

Past Tense of Have: Had

Have is an irregular verb. The past and the past participle are the same word: had. In the present, use has with he, she and it.

Base	have
Past	had
Past participle	had
3rd person / -ing	has / having

Examples

I have two brothers. — Have shows what you own or who is in your family.

They have a small garden. — Use have with they, you, we and I.

She had a headache this morning. — Had is the past of both have and has.

We had pizza for dinner. — Have also describes meals: have dinner.

He has had the same phone for years. — In has had, the first word is the helper and the second is the participle.

I have had a busy week. — Have had links the past week to now.

Notes

Has, not have With he, she and it, the present form is has: She has a dog. Use have with I, you, we and they.

Main verb or helper Have can be a main verb (I have a car) or a helper for the present perfect (I have finished). In informal speech, I have got a car also means I have a car. After a helper like did or does, use the base form: I did not have time.

Common mistakes

She have a dog. → She has a dog. — With she, he and it, the present form is has.

I haved breakfast. → I had breakfast. — Have is irregular: the past is had, never haved.

I didn't had time. → I didn't have time. — After did or didn't, the verb goes back to the base form have.

Exercises

Choose the right form

1. My sister ___ a new bike now. (have / has / had)
2. We ___ a great trip last summer. (has / had / have)
3. I have ___ this bag for three years. (have / has / had)
4. They ___ breakfast at eight these days. (has / have / had)

Write the missing form

1. She ___ long hair now.
2. Yesterday I ___ a cold.
3. We have ___ lunch already.

Correct the mistake

1. He have a big family.

Answer key

Choose the right form

1. has — Sister is he/she/it, so the present form is has.
2. had — Last summer is past, so use had.
3. had — After have, use the past participle had.
4. have — These days is a present habit and they takes have.

Write the missing form

1. has — With she, the present form is has.
2. had — Yesterday takes the past form had.
3. had — Have plus the past participle is have had.

Correct the mistake

1. has — With he, use has.

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