec ma classe il y a 2 ans.

Caractéristiques communes dans la formation du présent et du prétérit simple.

A la forme affirmative

Il n'y a pas d'auxiliaire.

Exemples

I like	I liked	I buy	I bought
J'aime	J'ai aimé	J'achète	J'ai acheté

Aux formes affirmative et négative

La marque du temps est sur l'auxiliaire.

Do / does au présent. Did au prétérit.

Exemples

I don't like	I didn't like	Do you like...?	Did you like...?
Je n'aime pas	Je n'ai pas aimé	Aimes-tu...?	As-tu aimé...?

2. Verbes irréguliers

Base verbale	Preterit	Participe passé	Traduction	Base verbale	Prétérit	Participe passé	Traduction
B				F			
Be	Was, were	Been	Être	Fall	Fell	Fallen	Tomber
Bear	Bore	Born, borne	Porter	Feed	Fed	Fed	Nourrir
Beat	Beat	Beaten	Battre	Fight	Fought	Fought	Combattre, se battre
Become	Became	Become	Devenir	Find	Found	Found	Trouver
Begin	Began	Begun	Commencer	Fly	Flew	Flown	Voler
Bite	Bit	Bitten	Mordre	Forbid	Forbade	Forbidden	Interdire
Bleed	Bled	Bled	Saigner	Forget	Forgot	Forgotten	Oublier
Blow	Blew	Blown	Souffler	Forgive	Forgave	Forgiven	Pardonner
Break	Broke	Broken	Casser	Freeze	Froze	Frozen	Geler
Bring	Brought	Brought	Apporter	G			
Broadcast	Broadcast	Broadcast	Diffuser	Get	Got	Got	Obtenir, devenir
Build	Built	Built	Construire	Give	Gave	Given	Donner
Burn	Burnt	Burnt	Brûler	Go	Went	Gone	Aller
Buy	Bought	Bought	Acheter	Grow	Grew	Grown	Grandir
C				H			
Catch	Caught	Caught	Attraper	Have	Had	Had	Avoir
Choose	Chose	Chosen	Choisir	Hear	Heard	Heard	Entendre
Come	Came	Come	Venir	Hide	Hid	Hidden	Cacher
Cost	Cost	Cost	Coûter	Hit	Hit	Hit	Frapper
Cut	Cut	Cut	Couper	Hold	Held	Held	Tenir
D				Hurt	Hurt	Hurt	Blesser
Do	Did	Done	Faire	K			
Draw	Drew	Drawn	Tirer, dessiner	Keep	Kept	Kept	Garder
Dream	Dreamt	Dreamt	Rever	Know	Knew	Known	Savoir, connaître
Drink	Drank	Drunk	Boire				
Drive	Drove	Driven	Conduire				
E							
Eat	Ate	Eaten	Manger				

Base verbale	Prétérit	Participe passé	Traduction	Base verbale	Prétérit	Participe passé	Traduction
L				Shake	Shook	Shaken	secouer
Lay	Laid	Laid	Poser	Shine	Shone	Shone	briller
Lead	Led	Led	Mener	Shoot	Shot	Shot	Tirer
Learn	Learnt	Learnt	Apprendre	Show	Showed	Shown	Montrer
Leave	Left	Left	Quitter	Shut	Shut	Shut	Fermer
Lend	Lent	Lent	Prêter	Sing	Sang	Sung	Chanter
Let	Let	Let	Laisser	Sit	Sat	Sat	Être assis
Lie	Lay	Lain	Être étendu	Sleep	Slept	Slept	Dormir
Light	Lit	Lit	Allumer	Smell	Smelt	Smelt	Sentir

Lose	Lost	Lost	Perdre	Speak	Spoke	Spoken	Parler
M				Spell	Spelt	Spelt	Epeler
Make	Made	Made	Faire, fabriquer	Spend	Spent	Spent	Passer, dépenser
Mean	Meant	Meant	Signifier	Spoil	Spoilt	Spoilt	Gâter
Meet	Met	Met	Rencontrer	Stand	Stood	Stood	Être debout
P				Steal	Stole	Stolen	Voler (dérober)
Pay	Paid	Paid	Payer	Sweep	Swept	Swept	Balayer
Put	Put	Put	Mettre	Swim	Swam	Swum	Nager
R				T			
Read	Read	Read	Lire	Take	Took	Taken	Prendre
Ride	Rode	Ridden	Faire du cheval	Teach	Taught	Taught	Enseigner
Ring	Rang	Rung	Sonner	Tear	Tore	Torn	Déchirer
Rise	Rose	Risen	S'élever	Tell	Told	Told	Dire, raconter
Run	Ran	Run	Courir	Think	Thought	Thought	Penser
S				Throw	Threw	Thrown	Jeter
Say	Said	Said	Dire	U			
See	Saw	Seen	Voir	Understand	Understood	Understood	Comprendre
Sell	Sold	Sold	Vendre	W			
Send	Sent	Sent	Envoyer	Wake	Woke	Woken	Réveiller
Set	Set	Set	Poser, fixer, mettre	Wear	Wore	Worn	Porter (vêtement)
				win	Won	Won	Gagner
				write	Wrote	Written	Écrire