

# Past Tense of Let: Let, Let, Let

Let is an irregular verb with three identical forms: let, let, let. Only the time words and helpers show whether the sentence is present or past.

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Base              | let            |
| Past              | let            |
| Past participle   | let            |
| 3rd person / -ing | lets / letting |

## Examples

Do your parents let you stay out until ten? — After do, the verb stays in its base form: let.

Please let me help you. — After let me, the next verb has no to.

She let the dog out an hour ago. — An hour ago shows that let is past here.

They let us in at nine last night. — Let in means allow someone to enter.

I have let the cat out. — After have, the participle is let.

Her mother has let her go to the party. — Has let is present perfect.

## Notes

**Same spelling, check the clues** Base, past and participle are all let. Look for the clue: yesterday or an hour ago means past, have or has means participle, and a plain habit means present. The third person adds an s: she lets.

**Let's** Let's is short for let us. Use it to make a suggestion: Let's go to the cinema. Do not write lets without the apostrophe for a suggestion.

**Let and the next verb** After let and a person, use the base form without to: let me go, not let me to go. The -ing form doubles the t: letting.

## Common mistakes

Let me to go. → Let me go. — After let and a person, use the base verb without to.

He leted me use his phone. → He let me use his phone. — Let is irregular and does not change in the past. There is no -ed.

Lets go to the park! → Let's go to the park! — A suggestion needs the apostrophe: let's means let us.

## Exercises

### Choose the right form

1. Our teacher \_\_\_ us leave early yesterday. (let / lets / leted)
2. Please \_\_\_ me know when you arrive. (lets / let / to let)
3. \_\_\_ go to the cinema tonight! (Let's / Lets / Let)
4. Has your mom \_\_\_ you use her car? (let / leted / letted)

### Write the missing form

1. They \_\_\_ me in at the door this morning.
2. My dad does not \_\_\_ me play games at night.
3. She has \_\_\_ him borrow her pen.

**Correct the mistake**

1. Her mother leted her go out.

## Answer key

---

### Choose the right form

1. let — Yesterday is past, and the past of let is let.
2. let — After please, use the base form let.
3. Let's — A suggestion with we uses let's.
4. let — After has, the participle of let is let.

### Write the missing form

1. let — This morning is finished, and the past of let is let.
2. let — After does not, use the base form let.
3. let — After has, the participle is let.

### Correct the mistake

1. let — Let does not take -ed: the past is let.