

Past Tense of Give: Gave and Given

Give is an irregular verb. Use gave for a finished action in the past. Use given after have or has, as in she has given me a book.

Base	give
Past	gave
Past participle	given
3rd person / -ing	gives / giving

Examples

I give my sister a gift on her birthday. — A yearly habit in the present uses give.

Please give me a glass of water. — A polite request uses the base form.

He gave me his phone number. — Gave is the past form; it needs no helper.

The teacher gave us homework on Friday. — One finished event in the past uses gave.

She has given me good advice. — Has given links the past to now.

We have given the cat some food. — Have plus given is present perfect.

Notes

Two word orders Give can be followed by a person and then a thing: give me the book. You can also put the thing first and add to: give the book to me.

Give up and give back Give up means stop trying, and give back means return something. Both keep the same forms: gave up, has given back.

Common mistakes

I have gave him my number. → I have given him my number. — After have, use the past participle given, not gave.

She gived me a gift. → She gave me a gift. — Give is irregular, so the past is gave, not gived.

Give to me the salt. → Give me the salt. — Put the person first without to: give me the salt. Or put the thing first and add to: give the salt to me.

Exercises

Choose the right form

1. Anna ___ me a nice present last week. (give / gave / given)
2. Has he ___ you the key? (gave / gived / given)
3. I always ___ my mother flowers on her birthday. (give / gave / given)
4. They ___ us free tickets yesterday. (given / give / gave)

Write the missing form

1. My teacher ___ me extra time last Friday.
2. I have ___ him my number.
3. Please ___ me your address.

Correct the mistake

1. He has gave me his book.

Answer key

Choose the right form

1. gave — Last week is finished, so use the past form gave.
2. given — After has, use the past participle given.
3. give — Always describes a present habit: I give.
4. gave — Yesterday is finished, so use gave.

Write the missing form

1. gave — Last Friday is finished, so use gave.
2. given — Have plus the participle is have given.
3. give — A polite request uses the base form give.

Correct the mistake

1. given — After has, use given, not gave.

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