

Past Tense of Get: Got and Gotten

Get is an irregular verb. The past is got. In American English the past participle is gotten; in British English it is got.

Base	get
Past	got
Past participle	gotten / got
3rd person / -ing	gets / getting

Examples

I get up at seven every day. — Get up means leave your bed.

You get a free drink with this meal. — Here get means receive.

He got a letter from his friend. — Got is the past form and means received.

We got home late last night. — Get home means arrive at home.

She has gotten better at English. — In American English, the participle is gotten.

I have gotten two emails today. — Has or have plus gotten means received so far.

Notes

Gotten or got? In American English, use gotten as the past participle: She has gotten a new job. In British English, use got: She has got a new job. Both are correct in their own variety.

Have got means have In the present, I have got a car just means I have a car. Here got is not about getting anything, and in this use American English also says got, not gotten.

One verb, many meanings Get can mean receive (get a text), arrive (get home), become (get tired) or fetch (get a glass of water). The past form is always got.

Common mistakes

I getted a gift. → I got a gift. — Get is irregular: the past is got, never getted.

She has get a new job. → She has gotten a new job. — After has or have, use a past participle: gotten in American English, got in British English.

He gets up early. → He gets up early. — With he, she and it, the present form is gets.

Exercises

Choose the right form

1. We ___ up early every Sunday. (get / got / gotten)
2. He ___ a text from Mia an hour ago. (gets / got / gotten)
3. It has ___ cold this week. (get / gotten / getted)
4. She ___ a coffee every morning. (get / gets / gotten)

Write the missing form

1. I have ___ a lot of messages today.

2. She ___ tired after the long walk.
3. My dad ___ home at six every evening now.

Correct the mistake

1. They getted lost in the town.

Answer key

Choose the right form

1. get — Every Sunday is a present habit, so use get.
2. got — An hour ago is past, so use got.
3. gotten — After has, American English uses the participle gotten.
4. gets — With she in the present, use gets.

Write the missing form

1. gotten — American English uses gotten; British English uses got. Both are accepted.
2. got — The past form is got.
3. gets — A routine with dad uses gets.

Correct the mistake

1. got — The past form is got, not getted.

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