

Past Tense of Spend: Spent and Spent

Spend is an irregular verb. The past tense and the past participle are the same form: spent. Do not say spended.

Base	spend
Past	spent
Past participle	spent
3rd person / -ing	spends / spending

Examples

I spend an hour on homework every day. — Every day marks a present routine.

We spend our summer vacation at the beach. — Spend works with time, such as a vacation.

She spent ten dollars on lunch. — Spent is the past form; it does not need have.

They spent the weekend with their grandparents. — The weekend is finished, so use spent.

I have spent all my money. — After have, the participle is spent.

He has spent two hours at the library today. — The participle has the same form as the past.

Notes

Spend time, spend money Spend works with time and with money: spend an hour, spend ten dollars. Use on for the thing you pay for: She spent ten dollars on a book. Use -ing for an activity: I spend time reading.

Vacation or holiday American English says summer vacation. British English says summer holiday: We spent our holiday at the beach. Spent is the same in both.

Common mistakes

I spended ten dollars. → I spent ten dollars. — Spend is irregular. Its past form is spent, not spended.

She has spend all day here. → She has spent all day here. — After has, use the past participle spent.

I spent two hours to read. → I spent two hours reading. — After spend plus a time, use the -ing form, not to plus the base form.

Exercises

Choose the right form

1. She ___ ten dollars on a book yesterday. (spent / spended / spend)
2. We have ___ all our money. (spended / spent / spending)
3. I usually ___ Sundays with my family. (spend / spent / spended)
4. I spent two hours ___ my room. (to clean / cleaning / clean)

Write the missing form

1. He ___ a lot of money last week.
2. They have ___ the whole day at the beach.
3. She is ___ too much time on her phone.

Correct the mistake

1. We spende the weekend at home.

Answer key

Choose the right form

1. spent — Yesterday is a finished past time, so use spent.
2. spent — Have takes the past participle spent.
3. spend — Usually marks a present habit: I spend.
4. cleaning — After spend plus a time, use the -ing form.

Write the missing form

1. spent — Last week is finished, so the past is spent.
2. spent — Have plus the participle is have spent.
3. spending — Is needs the -ing form: spending.

Correct the mistake

1. spent — The past of spend is spent, not spend.

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