Hi! I’m Marianne Raynaud, and I’m here to help you improve your level of spoken English.

Today we will continue working on the simple past of irregular verbs. If you don’t know the meaning of these verbs, stop and look them up in your dictionary.

Today we will be working with the following verbs:

- Become
- Begin
- Break
- Buy
- Choose
- Cost
- Cut
- Forget
- Hit
- Hurt
- Put
- Shut
- Split
- Spread

Some irregular verbs are easy because they have the same form in the simple past as in the infinitive. Three of these verbs end in the letters “ut”, but be careful because the pronunciation is not always the same.

Listen and repeat.

- Cut
- Yesterday I cut a piece of bread.
- Hurt
- Yesterday he hurt his back.
- Put

Other irregular verbs also have the same form in the simple past as in the infinitive. Listen and repeat.

- Hit
- Yesterday he hit the ball very far.
- Spread
- Yesterday they spread the news.
- Split
- Yesterday we split the work.
- Cost
- Yesterday this book cost $10.

Be careful with these verbs. The simple present, which indicates what we do every day is the same as the simple past except the 3rd person singular, which takes an “s”. To avoid any confusion you should indicate the time by using an adverb such as yesterday, two hours ago, last week, last Thursday for the simple past and every day, usually, regularly, very often etc.
Listen to the following examples.

*I say: I cut a piece of bread every day.*
*You say: I cut a piece of bread yesterday, too.*

*I say: He hurts his back very often.*
*You say: He hurt his back yesterday, too.*

Now you go on in the same way. Speak before I give the right answer.

I cut a piece of bread every day.
He hits the ball very far every day.
I cut a piece of bread yesterday, too.
He hit the ball very far yesterday, too.
He hurts his back very often.
They spread the news very often.
He hurt his back yesterday, too.
They spread the news yesterday, too.
We put on our coats every morning.
We split the work regularly.
We put on our coats yesterday, too.
We split the work yesterday, too.
They shut the door when they go out.
This book usually costs $10.
They shut the door yesterday, too.
This book cost $10 yesterday, too.

Let us work on one more group of irregular verbs. Listen and repeat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Become</th>
<th>Break</th>
<th>Choose</th>
<th>Think</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Begin</td>
<td>Buy</td>
<td>Forget</td>
<td>Thought</td>
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Listen and repeat the following infinitives and simple past tenses:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Break</th>
<th>Buy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Became</td>
<td>Began</td>
<td>Broke</td>
<td>Bought</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Choose
Choose (Pronounce <chOse> like the letter “O”) Repeat “chose”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forget</th>
<th>Think</th>
<th>Thought</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forgot</td>
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Now I will say the verbs in the infinitive and you will say the simple past.

*Examples:*
*I say: begin*
*You say: began*

Now you go on. Be sure to speak BEFORE I give the right answer.

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Now listen and repeat.

Become a member of your club  Buy a new telephone  
Begin a new job  Choose the right answer  
Break my glasses  Forget to take my medicine  

Now go on repeating.

Yesterday I became a member of your club.  Yesterday I bought a new telephone.  
Yesterday I began a new job.  Yesterday I chose the right answer.  
Yesterday I broke my glasses.  Yesterday I forgot to take my medicine.  

Please notice that the simple past is easy, because it is the same for all persons, singular or plural. Listen and repeat.

Yesterday I began a new job. 
He … Yesterday he began a new job. 
They … Yesterday they began a new job. 

Now let’s do a transformation exercise. Listen to the following examples:

I say: become a member of your club.  You say: Yesterday I became a member of your club. 
I say: break my glasses.  You say: Yesterday I broke my glasses. 

Now you go on. Be sure to speak before I give the right answer.

… become a member of your club  … buy a new telephone 
Yesterday I became a member of your club.  Yesterday I bought a new telephone. 
… begin a new job  … choose the right answer. 
Yesterday I began a new job.  Yesterday I chose the right answer. 
… break my glasses  … forget to take my medicine. 
Yesterday I broke my glasses.  Yesterday I forgot to take my medicine. 

Now just listen and repeat.

That was perhaps easier than last time, but it is still difficult to speak correctly particularly with all these irregular verbs. My aim is to understand others and to be clearly understood whenever I speak. I promise myself to do 10 minutes a day of “Linguistic Gymnastics” to improve my level of English. I began only a short time ago. I became a QualityTime-ESL student. I chose to work on my English by doing these exercises regularly. This is hard work, but I will soon be able to speak English without difficulty. When I have time, I will look at the list of irregular verbs and learn all of their past tenses.

This is the end of today’s podcast. We will soon be back with more exercises and short texts to repeat. Thank you all for listening. Bye for now and don't forget to keep smiling!