

# UNIT 25

## Simple Past: Irregular Verbs; Yes/No Questions

### HELPING OTHERS

#### OUTCOMES

- Use regular and irregular verbs in the simple past
- Ask and answer *yes/no* questions in the simple past
- Complete sentences about a reading
- Identify true and false statements about a conversation
- Talk about the lives of famous people
- Interview your classmates about what they did last week
- Write a paragraph about a famous person who helped others

### STEP 1 GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

#### BEFORE YOU READ

**A VOCABULARY** Study the words. Then complete the sentences with the words.



act



protect



take care of

1. Nurses \_\_\_\_\_ sick people in hospitals.
2. People \_\_\_\_\_ when they play characters in movies or plays.
3. Parents \_\_\_\_\_ their children when they ride in cars.

**B** Work with a partner. Compare your answers in A.



Read the article.

# Who Is Lupita Nyong'o?

LUPITA NYONG'O is a Mexican-Kenyan actress, film director, and fashion star. She **became** famous after she acted in the movie *Twelve Years a Slave*.<sup>1</sup> She played Patsey, a slave girl in the American South. Her acting **was** very good, and she inspired<sup>2</sup> many people.

In her movies, Lupita often plays strong and helpful characters. In 2015, she **was** Maz Kanata in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. In 2016, she **did** the voice of a mother wolf<sup>3</sup> in *The Jungle Book*. The wolf takes care of a human boy. Also in 2016, she played Phiona Mutesi's mother in *Queen of Katwe*. This is a true story about a poor young Ugandan girl. She **didn't have** enough to eat, but she **became** very good at the game of chess.

Lupita is much more than a movie star. She also helps and protects animals. People kill many animals in Africa. Recently, Lupita **went** to Kenya to visit elephants. She **said** it was a wonderful experience, but she **was**

<sup>1</sup> *slave*: a person who is not free

<sup>2</sup> *inspired*: made people have a special, good feeling

<sup>3</sup> *wolf*: a wild animal similar to a big dog



sad when she **saw** many baby elephants with no mothers. Lupita wants everyone to help her save elephants and other animals.

Lupita also helps girls and women around the world. Recently, Lupita **became** a member of Mother Health International. This organization helps poor mothers and their children in Africa.

Lupita Nyong'o's film career is important. But she also protects animals and helps girls, women, and babies. That work is even more important.



A scene from *Queen of Katwe*



## AFTER YOU READ

**A COMPREHENSION** Look at the article again. Complete the sentences. Circle the correct answers.

- Lupita Nyong'o became famous after she was in the movie \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*                      b. *Twelve Years a Slave*
- The movie *Queen of Katwe* is about \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. a mother wolf    b. a chess player
- In Kenya, Lupita visited \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. elephants    b. girls
- Elephants are in danger from \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. other animals    b. people
- Mother Health International is an organization for \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. all mothers    b. poor mothers

**B** Work with a partner. Compare your answers in A.

Go to [MyEnglishLab](#) for more grammar in context practice.

## STEP 2 GRAMMAR PRESENTATION

### SIMPLE PAST STATEMENTS (IRREGULAR VERBS)

Statements	
Affirmative	Negative
He <b>ate</b> bread.	He <b>did not eat</b> regular meals.
They <b>got</b> married in June.	They <b>didn't get</b> married in July.
You <b>had</b> time to help.	You <b>didn't have</b> time to help.
She <b>drank</b> water.	She <b>didn't drink</b> coffee.
She <b>went</b> to Kenya.	She <b>didn't go</b> to Egypt.

### SIMPLE PAST YES/NO QUESTIONS

Yes/No Questions				Short Answers	
Did	Subject	Base Form		Affirmative	Negative
Did	I	wake	you up?	Yes, you <b>did</b> .	No, you <b>didn't</b> .
	you	take care of	the kids yesterday?	Yes, I <b>did</b> .	No, I <b>didn't</b> .
	he	help	his grandfather?	Yes, we <b>did</b> .	No, we <b>didn't</b> .
	it	rain	last night?	Yes, he <b>did</b> .	No, he <b>didn't</b> .
	we	eat	all the cookies?	Yes, it <b>did</b> .	No, it <b>didn't</b> .
	they	cook	for the hungry people?	Yes, we <b>did</b> .	No, we <b>didn't</b> .
				Yes, they <b>did</b> .	No, they <b>didn't</b> .

### GRAMMAR NOTES

#### 1 Irregular Verbs

Irregular verbs have different forms in the simple past.

Here are several common irregular verbs and their past forms.

- *become* → *became*
- *do* → *did*
- *grow* → *grew*
- *say* → *said*
- *see* → *saw*
- *send* → *sent*
- *sit* → *sat*
- *take* → *took*
- *win* → *won*
- *write* → *wrote*

Jaime **became** a teacher.  
 I **did** a lot of work yesterday.  
 She **grew** up in China.  
 He **said** he was hungry.  
 We **saw** that movie.  
 They **sent** us a letter.  
 Maria **sat** down.  
 We **took** a vacation last summer.  
 Our team **won** the game.  
 My grandfather **wrote** many books.

Remember that the simple past forms of *be* are *was*, *wasn't*, *were*, and *weren't*. (See Unit 7.)

She **was born** in Mexico. She **wasn't born** in Kenya.  
 We **were born** in Canada. We **weren't born** in Italy.

## 2 Negative Forms of Simple Past Verbs

To make **negative sentences** with both regular and irregular verbs in the simple past, use **did not** + the **base form** of the verb.

He **did not eat** much.

Use the contraction **didn't** + the **base form** in conversation and informal writing.

He **didn't eat** much.

**BE CAREFUL!** Don't use *did* or *didn't* with the past form of the verb. Use the base form.

He **didn't have** breakfast.

**NOT** He didn't ~~had~~ breakfast.

## 3 Yes/No Questions and Short Answers in the Simple Past

To make **yes/no questions** in the simple past, use **did** + the **subject** + the **base form** of the verb.

**Did you stop** for lunch?

**Did she eat** anything?

You can use **did** or **didn't** in the short answer to a question in the simple past. You can also use just the word **yes** or **no**.

A: **Did** it rain?

B: Yes, it **did**. or **Yes**.

No, it **didn't**. or **No**.



## PRONUNCIATION NOTE

### Simple Past Questions with *Did*

In **yes/no questions** in the simple past, we often pronounce the last *d* in *did* + a /y/ sound as /dʒ/. When *did* comes before other sounds, we pronounce the last *d* as /d/.

- /d/ + a /y/ sound

**Did you** get up late today?

(/dʒu/)

**Did your** brother come to visit?

(/dʒur/)

- /d/ + other sounds

**Did they** call you last night?

**Did Ana** finish her homework?

## REFERENCE NOTES

For **definitions of grammar terms**, see the Glossary on page 375.

For information on **regular verbs in the simple past**, see Unit 24 on page 275.

For information on **simple past wh- questions**, see Unit 26 on page 298.

For a list of **irregular verbs and their simple past forms**, see Appendix 19 on page 373.

**STEP 3 FOCUSED PRACTICE**

**EXERCISE 1 DISCOVER THE GRAMMAR**

**A GRAMMAR NOTES 1-3** Read the conversation. Underline the *yes/no* questions in the simple past. Then circle irregular verbs in simple past statements.

ABLA: Wow! I'm really hungry. Let's go have lunch. I didn't have breakfast.

JOMO: Why? Did you get up late?

ABLA: Yeah, I got up at 8:15. I just drank a glass of orange juice.

JOMO: Did you stay up late last night?

ABLA: Yes, I did.

JOMO: Why?

ABLA: Well, first I babysat for my neighbor. Then I bought some medicine for my grandmother.

JOMO: Did you write your paper for drama class?

ABLA: Yeah. I wrote it on Lupita Nyong'o.

JOMO: Oh, no! You, too?



**B** Read the conversation in A again. For each statement, check (✓) *True* or *False*.

	True	False
1. It is time for breakfast now.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Abla got up early.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Abla had some orange juice after she got up.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Abla went to bed late last night.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Abla babysat for her grandmother.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Abla helped her grandmother last night.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Abla didn't do her paper for drama class.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Jomo wrote his drama paper on Lupita Nyong'o.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>