

Irregular Verbs in English*

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Type 1: The same form for the simple past and the past participle

Group 1 - 1 (5 verbs)

The simple past and the past participle are the same and end with “d.” The infinitive is always pronounced [i:] like the letter E, while the simple past and past participle are pronounced [E] like in the word “edge.”

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| | to breed | bred | bred |
| | to read | read | read |
| | to lead | led | led |
| | to feed | fed | fed |
| | to deal | dealt | dealt |

Group 1 - 2 (10 verbs)

The simple past and the past participle are exactly the same and end with “t”. The infinitive is always pronounced [I:] like the letter “E” while the simple past and past participle are pronounced [E] like in the word "edge.”

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| | to feel | felt | felt |
| | to sweep | swept | swept |
| | to leap | leapt | leapt |
| | to sleep | slept | slept |
| | to keep | kept | kept |
| | to weep | wept | wept |
| | to leave | left | left |
| | to creep | crept | crept |
| | to meet | met | met |
| | to mean | meant | meant |

Group 2 – 1 (7 verbs)

The simple past and past participles are the same and are formed by changing the last consonant to a “d” or to “de.”

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| | to have | had | had |
| | to make | made | made |
| | to say | said | said |
| | to lay | laid | laid |
| | to pay | paid | paid |
| | to hear | heard | heard |
| | to slide | slid | slid |

**There are additional irregular verbs, but many of these now have common regular forms.*

Group 2 – 2 (11 verbs)

The simple past and past participles are the same and are formed by changing the last consonant to “t.”

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| | to spend | spent | spent |
| | to bend | bent | bent |
| | to lend | lent | lent |
| | to send | sent | sent |
| | to smell | smelt | smelt |
| | to burn | burnt | burnt |
| | to build | built | built |

- *The verbs below (also in group 2) have both regular and irregular forms ending in “t.” They appear in “Was It Love?” as irregular verbs.*
- *In these tables the verbs marked with an asterisk have both regular and irregular forms. In the story “Was It Love?” they have irregular forms.*

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | to learn * | learnt | learnt |
| | to dream * | dreamt | dreamt |
| | to spill * | spilt | spilt |
| | to spoil * | spoilt | spoilt |

Group 3 – 1 (7 verbs)

The simple past and past participles are the same and are formed by changing the last consonant to “ght” pronounced /t/.

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | to bring | brought | brought |
| | to catch | caught | caught |
| | to think | thought | thought |
| | to buy | bought | bought |
| | to fight | fought | fought |
| | to seek | sought | sought |
| | to teach | taught | taught |

Group 4 A (11 verbs)

The simple past and past participles are the same and are formed by changing the last consonant to “d.”

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | to tell | told | told |
| | to sell | sold | sold |
| | to bind | bound | bound |
| | to find | found | found |
| | to grind | ground | ground |
| | to wind | wound | wound |
| | to stand | stood | stood |
| | to understand | understood | understood |
| | to withstand | withstood | withstood |
| | to hold | held | held |
| | to withhold | withheld | withheld |

Group 4 B - 1 (10 verbs)

The simple past and past participles are the same and end in “t,” “ck,” “n” or “ne”.

| | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| | to get | got | got / gotten (US) |
| | to lose | lost | lost |
| | to shine | shone | shone |
| | to shoot | shot | shot |
| | to sit | sat | sat |
| | to spit | spit / spat | spit / spat |
| | to stick | stuck | stuck |
| | to strike | struck | struck |
| | to swing | swung | swung |
| | wring | wrung | wrung |
| | to win | won | won |

Group 4 B - 2 (9 verbs)

The simple past and past participle are once more the same and end in “g” or “ng.”

| | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | to dig | dug | clung |
| | to cling | clung | dug |
| | to fling | flung | flung |
| | to hang | hung / hanged | hung / hanged |
| | to sling | slung | slung |
| | to spin | spun | spun |
| | to sting | stung | stung |
| | to string | strung | strung |

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| Type II: Three different forms |
|---------------------------------------|

Group 5 (11 verbs)

The simple past and past participles are different. These verbs all have infinitives ending in “ow” except “fly”, “draw”, “withdraw” and “sew.” All but the last 4 verbs form the simple past by changing the main syllable to “ew.” Four verbs have regular simple past tenses but irregular past participles: “show,” “sew,” “mow,” and “sow.” For all the verbs in group 5, the past participle is formed by adding “n” to the infinitive.

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| | to blow | blew | blown |
| | to grow | grew | grown |
| | to know | knew | known |
| | to throw | threw | thrown |
| | to fly | flew | flown |
| | to draw | drew | drawn |
| | to withdraw | withdrew | withdrawn |
| | to mow | mowed | mown / mowed |
| | to show | showed | shown / showed |
| | to sew* | sewed | sewn / sewed |
| | to sow* | sowed | sown / sowed |

Be careful, the verbs “sow” and “sew” are pronounced exactly the same.

Group 6 (7 verbs)

The simple past and past participle are again different. The simple past changes the middle vowel of the infinitive to an “o” and adds an “e” at the end if it doesn’t already exist (break, broke; speak, spoke; steal, stole). The past participle is formed by adding an “n” to the simple past.

| | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | to break | broke | broken |
| | to choose | chose | chosen |
| | to freeze | froze | frozen |
| | to speak | spoke | spoken |
| | to steal | stole | stolen |
| | to wake | woke | woken |
| | to weave | wove | woven |

Group 7 – 1 (10 verbs)

The simple past and past participles are different. The simple past is formed by changing the original central vowel sound to another sound:

“eat” → “ate” “take” → “took” “hide” → “hid”.

Thus, the past “sounds” different from the infinitive (exception: beat = beat).

The past participle is formed by adding “n” to the infinitive if it ends with an “e”: “give” → “given” or by adding “en” if it ends with a consonant: “eat” → “eaten”.

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | to take off /out | took | taken |
| | to eat | ate | eaten |
| | to beat | beat | beaten |
| | to drive | drove | driven |
| | to give | gave | given |
| | to forgive | forgave | forgiven |
| | to strive * | strove / strived | striven / strived |
| | to shake | shook | shaken |
| | to forsake | forsook | forsaken |
| | to rise | rose | risen |
| | to arise | arose | arisen |

* Both regular and irregular forms

Group 7 – 2 (7 verbs)

The simple past and past participle differ. The central vowel sound changes in the past, and the past participle doubles the “d,” “t” or “l” at the end.

| | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | to bite | bit | bitten |
| | to write | wrote | written |
| | to forget | forgot | forgotten |
| | to forbid | forbade | forbidden |
| | to hide | hid | hidden |
| | to ride | rode | ridden |
| | to fall | fell | fallen |

Group 8 - 1 (5 verbs)

The simple past and past participles are different. These are very common verbs.

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| | to be | was | been |
| | to see | saw | seen |
| | to go | went | gone |
| | to do | did | done |
| | to begin | began | begun |

Group 8 - 2 (4 verbs)

The simple past and past participle differ, but the past participle is like the infinitive.

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | to come | came | come |
| | to become | became | become |
| | to overcome | overcame | overcome |
| | to run | ran | run |

Group 8 - 3 (4 verbs).

The simple past and past participle are different. The simple past is formed by changing the central vowel sound "ear" to "o" pronounced /O:/ and adding "e" after the final consonant. The past participle is formed by changing the final "e" to "n".

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| | to swear | swore | sworn |
| | to bear | bore | born |
| | to wear | wore | worn |
| | to tear | tore | torn |

Group 8 - 4 (8 verbs).

The simple past and past participle are different. The simple past is formed by changing the central vowel sound "i" to "a" pronounced /{ /. The past participle is formed by changing the central vowel sound to "u" pronounced /V /.

| | | | |
|--|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | to spring | sprang | sprung |
| | to ring | rang | rung |
| | to sing | sang | sung |
| | to drink | drank | drunk |
| | to shrink | shrank | shrunk |
| | to sink | sank | sunk |
| | to stink | stank | stunk |
| | to swim | swam | swum |

Group 8 - 5 (2 verbs).

The simple past and past participle are different. The past participle ends in "ain," which is pronounced /en/.

| | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| | to lie* | lay | lain |
| | to slay | slew | slain |

**Here the verb "to lie" means "to be in a horizontal position." The verb "to lie," which means "not to tell the truth" is a regular verb.*

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|--|
| Type III: The same form for the infinitive, the simple past and the past participle |
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Group 9 - 1 (5 verbs)*The central vowel sound is /E/.*

| | | | |
|--|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | to let | let | let |
| | to bet | bet | bet |
| | to set | set | set |
| | to shed | shed | shed |
| | to spread | spread | spread |

Group 9 - 2 (4 verbs)*The central vowel sound is /V/.*

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| | to hit | hit | hit |
| | to bid | bid | bid |
| | to slit | slit | slit |
| | to split | split | split |
| | to quit | quit | quit |

Group 9 - 3 (3 verbs)*The central vowel sound is /V/.*

| | | | |
|--|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | to cut | cut | cut |
| | to shut | shut | shut |
| | to thrust | thrust | thrust |

Group 9 - 4 (2 verbs)*The central vowel sound is /a:/.*

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| | to hurt | hurt | hurt |
| | to burst | burst | burst |

Group 9 - 5 (3 verbs)*The central vowel sound in the final syllable is /A:/.*

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | to cast | cast | cast |
| | to forecast | forecast | forecast |
| | to broadcast | broadcast | broadcast |

Group 9 - 6 (2 verbs)*The central vowel sound is /U/ or /Q/.*

| | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | to put | put | put |
| | to cost | cost | cost |

If you now know the entire list, you have learned one hundred and forty-eight irregular verbs and their tenses. Congratulations on your efforts to speak correct English!

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