

Past Tense of Sell: Sold

Sell is an irregular verb. The past simple and the past participle are the same form: sold. Use sold for a finished action, and after have or has.

Base	sell
Past	sold
Past participle	sold
3rd person / -ing	sells / selling

Examples

Shops sell bread and milk. — A general fact with shops (they) uses sell.

I sell old books at a market. — A habit in the present uses sell.

He sold his car in May. — May is a finished time, so use sold.

They sold their old house yesterday. — Sold is the past simple; it does not need have.

We have sold our old sofa. — Have sold connects the past with now.

She has sold all her old books. — Has sold connects the past with now.

Notes

Sell and buy Sell and buy are opposites. The seller gives something and gets money. The buyer gets something and gives money. Ana sold her bike to Tom. Tom bought Ana's bike.

Sold out Sold out means there are no more left. The tickets are sold out. We sold out of bread by noon. The form sold also works as an adjective after be.

Common mistakes

She sold her phone. → She sold her phone. — Sell is irregular. The past is sold, not sold.

I have sell my bike. → I have sold my bike. — After have, use the past participle sold, not the base form.

I sold a new jacket and paid fifty dollars. → I bought a new jacket and paid fifty dollars. — Sell means give something for money. To get something for money, use buy.

Exercises

Choose the right form

1. My friend ___ his house last month. (sell / sold / sold)
2. They have ___ all the apples. (sold / sell / sold)
3. That market ___ old clothes every weekend. (sold / sells / sell)
4. I ___ my old phone, and Mia bought it. (sold / sell / bought)

Write the missing form

1. We have ___ our car.
2. Yesterday, the shop ___ all its bread.
3. My uncle ___ vegetables at the market every Saturday.

Correct the mistake

1. They selled the old table.

Answer key

Choose the right form

1. sold — Last month is finished, so use sold.
2. sold — Have takes the past participle sold.
3. sells — Every weekend is a present habit, and that market (it) uses sells.
4. sold — The speaker gave the phone and got money, so use sold.

Write the missing form

1. sold — Have plus the past participle is have sold.
2. sold — Yesterday takes the past simple sold.
3. sells — A present job with my uncle (he) needs sells.

Correct the mistake

1. sold — The past of sell is sold, not solded.