

Past Tense of Hold: Held

Hold is an irregular verb. Its past form and past participle are the same word: held. Say I held the bag and I have held the bag.

Base	hold
Past	held
Past participle	held
3rd person / -ing	holds / holding

Examples

Please hold my coffee for a minute. — Hold means to have something in your hands or arms.

We hold hands when we cross the street. — Hold hands means to join hands with someone.

She held my hand in the street. — Held is the past form; it does not need have.

He held the bag while I found my keys. — The action is finished, so use held.

I have never held a baby. — After have, the participle is also held.

They have held the class in this room all year. — Hold a class or a meeting means to organize it.

Notes

Hold on Hold on means wait a moment: Hold on, I'm coming. It also means keep a firm grip: Hold on to my arm. Hold hands means to have your hands joined.

Held, not holded Hold is an ABB verb: the past form and the past participle are both held. The o of hold becomes e: hold, held, held. Never add -ed.

Common mistakes

He holded my bag. → He held my bag. — Hold is irregular; its past form is held, never holded.

She has hold the baby all morning. → She has held the baby all morning. — After has, use the past participle held, not the base form hold.

Exercises

Choose the right form

1. Yesterday my mother ___ my hand at the station. (hold / held / holded)
2. I have ___ this ticket for a week. (hold / holded / held)
3. Please ___ the door for me. (hold / held / holds)
4. They ___ a party for her last Friday. (hold / holded / held)

Write the missing form

1. We have ___ these books for hours.
2. Yesterday she ___ the baby very carefully.
3. I always ___ my little brother's hand in the street.

Correct the mistake

1. He holded the door for me.

Answer key

Choose the right form

1. held — Yesterday is a finished past time, so use held.
2. held — Have takes the past participle held.
3. hold — After please, use the base form hold.
4. held — Last Friday is finished, so use the past simple held.

Write the missing form

1. held — Have plus the past participle is have held.
2. held — Yesterday is finished, so use the past simple held.
3. hold — Always shows a present habit, and I takes the base form hold.

Correct the mistake

1. held — The past of hold is held, not holded.

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