

Past Tense of Win: Won and Won

Win is an irregular verb. The past tense and the past participle are the same form: won. It sounds just like the number one.

Base	win
Past	won
Past participle	won
3rd person / -ing	wins / winning

Examples

I often win when we play cards. — Often shows a present habit.

We win a prize if we answer every question. — This describes something that is true in general.

Our team won the match last Saturday. — Last Saturday points to a finished past action.

She won a small prize last month. — Won is the past form; it does not need have.

We have won three games this season. — After have, the participle is won.

He has won first prize in the race. — The participle has the same form as the past.

Notes

Win or beat? You win a game, a race or a prize. You beat a person or a team. We won the game. We beat them 3 to 1.

Won sounds like one Won and one are pronounced the same, /wʌn/, but spelled differently. Won is the verb: We won. One is the number: one game.

Winning has two n's The -ing form doubles the n: winning. The past form stays won.

Common mistakes

We ~~winned~~ the game. → We won the game. — Win is irregular. Its past form is won, not winned.

I won him at tennis. → I beat him at tennis. — Win goes with a game or prize. For a person or team, use beat.

She has win a prize. → She has won a prize. — After has, use the past participle won.

Exercises

Choose the right form

1. Our team ___ the game yesterday. (won / winned / win)
2. She has ___ a prize. (win / won / winned)
3. We usually ___ when we play at home. (win / won / winned)
4. I want to ___ you at tennis. (win / beat / won)

Write the missing form

1. They ___ the race last week.
2. He has ___ every game this year.

3. Our team is ___ now.

Correct the mistake

1. My brother winned the race.

Answer key

Choose the right form

1. won — Yesterday is a finished past time, so use won.
2. won — Has takes the past participle won.
3. win — Usually marks a present habit: we win.
4. beat — Beat goes with a person; win goes with a game.

Write the missing form

1. won — Last week is finished, so the past is won.
2. won — Have plus the participle is have won.
3. winning — Winning has two n's.

Correct the mistake

1. won — The past of win is won, not winned.

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