**Class 4: Simple Past and final “ED” Pronunciation**

* **Importance of Simple Present**

*In academic writing, past simple, sometimes called the preterit, is one of the most commonly used three tenses along present simple and present perfect1.*

1. **Rule of Simple Present**

Subject + base form of the verb + “ed” (if the verb is regular). No rule if the verb is irregular or modal. You will have to memorize preterite of irregular verbs.

Example 1: He worked at the hospital yesterday. (A regular verb)

Example 2: He taught English last week. (An irregular verb)

Example 3: We had our books in the classroom last week. (Auxiliary verb to have)

Example 4: He was my student in 2020. (Auxiliary verb to be)

Example 5: He could play soccer in his teenage. (A modal verb)

From the examples, we can notice that modal, auxiliary and irregular verbs changed completely and a regular verbs conserves its base form.

**Exception 1**: When a regular verb ends with a final “e”, you only add “d” instead of “ed”. Example: live – lived.

**Exception 2**: When a regular verb ends with a final consonant after a short stressed vowel, a consonant is usually doubled before adding the suffix “ed”. Example: Stop – Stopped

Exception 3: When a verb ends in a final “y” after a consonant, the “y” becomes “ie” before you add “d”. Example: Carry - Carried. Bury – Buried

Note: Negative, interrogative and interrogative forms are phrased differently. Please, google “Negative, interrogative and interrogative in simple past” if useful.

1. **Uses of Simple Past**

* **General Uses**

1. The simple past tense is used to express a completed action or event in the past (a time before now).

Example 6: Students graduated on May 20th, 2023.

1. The simple past is used to express an action or event that was true for some time in the past.

Example 7: We used to extract DNA with salting in early 90s.

1. The simple past is used to explain something that happened more than once in the past.

Example 8: I used to study all the time when I was a medical student.

Let us focus only on the first use of simple present. In simple past, we have to be specific about the time in the past either by using dates or phrases or prepositions of time. We need a proper use of the following prepositions: on, in, and at2.

* **at** for a precise time. Example: Our English class started **at** 10 AM.
* **in** for months, years, centuries and long periods. Example: She passed her high school exam **in** 2019.
* **on** for days and dates. Example: She graduated from high school **on** July 7th, 2019.
* **Uses in Manuscript Writing**

Simple past is used in the introduction (hypothesis), methods and results sections in a manuscript3-6. Simple past is also used in daily English speaking and during oral presentations (lab meeting, journal clubs, international meetings and conferences). While the rule of conjugation is simple for regular verbs in simple past, the pronunciation is a bit challenging because the final “ed” is pronounced in different ways.

1. **Final “ed” Pronunciation7**

The final “ed” is pronounced in three (3) different ways depending on the last consonant or its sound.

1. The final “ed” is pronounced as /id/ when the final consonant or sound is T or D.

**Example 9:**

T: He wanted. He started. It departed. She reacted.

D: He decided. It needed. She depended.

1. The final “ed” is pronounced as /t/ when the final consonant or sound is C, CH, F, GH, K, P, SH, TH, SS or X.

**Note**: Go online to find your own examples.

1. The final “ed” is pronounced as /d/ when the final consonant or sound does not fall into the first two categories.

**Note:** Go online to find your own examples.

Remind that past participles and adjectives may end with a final “ed”, too. The same rules for the final “ed” pronunciation do apply.

**Note:** Go online to find your own examples.

1. **Evaluation**
2. What is the rule of simple past?
3. What are three main uses of simple past?
4. In which sections of a manuscript, simple past is used?
5. How is the final “ed” pronounced?
6. **References**
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