

Past Tense of Say: Said

Say is an irregular verb. The past and the past participle are the same word: said. Notice the spelling: said is not sayed.

Base	say
Past	said
Past participle	said
3rd person / -ing	says / saying

Examples

I say hello to my neighbors every day. — A daily habit uses the base form say.

Please say your name slowly. — Say is the base form in a polite request.

She said goodbye and left. — Said is the past form; it is the only past form of say.

He said the shop was closed. — Said often introduces what someone told us.

I have said sorry many times. — After have, the participle is also said.

They have said yes to the plan. — Have said is the present perfect.

Notes

Pronunciation Said is pronounced /sɛd/ and rhymes with bed. Says is pronounced /sɛz/, with the same vowel as said (not as in say). It does not rhyme with days.

Say or tell? Say is followed by the words themselves: She said hello. Tell is followed by a person: She told me the news. Do not say say me: use tell me.

Common mistakes

He sayed hello. → He said hello. — Say is irregular: the past is said, never sayed.

She said me the answer. → She told me the answer. — Say is not followed directly by a person. Use tell me.

He say it is late. → He says it is late. — With he, she and it, the present form is says.

Exercises

Choose the right form

1. Every morning my mom ___ good morning to me. (say / says / said)
2. Yesterday the teacher ___ we can go home early. (say / says / said)
3. I have ___ no to the offer. (said / say / sayed)
4. Could you ___ that again, please? (said / say / says)

Write the missing form

1. She has ___ nothing all day.
2. The guide ___ we can take photos.
3. He ___ the test is easy.

Correct the mistake

1. He sayed he was tired.

Answer key

Choose the right form

1. says — Every morning is a present habit and mom takes says.
2. said — Yesterday is past, so use said.
3. said — After have, use the participle said.
4. say — After could, the verb stays in the base form say.

Write the missing form

1. said — Have plus the past participle is has said.
2. said — The past form is said.
3. says — With he in the present, use says.

Correct the mistake

1. said — The past form is said, not sayed.

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