

Past Tense of Fall: Fell and Fallen

Fall is an irregular verb. Use fell for a finished action in the past. Use fallen after have or has, when you connect the past with now.

Base	fall
Past	fell
Past participle	fallen
3rd person / -ing	falls / falling

Examples

Leaves fall from the trees in October. — A regular event in the present uses fall.

Be careful, or you will fall. — After will, use the base form fall.

The boy fell off his bike. — Fell is the past simple; the action is finished.

Snow fell all night. — All night is a finished past time.

The price has fallen this week. — Has fallen connects the past with now.

My phone has fallen under the sofa. — After has, use the participle fallen.

Notes

Fall down and fall asleep Fall down means drop to the ground: The old man fell down. Fall asleep means start to sleep: I fell asleep at ten. In these phrases, only fall changes: fell asleep, has fallen asleep.

Fall in love and autumn Fall in love is a common phrase: They fell in love in Paris. In American English, fall is also a season, the same as autumn in British English.

Common mistakes

She falled on the ice. → She fell on the ice. — Fall is irregular. The past is fell, not falled.

He has fell asleep. → He has fallen asleep. — After has, use the past participle fallen, not fell.

I have fallen off my chair yesterday. → I fell off my chair yesterday. — Yesterday is a finished time, so use the past simple fell.

Exercises

Choose the right form

1. The glass ___ off the table. (fall / fell / fallen)
2. Prices have ___ this year. (fell / falled / fallen)
3. Rain often ___ in winter here. (falls / fell / fallen)
4. The baby ___ asleep in the car. (fallen / falled / fell)

Write the missing form

1. The temperature has ___ today.
2. Last winter, my mother ___ on the stairs.
3. Apples ___ from the tree every autumn.

Correct the mistake

1. The cup has fell on the floor.

Answer key

Choose the right form

1. fell — The action is finished, so use the past simple fell.
2. fallen — Have takes the past participle fallen.
3. falls — Often shows a present habit, and rain (it) takes falls.
4. fell — This is a finished past action, so use fell.

Write the missing form

1. fallen — Has plus the past participle is has fallen.
2. fell — Last winter takes the past simple fell.
3. fall — A general fact with apples (they) uses fall.

Correct the mistake

1. fallen — After has, use fallen, not fell.