

Verbs *feel/fall* and *find/found*

Some English verbs seem to confuse learners of English with their spelling and pronunciation. Although the verbs from each pair given below do not have anything in common when it comes to meaning, due to some sounds that these verbs share students have difficulties in distinguishing them, especially when listening or speaking. If you are in doubt, the following definitions and examples might help you not to repeat the same mistakes.

feel vs. fall

Infinitive	FEEL /fi:l/	FALL /fo:l/
3rs person singular	feels /fi:lz/	falls /fo:lz/
Past Simple	felt /felt/	fell /fel/
Past Participle	felt /felt/	fallen /fo:lən/
Present Participle	feeling /fi:liŋ/	falling /fo:liŋ/

1.a. *Feel* means “to experience something physical or emotional” and also “to believe, think or be of the opinion”.

- I *feel* the meeting didn't go as well as you would have liked.

1.b. *Fall* means “to suddenly go down onto the ground”. When talking about numbers, values, size, etc. it means “to become less or lower”.

- Last Monday, the dollar *fell* to its lowest-ever level against the pound.

find vs. found

Infinitive	FIND /faɪnd/	FOUND /faʊnd/
3rs person singular	finds /faɪndz/	founds /faʊndz/
Past Simple	found /faʊnd/	founded /faʊndɪd/
Past Participle	found /faʊnd/	founded /faʊndɪd/
Present Participle	finding /faɪndɪŋ/	founding /faʊndɪŋ/

2.a. *Find* means “to discover something”.

- They need to have the ability to analyse the problem and *find* the best solution.

2.a. It can also mean “to think or feel a particular way about something”.

- The committee *found* the report to be rather brief and lacking in reflection.

2.b. The verb *found* means “to set up or establish something”.

- After two years he *founded* a company for the repair and production of toys.

Choose the correct verb out of the selection in each of the following sentences.

1. IT companies have *found/find* a new way to make money.
2. Mr Clarkson *found/founded* a charity company that donates 70% of its profit to education.
3. Demand was accelerated after the prices *fell/felt* further last week.
4. I decided to *found/find* a company dealing only with the Internet.
5. I *felt/fallen* the management course was very successful and useful for my type of job.
6. World stocks are *feeling/falling* for the fourth day in a row.
7. According to the report, the net advertising revenue *fell/find* by 4%.

8. Most organisations are *founding/finding* it difficult to cope with the increased demand in quality and service.
9. UK banks *feel/fell* the effect of the Irish debt crisis.
10. Prices have *fallen/feeling* because of an economic crisis in Europe.

Key: 1. found, 2. founded, 3. fell, 4. found, 5. felt, 6. falling, 7. fell, 8. finding, 9. feel, 10. fallen