

The Most Important Tenses of English

In this part of the presentation we are going to discuss the tenses in the **past** time

The tenses for the **past** time are:

Past Simple

Past Continuous

Present Perfect

Past Perfect



We are going to start with discussing the **Past Simple** tense.

The Past Simple

We use the Past Simple tense when:

- we are talking about the **past** time, and
- we know **the time** when the action happened.

→ I **went** to Dublin **last year**.

In English, you know the time even if you don't know the exact date.

For example, you don't know when John's party was. But you say:

→ At John's party I **met** Anna.

The Past Simple

There are **two** kinds of verbs in the tense:

Regular verbs

They have **-ed** ending

→ work + ed = worked

→ stop + ed = stopped

→ dance + ed = danced

Irregular verbs

They don't have any rules, you need to **learn them by heart**.

→ be - was / were

→ go - went

→ can - could

The Past Simple

regular verb 'worked'

positive sentences

Singular

I worked.

You worked.

He worked.

She worked.

It worked.

Plural

We worked.

You worked.

They worked.

The Past Simple

regular verb 'worked'

negative sentences

Singular

I did not (didn't) work.

You did not (didn't) work.

He did not (didn't) work.

She did not (didn't) work.

It did not (didn't) work.

Plural

We did not (didn't) work.

You did not (didn't) work.

They did not (didn't) work.

The Past Simple

regular verb 'worked'

questions and short answers

Singular

Did I work? Yes, I did. / No, I didn't.

Did you work? Yes, you did. / No, you didn't.

Did he work? Yes, he did. / No, he didn't.

Did she work? Yes, she did. / No, she didn't.

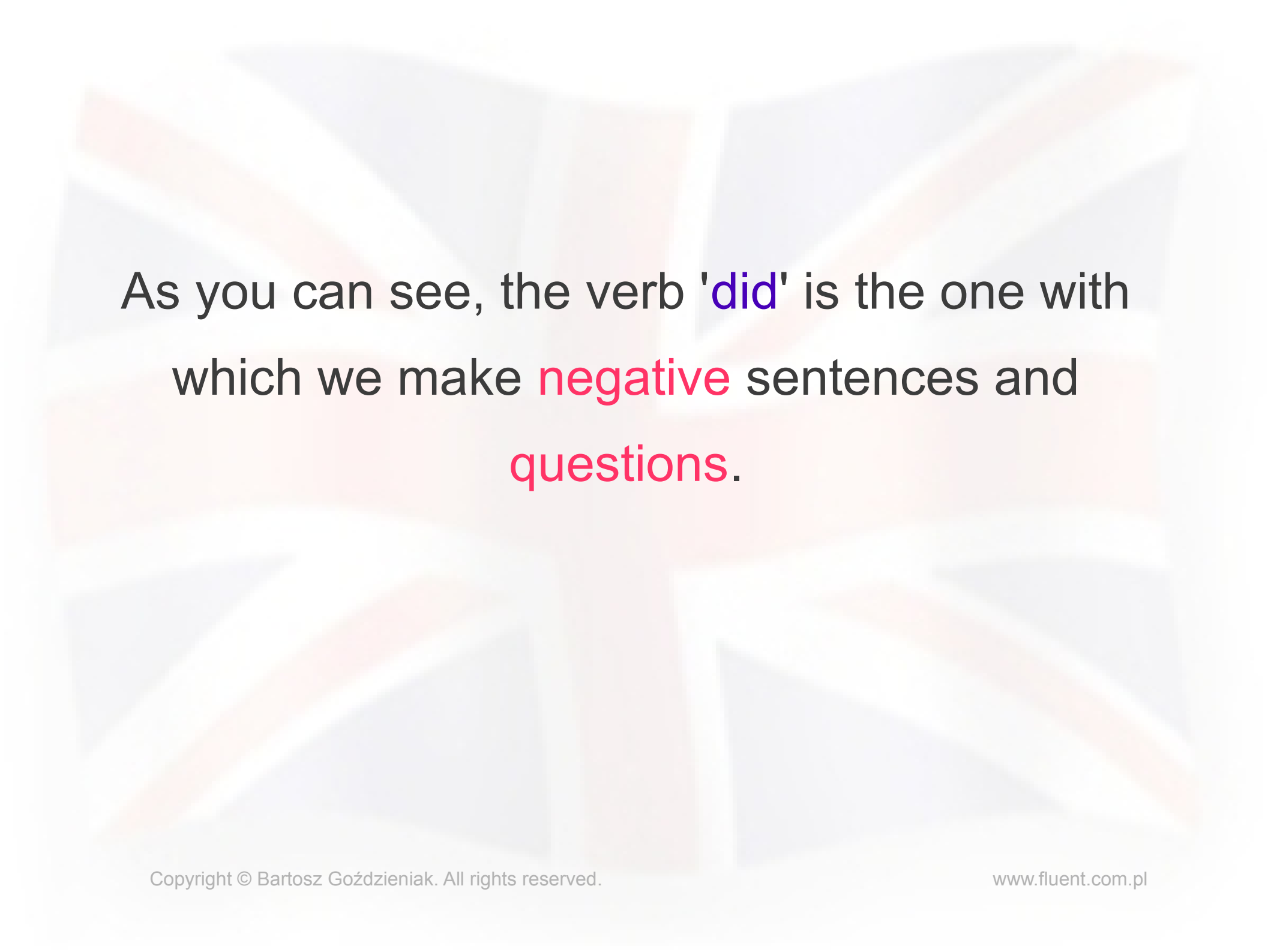
Did it work? Yes, it did. / No, it didn't.

Plural

Did we work? Yes, we did. / No, we didn't.

Did you work? Yes, you did. / No, you didn't.

Did they work? Yes, they did. / No, they didn't.



As you can see, the verb 'did' is the one with which we make **negative** sentences and **questions**.



The general rule is:

If there is the verb 'did', the action verb is in its
basic form.

Don't say:

→ I didn't worked.

Say:

→ I didn't work.

The Past Simple

irregular verb 'went'

positive sentences

Singular

I went.

You went.

He went.

She went.

It went.

Plural

We went.

You went.

They went.

The Past Simple

irregular verb 'went'

negative sentences

Singular

I did not (didn't) go.

You did not (didn't) go.

He did not (didn't) go.

She did not (didn't) go.

It did not (didn't) go.

Plural

We did not (didn't) go.

You did not (didn't) go.

They did not (didn't) go.

The Past Simple

irregular verb 'went'

questions and short answers

Singular

Did I go? Yes, I did. / No, I didn't.

Did you go? Yes, you did. / No, you didn't.

Did he go? Yes, he did. / No, he didn't.

Did she go? Yes, she did. / No, she didn't.

Did it go? Yes, it did. / No, it didn't.

Plural

Did we go? Yes, we did. / No, we didn't.

Did you go? Yes, you did. / No, you didn't.

Did they go? Yes, they did. / No, they didn't.



Please notice:

→ I **worked**.

→ I **didn't work**.

→ I **went**.


→ I **didn't go**.




Please consider:

The idea of **regular** and **irregular** verbs is connected with **positive** sentences **only**.

If you put any **regular** verb instead of '**worked**',
and any **irregular** verb instead of '**went**', you make
correct sentences in the **Past Simple** tense.



If you **don't know** if a verb is **regular** or **irregular**,
make it **regular**.



The verbs 'was / were' and 'could' are different.
They don't need the verb 'did' to make negative
sentences and questions.

The Past Simple

irregular verb 'was / were'

positive sentences

Singular

I **was**.

You **were**.

He **was**.

She **was**.

It **was**.

Plural

We **were**.

You **were**.

They **were**.

The Past Simple

irregular verb 'was / were'

negative sentences

Singular

I was not (wasn't).

You were not
(weren't).

He was not (wasn't).

She was not
(wasn't).

It was not (wasn't).

Plural

We were not (weren't).

You were not (weren't).

They were not
(weren't).

The Past Simple

irregular verb 'was / were'

questions and short answers

Singular

Was I? Yes, I was. / No, I wasn't.

Were you? Yes, you were. / No, you weren't.

Was he? Yes, he was. / No, he wasn't.

Was she? Yes, she was. / No, she wasn't.

Was it? Yes, it was. / No, it wasn't.

Plural

Were we? Yes, we were. / No, we weren't.

Were you? Yes, you were. / No, you weren't.

Were they? Yes, they were. / No, they weren't.

The Past Simple

irregular verb 'could'

positive sentences

Singular

I **could** swim.

You **could** swim.

He **could** swim.

She **could** swim.

It **could** swim.

Plural

We **could** swim.

You **could** swim.

They **could** swim.

The Past Simple

irregular verb 'could'

negative sentences

Singular

I could not (couldn't) swim.

You could not (couldn't) swim.

He could not (couldn't) swim.

She could not (couldn't) swim.

It could not (couldn't) swim.

Plural

We could not (couldn't) swim.

You could not (couldn't) swim.

They could not (couldn't) swim.

The Past Simple

irregular verb 'could'

questions and short answers

Singular

Could I swim? Yes, I could. /
No, I couldn't.

Could you swim? Yes, you
could. / No, you couldn't.

Could he swim? Yes, he
could. / No, he couldn't.

Could she swim? Yes, she
could. / No, she couldn't.

Could it swim? Yes, it could. /
No, it couldn't.

Plural

Could we swim? Yes, we
could. / No, we couldn't.

Could you swim? Yes, you
could. / No, you couldn't.

Could they swim? Yes, they
could. / No, they couldn't.



Please remember!

Don't say:

→ I **could to** swim.

Say:

→ I **could** swim.



End of part 2

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