

Past Tense of Build: Built

Build is an irregular verb. The past simple and the past participle are the same form: built. Use built for a finished action, and after have or has.

Base	build
Past	built
Past participle	built
3rd person / -ing	builds / building

Examples

They build houses near the river. — A regular job or activity in the present uses build.

Birds build their homes in trees. — A general fact in the present uses build.

My grandfather built this table. — Built is the past simple; the action is finished.

The children built a small house yesterday. — Yesterday points to a finished past action.

The city has built a new bridge. — Has built is present perfect.

We have built a small garden at home. — After have, the participle is also built.

Notes

Built in the passive Built is common in passive sentences: The school was built in 1990. The church is built of stone. The same form works in both active and passive.

Build and building A building is a noun, such as a house or an office. The -ing form of the verb, building, looks the same: They are building a house now. The sentence shows which one you mean.

Common mistakes

We builded a sandcastle. → We built a sandcastle. — Build is irregular. The past is built, not builded.

They have build a new school. → They have built a new school. — After have, use the past participle built, not the base form.

The bridge was build in 1950. → The bridge was built in 1950. — A passive sentence needs the past participle: was built.

Exercises

Choose the right form

1. My uncle ___ our garage last summer. (build / builded / built)
2. They have ___ a new library in town. (built / build / builded)
3. Ants ___ their homes under the ground every day. (built / build / builds)
4. This house was ___ in 1960. (build / built / building)

Write the missing form

1. Our town has ___ a new park.
2. Yesterday, we ___ a small boat.

3. Now my father ___ tables and chairs in his shop.

Correct the mistake

1. They builded a house by the sea.

Answer key

Choose the right form

1. built — Last summer is finished, so use built.
2. built — Have takes the past participle built.
3. build — A general fact with ants (they) uses build.
4. built — A passive sentence uses the past participle: was built.

Write the missing form

1. built — Has plus the past participle is has built.
2. built — Yesterday takes the past simple built.
3. builds — A present job with my father (he) needs builds.

Correct the mistake

1. built — The past of build is built, not builded.

<https://www.fluencyroad.com/irregular-verbs/build>