

# THE SIMPLE PAST TENSE

(I did)

 Look at these sentences :

1. My colleague took the TOEFL last April.
2. He went to the public park yesterday afternoon.
3. When he was in Turkey, he often went to the public park in the afternoon.

The underlined words are in the **Simple Past Tense**. We use this tense when we want to talk about an action that happened at a particular time in the past (e.g. last April; yesterday afternoon; etc.) or when we want to talk about a repeated or habitual action in the past (as in example 3 above).

We make negative and interrogative forms of the Simple Past Tense by using DID, followed by the infinitive; e.g.

1. The Supervisory Committee did not approve of the thesis proposal.
2. Did the Supervisory Committee approve of the thesis proposal?

N.B.: Past tense verb forms may be *regular* (i.e. ending in "-ed"; e.g. "walked," "believed," etc.) or *irregular* (e.g. see/saw; catch/caught; come/came; etc.). For a list of irregular verbs see Appendix 1.

## Exercise 11

### Put the verbs in parentheses into the Simple Past Tense:

1. Typhoid (break) out a long time ago.
2. When the first war between the Arab countries and Israel (break) out?
3. Columbus (discover) America in 1492.
4. My grandfather (fall) ill the other day, but he (not go) to see the doctor.
5. A: When you (be) born?  
B: I (be) born in 1970.
6. When Salahuddin (defeat) the Crusaders?
7. The man with a handbag (go) down the escalator a couple of minutes ago.
8. You (put) the ticket in the slot?
9. You (not go) to the bank to cash the cheque this morning?
10. Why the young boy (not show) the ticket to the ticket collector?