

Past Tense of Lead: Led and Led

Lead is an irregular verb. The past tense and the past participle are the same form: led. Present lead sounds like leed; led sounds like red.

Base	lead
Past	led
Past participle	led
3rd person / -ing	leads / leading

Examples

I lead the group in English class. — Present lead is pronounced like leed.

Please lead the way to the station. — Lead the way means go first so others can follow.

A guide led the tourists through the old town. — Led is the past form; it does not need have.

He led us to the station yesterday. — Yesterday points to a finished past action.

My brother has led the team since January. — After has, the participle is led.

She has led the school band for three years. — The participle has the same form as the past.

Notes

Lead and led The verb lead is pronounced /li:d/. Its past and participle led is pronounced /led/, like red. Write led for the past, never lead.

Lead, the metal Lead can also be a heavy gray metal, pronounced /led/, like led. Context shows the meaning: a lead pipe is made of metal, but lead the way is a verb.

Lead to Lead to means go to or cause: This road leads to the beach. Too much sun can lead to a headache.

Common mistakes

She lead the team yesterday. → She led the team yesterday. — The past of lead is led, spelled with e and pronounced like red.

They have leaded us here. → They have led us here. — Lead is irregular. The participle is led, not leaded.

Exercises

Choose the right form

1. Maria ___ the team last year. (lead / led / leaded)
2. He has ___ the class since June. (led / lead / leaded)
3. I ___ a small group every Friday. (lead / led / leaded)
4. This road always ___ to the beach. (lead / leads / led)

Write the missing form

1. A guide ___ us through the town yesterday.
2. She has ___ the club for two years.
3. He is ___ the group today.

Correct the mistake

1. The teacher leaded us to the room.

Answer key

Choose the right form

1. led — Last year is finished, so use led.
2. led — Has takes the past participle led.
3. lead — Every Friday describes a present routine: I lead.
4. leads — Always shows a present fact, and This road takes leads.

Write the missing form

1. led — Yesterday is finished, so the past is led.
2. led — Has plus the participle is has led.
3. leading — Today with is needs the -ing form: leading.

Correct the mistake

1. led — The past of lead is led, not leaded.