

Past Tense of Put: Put, Put, Put

Put has the same form in the present, past and past participle. Do not add -ed. A time word such as yesterday, or a helper such as have, tells you which tense is meant.

Base	put
Past	put
Past participle	put
3rd person / -ing	puts / putting

Examples

I put milk in my tea every morning. — Every morning marks a present habit.

We put our bags under the desk every day at school. — Every day shows a routine, so put is present.

She put the milk in the fridge yesterday. — Yesterday tells us put is in the past.

Last night he put his phone on the table. — Last night marks a finished past action.

I have put the books on the shelf already. — Have put uses the participle; already goes with have.

They have put the chairs outside today. — The participle after have is still put.

Notes

Put on and put off Put on means to wear or turn on: put on a coat. Put off means to delay: We put off the trip. The forms stay put in the past.

Putting doubles the t The -ing form is putting, with two t's. Write putting, not puting.

Common mistakes

She putted the keys on the table. → She put the keys on the table. — The past of put is put, without -ed.

I have putted my bag here. → I have put my bag here. — After have, the participle is put, not putted.

He is puting on his shoes. → He is putting on his shoes. — The -ing form doubles the t: putting.

Exercises

Choose the correct form

1. She ___ her keys on the table yesterday. (put / putted / puts)
2. I have ___ the bags on the table. (putted / put / putting)
3. We ___ our coats on the chairs every day. (put / putted / putting)
4. He is ___ on his coat. (puting / putting / putted)

Write the missing form

1. Last night I ___ my phone under my bed.
2. She has ___ her books away.
3. They are ___ on their shoes.

Correct the mistake

1. He putted his bag on the chair.

Answer key

Choose the correct form

1. put — Yesterday takes the past form put.
2. put — After have, the participle is put.
3. put — Every day describes a present habit.
4. putting — The -ing form doubles the t: putting.

Write the missing form

1. put — Past put is spelled put.
2. put — The participle after has is put.
3. putting — Putting has two t's.

Correct the mistake

1. put — The past tense stays put.

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