

QualityTime-ESL presents...



Your English No. 64

“Love” and Irregular Verbs

Hi. I'm Marianne Raynaud. My goal is to help you with your spoken English. Now, what does "love" have to do with irregular verbs? The fact is we are going to offer a story that is full of irregular verbs. Yes, our challenge is to write a tale including all 140+ irregular verbs. It will be quite a challenge. This story is entitled "Was It Love?" a question we at times have to ask ourselves.

I often hear teachers say, "I don't teach irregular verbs, because it is so boring." I can't agree with this opinion. Irregular verbs are truly essential, and knowing them empowers you when you speak English. Just look at the first two groups in our Chart of Irregular Verbs. You will see in groups 1 and 2 verbs like "feel," "keep," "leave," "meet," "mean," "read," "lead," and "have." There are others, e.g., "make," "say," "pay," "hear," "spend," "send," and "build." They are all very important and need to be learned. If you go on to group 3, you will see "bring," "think," "buy," "fight," and "teach" among others. These twenty verbs I have just cited are really vital to communication, and so are many other irregular verbs. That is why we are offering you a new method to help you memorize them and use them while conversing.

In our other series called QualityTime-ESL Podcasts, you will be able to practice these verbs in oral exercises. We have already produced three podcasts and will be offering seven more to cover the nine different groups in our Chart. You can find this chart on our website on the page of this podcast. As I mentioned earlier, here are more than 140 irregular verbs. The more you learn, the better! And let us point out that all of these verbs except 12 have only one syllable. Those that have two syllables are built on the monosyllabic ones like "become" from "come" and "withhold" from "hold," so they are not difficult to learn.

In this series, Your English, we will soon present you with a story in episodes that includes all of the 140+ irregular verbs. It is called "Was It Love?" It has been quite a challenge for us to be able to include all 140+ irregular verbs! We hope you will enjoy this story that is full of suspense and at the same time is intended to help you learn to use all these irregular verbs. Just one piece of advice: it will be much easier for you to work on the story if you have already done the exercises in our series QualityTime-ESL Podcasts.

Perhaps you know your irregular verbs already or at least you can recognize them, and you wonder why you should have to learn the forms of the simple past or the past participle. Being able to use these very common verbs correctly in tenses other than the present makes the difference between a speaker at a limited pre-intermediate level and someone at a comfortable intermediate or even advanced level. By learning to use them correctly you will show respect for the English language, and this will be greatly appreciated by the people you meet, who use this language all over the world.

In this podcast, we will only offer you a short test on the verbs mentioned above. I will give a sentence in the present tense, and you will say the sentence in the simple past. Listen to the examples.

QT-ESL Podcast No. 64 "Love" and Irregular Verbs (Cont.)

I say: I feel happy.
You say: I felt happy.

I say: I keep meeting new people.
You say: I kept meeting new people.

Now you go on in the same way. We will start with verbs from group 1. Speak in the blank and be sure to speak before I give the answer.

I feel happy.
I felt happy.
I keep meeting new people.
I kept meeting new people.
Our plane leaves on Monday.
Our plane left on Monday.
We meet every week.

We met every week.
They are kind and mean well.
They were kind and meant well.
She reads the newspaper in the morning.
She read the newspaper in the morning.
This leads to problems.
This led to problems.

And now the same exercise with verbs from group 2.

I have to take a decision.
I had to take a decision.
She makes wonderful cakes.
She made wonderful cakes.
He says the wrong thing all the time.
He said the wrong thing all the time.
They pay for their expenses.
They paid for their expenses.

I hear them singing.
I heard them singing.
We spend much time with the kids.
We spent much time with the kids.
I send you my love.
I sent you my love.
They build ecological homes.
They built ecological homes.

And now the last ones from group 3. Only five verbs to go!

I bring him milk every morning.
I brought him milk every morning.
We think of you very often.
We thought of you very often.
They buy our products.

They bought our products.
The kids fight all the time.
The kids fought all the time.
I teach you to use irregular verbs.
I taught you to use irregular verbs.

If you have managed to do this exercise without any hesitation, you will have no problems with our other oral drills or with the story entitled "Was It Love?" If you have encountered difficulties, it will be well worth your time to work diligently through the exercises in the QualityTime-ESL series before attacking the story in this, the Your English series. You will be amazed at the progress you will make.

I will end by saying my colleague Catherine Alhinc made up the different verb groups and added useful information on pronunciation to help you. Visit www.qualitytime-esl.com for the script of this podcast and for the Irregular Verb Chart with the different groups. You can also go to podcasts No. 61 & 63 in our other series QualityTime-ESL to get more practice with the verbs we worked on in this episode.

P.S. Teachers interested in more effective teaching can order "QualityTime-ESL: The Digital Resource Book 2.0," which you can get immediately in our store in a downloadable version. Bye for now, and don't forget to keep smiling.