

PRONOUNCING  
SPELLING AND  
MEMORISING

# IRREGULAR VERBS



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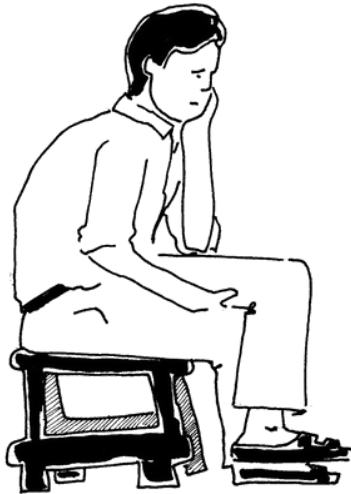
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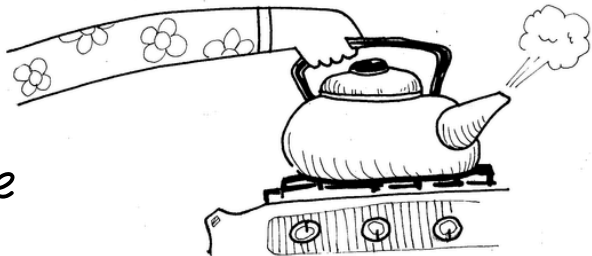




# 1 The three forms are the same

Base	Past simple	Past participle
<b>bet</b> /bɛt/	<b>bet</b> /bɛt/	<b>bet</b> /bɛt/
<b>cost</b> /kɒst/	<b>cost</b> /kɒst/	<b>cost</b> /kɒst/
<b>cut</b> /kʌt/	<b>cut</b> /kʌt/	<b>cut</b> /kʌt/
<b>hit</b> /hɪt/	<b>hit</b> /hɪt/	<b>hit</b> /hɪt/
<b>hurt</b> /hɜ:t/	<b>hurt</b> /hɜ:t/	<b>hurt</b> /hɜ:t/
<b>let</b> /lɛt/	<b>let</b> /lɛt/	<b>let</b> /lɛt/
<b>put</b> /pʊt/	<b>put</b> /pʊt/	<b>put</b> /pʊt/
<b>set</b> /sɛt/	<b>set</b> /sɛt/	<b>set</b> /sɛt/
<b>shut</b> /ʃʌt/	<b>shut</b> /ʃʌt/	<b>shut</b> /ʃʌt/

*put  
the kettle  
on the stove*



# Exercises

## 1.a. Fill in the gaps with the correct verb from 1.

My son had an accident with a knife. He ..... his finger. It was a small wound but he said it ..... a lot. I ..... on a band aid and asked him what had happened. Apparently, he had dropped the knife and tried to catch it before it ..... the floor. It is partially my fault because I ..... him play with knives, but then again, he's 17.

cut  
your  
finger





## 2 Two forms are the same

Base	Past simple	Past participle
<b>bring</b> /brɪŋ/	<b>brought</b> /brɔ:t/	<b>brought</b> /brɔ:t/
<b>build</b> /bɪld/	<b>built</b> /bɪlt/	<b>built</b> /bɪlt/
<b>buy</b> /baɪ/	<b>bought</b> /bɔ:t/	<b>bought</b> /bɔ:t/
<b>catch</b> /kæʃ/	<b>caught</b> /kɔ:t/	<b>caught</b> /kɔ:t/
<b>feel</b> /fi:l/	<b>felt</b> /felt/	<b>felt</b> /felt/
<b>fight</b> /faɪt/	<b>fought</b> /fɔ:t/	<b>fought</b> /fɔ:t/
<b>find</b> /faɪnd/	<b>found</b> /faʊnd/	<b>found</b> /faʊnd/
<b>get</b> /ɡet/	<b>got</b> /ɡɒt/	<b>got</b> /ɡɒt/
<b>have</b> /hæv/	<b>had</b> /hæd/	<b>had</b> /hæd/
<b>hear</b> /hɪə/	<b>heard</b> /hɜ:d/	<b>heard</b> /hɜ:d/
<b>hold</b> /həʊld/	<b>held</b> /held/	<b>held</b> /held/
<b>keep</b> /ki:p/	<b>kept</b> /kept/	<b>kept</b> /kept/
<b>leave</b> /li:v/	<b>left</b> /left/	<b>left</b> /left/
<b>lose</b> /lu:z/	<b>lost</b> /lɒst/	<b>lost</b> /lɒst/
<b>make</b> /meɪk/	<b>made</b> /meɪd/	<b>made</b> /meɪd/
<b>meet</b> /mi:t/	<b>met</b> /met/	<b>met</b> /met/
<b>pay</b> /peɪ/	<b>paid</b> /peɪd/	<b>paid</b> /peɪd/

## 2 Two forms are the same

Base	Past simple	Past participle
<b>read</b> /ri:d/	<b>read</b> /red/	<b>read</b> /red/
<b>say</b> /seɪ/	<b>said</b> /seɪd/	<b>said</b> /seɪd/
<b>sell</b> /sel/	<b>sold</b> /sɔ:ld/	<b>sold</b> /sɔ:ld/
<b>send</b> /send/	<b>sent</b> /sent/	<b>sent</b> /sent/
<b>sit</b> /sɪt/	<b>sat</b> /sæt/	<b>sat</b> /sæt/
<b>sleep</b> /sli:p/	<b>slept</b> /slept/	<b>slept</b> /slept/
<b>spend</b> /spend/	<b>spent</b> /spent/	<b>spent</b> /spent/
<b>stand</b> /stænd/	<b>stood</b> /stʊd/	<b>stood</b> /stʊd/
<b>teach</b> /ti:tʃ/	<b>taught</b> /tɔ:t/	<b>taught</b> /tɔ:t/
<b>tell</b> /tel/	<b>told</b> /tɔ:ld/	<b>told</b> /tɔ:ld/
<b>think</b> /θɪŋk/	<b>thought</b> /θɔ:t/	<b>thought</b> /θɔ:t/
<b>understand</b> /ʌndə'stænd/	<b>understood</b> /ʌndə'stʊd/	<b>understood</b> /ʌndə'stʊd/



# Exercises

## 2.a. Complete the chart.

Base	Past simple	Past participle
	brought	brought
understand		
buy		
catch		
	felt	felt
teach		
find		
	got	got
have		
sleep		
hold		
stand		
	left	left
think		
	made	made
sit		
pay		



## 2.b. Fill in the gaps.

When I was in 7th grade, a friend ..... (tell) me he had ..... (lose) his mp3 player. I ..... (feel) sorry for him and lent him an iPod I had ..... (buy) the week before. I ..... (think) it was a nice gesture. At the end of the day, however, I had not ..... (hear) from him so I ..... (get) up and ..... (leave). I ..... (keep) sending him messages through Instagram, though. I must have ..... (send) a thousand. The following morning, I ..... (find) a note in my locker door: "Meet me in classroom 6". When I ..... (meet) him, he was smiling. He ..... (have) a brand-new iPod in the box. He gave it to me as he explained that he ..... (sit) on my iPod and broke it so he ..... (pay) for a new one. Then I ..... (understand) why he had been evading me.





# 3 The three forms are different

Base	Past simple	Past participle
<b>be</b> /bi:z/	<b>was/were</b> /wɒz/	<b>been</b> /bi:n/
<b>begin</b> /bɪ'gɪn/	<b>began</b> /bɪ'gæn/	<b>begun</b> /bɪ'gʌn/
<b>bite</b> /baɪt/	<b>bit</b> /bɪt/	<b>bitten</b> /'bɪtn/
<b>break</b> /breɪk/	<b>broke</b> /brəʊk/	<b>broken</b> /'brəʊkən/
<b>choose</b> /tʃu:z/	<b>chose</b> /tʃəʊz/	<b>chosen</b> /'tʃəʊzn/
<b>come</b> /kʌm/	<b>came</b> /keɪm/	<b>come</b> /kʌm/
<b>do</b> /du:z/	<b>did</b> /dɪd/	<b>done</b> /dʌn/
<b>draw</b> /drɔ:z/	<b>drew</b> /dru:z/	<b>drawn</b> /drɔ:n/
<b>drink</b> /drɪŋk/	<b>drank</b> /dræŋk/	<b>drunk</b> /drʌŋk/
<b>drive</b> /draɪv/	<b>drove</b> /drəʊv/	<b>driven</b> /'drɪvn/
<b>eat</b> /i:t/	<b>ate</b> /et/	<b>eaten</b> /'i:tn/
<b>fall</b> /fɔ:l/	<b>fell</b> /fɛl/	<b>fallen</b> /'fɔ:lən/
<b>fly</b> /flaɪ/	<b>flew</b> /flu:z/	<b>flown</b> /fləʊn/
<b>forget</b> /fə'ɡet/	<b>forgot</b> /fə'ɡɒt/	<b>forgotten</b> /fə'ɡɒtn/
<b>give</b> /gɪv/	<b>gave</b> /geɪv/	<b>given</b> /'gɪvn/
<b>go</b> /gəʊz/	<b>went</b> /went/	<b>gone</b> /ɡɒn/

# 3 The three forms are different

Base	Past simple	Past participle
<b>grow</b> /grəʊ/	<b>grew</b> /gruː/	<b>grown</b> /grəʊn/
<b>hide</b> /haɪd/	<b>hid</b> /hɪd/	<b>hidden</b> /ˈhɪdn/
<b>know</b> /nəʊ/	<b>knew</b> /njuː/	<b>known</b> /nəʊn/
<b>ride</b> /raɪd/	<b>rode</b> /rəʊd/	<b>ridden</b> /ˈrɪdn/
<b>rise</b> /raɪz/	<b>rose</b> /rəʊz/	<b>risen</b> /ˈrɪzn/
<b>see</b> /siː/	<b>saw</b> /sɔː/	<b>seen</b> /siːn/
<b>show</b> /ʃəʊ/	<b>showed</b> /ʃəʊd/	<b>shown</b> /ʃəʊn/
<b>sing</b> /sɪŋ/	<b>sang</b> /sæŋ/	<b>sung</b> /sʌŋ/
<b>speak</b> /spiːk/	<b>spoke</b> /spəʊk/	<b>spoken</b> /ˈspəʊkən/
<b>swim</b> /swɪm/	<b>swam</b> /swæm/	<b>swum</b> /swʌm/
<b>take</b> /teɪk/	<b>took</b> /tʊk/	<b>taken</b> /ˈteɪkən/
<b>wake</b> /weɪk/	<b>woke</b> /wəʊk/	<b>woken</b> /ˈwəʊkən/
<b>wear</b> /weə/	<b>wore</b> /wɔː/	<b>worn</b> /wɔːn/
<b>write</b> /raɪt/	<b>wrote</b> /rəʊt/	<b>written</b> /ˈrɪtn/



# Exercises

## 3.a. Complete the chart.

Base	Past simple	Past participle
begin		
break		
come		
do		
draw		
drink		
drive		
fall		
fly		
forget		
go		
hide		
know		
see		
speak		
take		
write		

### 3.b. Fill in the gaps.

On the day of my wedding, everything ..... (be) perfect until the reception. As my husband and I ..... (be) about to cut the cake, my sister called our attention. She grabbed the microphone and ..... (speak) calmly.

She said “..... (do) you know that the bride ..... (fall) from the roof and ..... (break) a leg when she was 11?” I think my husband ..... (know). I had completely ..... (forget) about that. She told them how I ..... (wake) from a dream and ..... (go) straight to the roof. My friends, some of whom had ..... (fly), and some of whom had ..... (drive) from other states, started laughing.

What my sister ..... (do not) know is that I had ..... (eat) some mushrooms that my parents ..... (choose) to keep in our fridge. Apparently, they ..... (be) hallucinogenic. “I ..... (do not) fall from the roof.” -I replied- “I jumped thinking I could fly.” And the whole reception exploded with laughter.



# What are irregular verbs?

Both regular and irregular forms of verbs can be traced back to Old English. There were three basic verb forms:

1. Those with a past tense that add “-ed” to the root. E.g. watch, watched.
2. Those that form the past tense by changing a vowel. E.g. give, gave.
3. Wholly irregular forms. E.g. can/could, will/would, be/was.

Types 2 and 3 are referred to as **irregular verbs**.

## The three columns

What are the three columns you find when you study irregular verbs?

**The first one** is the infinitive without to, or the base of the verb. The word you find in the dictionary. Generally used after modal auxiliaries or the verbs make and let.

*I **can't bet** a million dollars.*

*Ellen **should bring** the drinks.*

*Just **let me write** an essay.*

**leap**<sup>1</sup> /li:p/ *v* past tense and past participle **leapt** /lept/ especially BrE, **leaped** especially AmE

**1 ► JUMP ◀** a) [I always + adv/prep] to jump high into the air or to jump in order to land in a different place: *Jen leapt across the stream.* b) [T] literary to jump over something: *Brenda leaped the gate and ran across the field.*

**2 ► MOVE FAST ◀** [I always + adv/prep] to move very quickly and with a lot of energy: [+ up/out/into etc] *I leapt up the stairs three at a time.* | **leap to your feet** *Morgan leapt to his feet and started shouting.* | **leap to sb's assistance/defence etc** *Wendi leaped to his assistance.*

In a dictionary we find the base of the verb.

Of course the same is true for the base of regular verbs.

*They **should love** this game.*

**The second one** is the simple past, used for finished actions in the past.

*I **bet** five dollars to the Yankees last night.*

*Ellen **brought** the drinks!*

*He **wrote** the essay last time.*

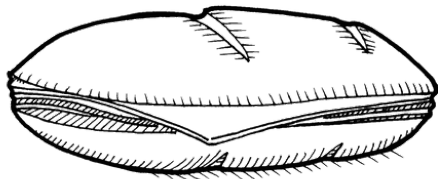
The simple past forms of regular verbs end in “ed”.

*We **loved** the game last night.*

**The third column**, the past participle, is used to form perfect tenses (such as the present perfect) and the passive voice.

*I **have just bet** all I had.*

*The sandwiches **are being brought**.*



Perhaps because regular verbs and some irregular verbs have the same form for the simple past and past participle, some students make the mistake of using the simple past form in the passive voice or perfect tenses. You can't tell when the two forms are the same.

*I **loved** the concert last night.*

*She **has loved** dancing since she was a baby.*

The difference between them is clear with an irregular verb that has three different forms.

*Nick **wrote** a check.*

*He **has** actually **written** all the essays.*

So these three columns represent **1, the base** of the verb; **2, the simple past**; and **3, the past participle**. For some irregular verbs these three forms are the same.

*I **can't bet** a million dollars.*

*I **bet** five dollars to the Yankees last night.*

*I **have just bet** all I had.*





For some, the simple past and the past participle are the same but the base is different.

*Ellen **should bring** the drinks.*

*Ellen **brought** the drinks!*

*The drinks **are being brought**.*

While for some verbs the three forms are different.

*Just **let me write** a check.*

*He **wrote** the essay last time.*

*She **has written** a novel.*



# Key

## 1.a

My son had an accident with a knife. He **cut** his finger. It was a small wound but he said it **hurt** a lot. I **put** on a band aid and asked him what had happened. Apparently, he had dropped the knife and tried to catch it before it **hit** the floor. It is partially my fault because I **let** him play with knives, but then again, he's 17.

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## 2.a

Base	Past simple	Past participle
bring	brought	brought
understand	understood	understood
buy	bought	bought
catch	caught	caught
feel	felt	felt
teach	taught	taught
find	found	found
get	got	got
have	had	had
sleep	slept	slept
hold	held	held
stand	stood	stood
leave	left	left
think	thought	thought
make	made	made
sit	sat	sat
pay	paid	paid

## 2.b

When I was in 7th grade, a friend **told** me he had **lost** his mp3 player. I **felt** sorry for him and lent him an iPod I had **bought** the week before. I **thought** it was a nice gesture. At the end of the day, however, I had not **heard** from him so I **got** up and **left**. I **kept** sending him messages through Instagram, though. I must have **sent** a thousand. The following morning, I found a note in my locker door: “Meet me in classroom 6”. When I **met** him, he was smiling. He **had** a brand-new iPod in the box. He gave it to me as he explained that he **sat** on my iPod and broke it so he **paid** for a new one. Then I **understood** why he had been evading me.

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## 3.a

Base	Past simple	Past participle
begin	began	begun
break	broke	broken
come	came	come
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
fall	fell	fallen
fly	flew	flown
forget	forgot	forgotten
go	went	gone
hide	hid	hidden
know	knew	known
see	saw	seen
speak	spoke	spoken
take	took	taken
write	wrote	written

## 3.b

On the day of my wedding, everything **was** perfect until the reception. As my husband and I **were** about to cut the cake, my sister called our attention. She grabbed the microphone and **spoke** calmly.

She said “**Did** you know that the bride **fell** from the roof and **broke** a leg when she was 11?” I think my husband **knew**. I had completely **forgotten** about that. She told them how I **woke** from a dream and **went** straight to the roof. My friends, some of whom had **flown**, and some of whom had **driven** from other states, started laughing. What my sister **didn't** know is that I had **eaten** some mushrooms that my parents chose to keep in our fridge. Apparently, they **were** hallucinogenic. “I **didn't** fall from the roof.” -I replied- “I jumped thinking I could fly.” And the whole reception exploded with laughter.



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