

Past Tense of Leave: Left and Left

Leave is an irregular verb. The past tense and the past participle are both left. It can mean go away from a place or put something behind.

Base	leave
Past	left
Past participle	left
3rd person / -ing	leaves / leaving

Examples

I leave home at eight every day. — Every day marks a present routine.

Please leave your shoes at the door. — Here leave means put something and not take it.

The bus left five minutes ago. — Ago points to a finished past time.

She left her phone in the car yesterday. — Left is the past of leave, not the opposite of right.

He has left his bag on the train. — Has left uses the participle.

We have left the lights on. — The participle is left, the same as the past.

Notes

Leave a place, leave for a place Say leave home or leave the office with no preposition. Use for before the place you are going to: He left for work at eight. Use at or in for where you put something: I left my keys at home.

Left has two meanings Left is the past of leave. It is also the opposite of right: turn left. Read the sentence to see which one it is.

Common mistakes

I leaved home early. → I left home early. — Leave is irregular, so the past is left, not leaved.

She has leaved her keys at home. → She has left her keys at home. — After has, use the participle left.

He left to the office at eight. → He left for the office at eight. — After leave, use for before the place you go to.

Exercises

Choose the correct form

1. They ___ the party an hour ago. (leave / left / leaved)
2. She has ___ her bag on the bus. (leaved / left / leaving)
3. I ___ for work at seven every day. (leave / left / leaves)
4. We leave ___ Madrid tomorrow. (to / at / for)

Write the missing form

1. I ___ my keys at home this morning.
2. She has ___ the office already.
3. The train ___ at six every Friday.

Correct the mistake

1. She leaved the house at nine.

Answer key

Choose the correct form

1. left — Ago points to a finished past time, so use left.
2. left — After has, the participle is left.
3. leave — Every day describes a present routine; with I use leave.
4. for — Use for before the place you are going to.

Write the missing form

1. left — This morning is finished here, so the past is left.
2. left — Has takes the participle left.
3. leaves — A timetable in the present uses leaves with a singular subject.

Correct the mistake

1. left — The past of leave is left.