45 Past simple (1)

Daniel Craig made his first James Bond film in 2006.

1 Form

We add *-ed* to most verbs to make the past simple:
watch → *watched*, *finish* → *finished*

I/You	finished yesterday.
He/She/It	
We/You/They	

Study these spellings:
die → *died*, *live* → *lived*, *like* → *liked*
stop → *stopped*, *plan* → *planned*, *travel* → *travelled*
carry → *carried*, *study* → *studied*

Spelling rules for regular verbs ➤ page 316

The pronunciation of the *-ed* ending depends on the sound that comes before it.

Pronunciation ➤ 1.18

Some verbs are irregular. They do not form the past simple with *-ed*:
buy → ***bought***, *do* → ***did***, *have (got)* → ***had (got)***,
go → ***went***, *hit* → ***hit***, *leave* → ***left***,
make → ***made***, *put* → ***put***, *say* → ***said***, *take* → ***took***,
see → ***saw***, *tell* → ***told***, *win* → ***won***

Irregular verbs ➤ page 314

2 Use

We use the past simple to talk about

- a single finished action in the past:
  *I **went** to the dentist yesterday.*
  *I **passed** my exam last week.*
- a repeated action in the past:
  *I **called** your mobile five times yesterday.*

We often use time expressions (e.g. *yesterday*, *in 2002*, *last year*) to say when something happened:

Daniel Craig made his first Bond film	in 2006.
I started work	last month.
It rained all day	yesterday.
My English course started	two months ago. (two months before now)

We can also use *when* + past simple:
*My father played football **when he was young**.*
***When she left college**, Isabel had no money.*