**PAST SIMPLE**

‘Time is a universal, non-linguistic concept with three divisions: past, present, and future; by tense we understand the correspondence between the form of the verb and our concept of time. Aspect concerns the manner in which the verbal action is experienced (for example as completed or in progress), while mood relates the verbal action to such conditions as certainty, obligation, necessity, possibility. In fact, however, to a great extent these three categories are interrelated: in particular, the expression of time present and past cannot be considered separately from aspect, and the expression of the future is closely bound up with mood.’ (Quirk and Greenbaum 1990:40.)

**The past forms and the -ed participle forms**

of regular verbs have three spoken realizations:

1. It is pronounced **[id]** after bases ending in [d] and [t]:

suggest – suggested, divide – divided

2. It is pronounced **[d]** after bases ending in voiced sounds other than [d]:

mention – mentioned, discover – discovered, die – died

3. It is pronounced **[t]** after bases ending in voiceless sounds other than [t]:

miss – missed, hope – hoped, pack – packed

**Inflectional spelling rules**

**Doubling of consonant**

Final base consonants are doubled before inflections -ed and -ing when the preceding vowel

is stressed and spelled with a single letter:

stop – stopped – stopping

There is **no doubling** when the vowel is *unstressed or written with two letters*:

enter – entered – entering

**Note: BrE** **breaks the rule with respect to certain other consonants:**

signal – signalled – signalling

worship – worshipped – worshipping

**AmE**, **however, keeps the single consonant:**

signal – signaled – signaling

Most verbs ending in -p have the regular spelling in both British English and American

English:

develop – developed – developing

gallop – galloped – galloping

Note: There are a lot of irregular verbs in English, and students must learn them. I have to add that it is not enough to learn only how to write these verbs, their pronunciation is important, as well. This document does not contain irregular verbs, every teacher should advise his/her pupils where he/she can find them. I would recommend to use the Internet, e.g.

<http://www.helpforenglish.cz/article/2011040502-irregular-verbs-zalozka>

**Past Tense (Past Simple)** is used to express:

**1. an action that took place at a particular point in the past:**

The train arrived at **3 o’clock.**

I had a word with Julian **this morning.**

**2. a series of actions in the past:**

He took out his notebook, tore off a leaf, wrote his telephone number on it, and gave it

to me.

**3. a habitual or repeated action in the past:**

He **usually** saw his dentist twice a year.

She **always** made her own breakfast.

(In these sentences (clauses) adverbs of frequency are used, pay attention to their position in the sentence). It is advisable to explain the position of sometimes and usually)

**4. polite inquiries:**

I wondered if you could give me a lift.

**Note:** Some adverbials like **yesterday, last summer** and combinations with  **ago** (two years

ago, a long time ago) **are used only with past tenses**:

I saw Jane **yesterday.**

I met Robert many years **ago** in Prague.

**In questions and negatives** we usually use DID / DIDN'T + base form of the verb (infinitiv)

+ I work**ed.** – I **didn´t** work. ? **Did** you work?

**When** **did** you **learn** about it?

**Použitá literatura**

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