



QT-ESL Podcast No. 71

Irregular Verbs Group 5

Hi there! I'm Marianne Raynaud, and I want to help you improve your level of spoken English. This series of podcasts is designed for you to master correct usage through oral practice. For vocabulary and pronunciation work, try our other series called "Your English".

With irregular verbs we advise you to study their meanings in your own language and then memorize the infinitive, the simple past and the past participle for each verb. To make learning less difficult we have put the irregular verbs into groups.

In group 5 **the simple past and past participle are different**. These verbs all have infinitives ending in "ow" except for "fly", "draw", "withdraw" and "sew". Most of them form the simple past by changing the main syllable from "ow"[@u] to "ew"[u:] (example: grow-grew), but there are four verbs that have regular simple past tenses and irregular past participles. They are "show", "sew", "mow" and "sow". The past participle of all the verbs in group 5 is easy. It is formed by adding "n" to the infinitive (example: blow-blown). There is only one exception "fly" ending with a "y", which becomes "flown". Now listen and repeat.

to blow	blew	blown
to grow	grew	grown
to know	knew	known
to throw	threw	thrown
to fly*	flew	flown
to draw*[O:]	drew	drawn
to withdraw*	withdrew	withdrawn
to mow	mowed	mown

to show	showed	shown
to sew*[@u]	sewed	sewn
to sow [@u]	sowed	sown

N.B. sew = use a needle and thread & sow = put seeds in the soil are pronounced exactly the same: [s@u]

* Infinitives ending in "y", "aw" or "ew"

To practice some more we'll use these verbs in short sentences. I will say two sentences for each verb: one in the simple present and one in the simple past. Listen and repeat.

He blows his nose often.	She knew the answer.	I draw portraits.
He blew his nose often.	He throws the ball very fast.	I drew portraits.
They grow vegetables.	He threw the ball very fast.	He withdraws when he has lost.
They grew vegetables.	The children fly kites.	He withdrew when he had lost.
She knows the answer.	The children flew kites.	

Next you will change a sentence in the present to the simple past. Listen to the examples.

*I say: He **blows** his nose often.*

*You say: He **blew** his nose often.*

*I say: They **grow** vegetables.*

*You say: They **grew** vegetables.*

Now you go on in the same way. Be sure to speak before I give the answer. (Sentences above.)



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And now the four verbs that are different, because they have a regular simple past tense but an irregular past participle. I will say one sentence in the simple present and one in the present perfect with the irregular past participle. Listen and repeat.

They **show** their films in big cinemas.

She **sews** her own clothes.

They **have shown** their films in big cinemas.

She **has sewn** her own clothes.

He **mows** the lawn regularly.

They **sow** the seeds for their flowers.

He **has mown** the lawn regularly.

They **have sown** the seeds for their flowers.

Next you will transform the sentences you hear in the present to the present perfect with “have”, e.g. “have shown”, “have mown” and “have sewn/sown”. Be sure to speak before I give the answer. (Sentences above.)

That’s the end of this episode. The theme was suggested by my colleague Catherine Alhinc, who made up the different groups and wrote the explanations about changes in spelling and pronunciation. Visit www.qualitytime-esl.com to download the script and our Chart of Irregular Verbs. For more practice with a wide variety of topics, try our other series called “Your English” or “5-Minute TOPs” to have fun with song lyrics. Students of English can pick up our different packs of scripts at our website www.qualitytime-esl.com. Teachers can also read about more effective teaching techniques in “*QualityTime-ESL: The Digital Resource Book*” with over 3,000 files that can be customized. This digital book on a DVD or in a download can be found in our store. Bye for now, and don’t forget to keep smiling.