



Irregular verbs — the full list

Base form, past simple and past participle, grouped by pattern
virtuousenglishacademy.com/reference/irregular-verbs

Learn all three forms together and out loud — write, wrote, written — because the third form is what the present perfect and the passive need, and for irregular verbs it is usually a different word.

Work down one group at a time rather than alphabetically. The groups below share a sound, and a group said as a chant (bought, brought, caught, fought, sought, taught, thought) sticks in a way seven separate cards never will.

A slash marks two acceptable forms, British first. A dash in the CEFR column means the verb is not taught elsewhere on our site; it is on the list because a reference table that dropped it would be incomplete.

All three forms identical · A – A – A

Nothing changes. Most of these already end in /t/ or /d/, which is the sound an -ed ending would have added anyway.

BASE FORM (V1)	PAST SIMPLE (V2)	PAST PARTICIPLE (V3)	CEFR
bet	bet	bet	—
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast	A2
burst	burst	burst	A2
cast	cast	cast	B2
cost	cost	cost	A2
cut	cut	cut	A1
fit	fit	fit	A2
hit	hit	hit	B1
hurt	hurt	hurt	A1
let	let	let	A1
put	put	put	A1
quit	quit / quitted	quit / quitted	B1
read	read	read	A1
rid	rid	rid	A1
set	set	set	A1
shed	shed	shed	A2
shut	shut	shut	A1
split	split	split	B1
spread	spread	spread	B1
thrust	thrust	thrust	—
upset	upset	upset	A2

Past and participle both end -ought or -aught · A – B – B

The vowel collapses to /ʊ/ and the ending is /t/, whatever the base looked like: buy, bring and think all arrive at the same rhyme.

BASE FORM (V1)	PAST SIMPLE (V2)	PAST PARTICIPLE (V3)	CEFR
bring	brought	brought	A1
buy	bought	bought	A1

BASE FORM (V1)	PAST SIMPLE (V2)	PAST PARTICIPLE (V3)	CEFR
catch	caught	caught	B1
fight	fought	fought	—
seek	sought	sought	—
teach	taught	taught	A2
think	thought	thought	B1

Past and participle end in -t · A – B – B

A /t/ is added or an -ed is hardened into one, and the vowel often shortens with it: keep /i?/ becomes kept /e/, lose /u?/ becomes lost /?/.

BASE FORM (V1)	PAST SIMPLE (V2)	PAST PARTICIPLE (V3)	CEFR
bend	bent	bent	B1
build	built	built	A1
burn	burnt / burned	burnt / burned	A1
creep	crept	crept	C1
deal	dealt	dealt	B1
dream	dreamt / dreamed	dreamt / dreamed	B1
feel	felt	felt	A1
keep	kept	kept	A1
kneel	knelled / kneeled	knelled / kneeled	—
lean	leant / leaned	leant / leaned	B1
leap	leapt / leaped	leapt / leaped	B2
learn	learnt / learned	learnt / learned	A2
leave	left	left	A1
lend	lent	lent	A2
lose	lost	lost	A2
mean	meant	meant	A1
send	sent	sent	A1
sleep	slept	slept	A1
smell	smelt / smelled	smelt / smelled	—
spell	spelt / spelled	spelt / spelled	A2
spend	spent	spent	A2
spill	spilt / spilled	spilt / spilled	B1
spoil	spoilt / spoiled	spoilt / spoiled	—
sweep	swept	swept	—
weep	wept	wept	B1

Past and participle the same, other changes · A – B – B

No single sound rule — but there are sub-families worth seeing: -ing verbs going to /?/ (dig, cling, sting, swing), and -d turning to -old (sell, tell).

BASE FORM (V1)	PAST SIMPLE (V2)	PAST PARTICIPLE (V3)	CEFR
bleed	bled	bled	—

BASE FORM (V1)	PAST SIMPLE (V2)	PAST PARTICIPLE (V3)	CEFR
breed	bred	bred	—
cling	clung	clung	—
dig	dug	dug	B1
feed	fed	fed	—
find	found	found	A1
flee	fled	fled	B1
get	got	got / gotten	A1
hang	hung	hung	B1
have	had	had	A1
hear	heard	heard	A1
hold	held	held	B1
lay	laid	laid	B1
lead	led	led	A2
light	lit / lighted	lit / lighted	A1
make	made	made	A1
meet	met	met	A1
pay	paid	paid	A2
say	said	said	A1
sell	sold	sold	A1
shine	shone	shone	A2
shoot	shot	shot	B2
sit	sat	sat	A1
slide	slid	slid	B1
spin	spun	spun	B1
stand	stood	stood	A2
stick	stuck	stuck	B1
sting	stung	stung	—
strike	struck	struck	—
swing	swung	swung	—
tell	told	told	A1
understand	understood	understood	B1
win	won	won	A2
wind	wound	wound	A1

The i – a – u vowel ladder · A – B – C

One vowel, three steps: /i/ in the base, /æ/ in the past, /ʊ/ in the participle. Sing, sang, sung.

BASE FORM (V1)	PAST SIMPLE (V2)	PAST PARTICIPLE (V3)	CEFR
begin	began	begun	A1
drink	drank	drunk	A1
ring	rang	rung	A2
shrink	shrank / shrunk	shrunk	—

BASE FORM (V1)	PAST SIMPLE (V2)	PAST PARTICIPLE (V3)	CEFR
sing	sang	sung	A1
sink	sank / sunk	sunk	A2
spring	sprang / sprung	sprung	—
stink	stank / stunk	stunk	—
swim	swam	swum	A1

All three forms different · A – B – C

The participles nearly all end in -n or -en, and that ending is the signal: *taken*, *written*, *broken*, *chosen*, *flown*.

BASE FORM (V1)	PAST SIMPLE (V2)	PAST PARTICIPLE (V3)	CEFR
be	was / were	been	A1
bear	bore	borne	A1
bite	bit	bitten	A1
blow	blew	blown	—
break	broke	broken	A2
choose	chose	chosen	B1
do	did	done	A1
draw	drew	drawn	A1
drive	drove	driven	C1
eat	ate	eaten	A1
fall	fell	fallen	B1
fly	flew	flown	A1
forbid	forbade	forbidden	A2
forget	forgot	forgotten	B1
forgive	forgave	forgiven	B1
freeze	froze	frozen	A1
give	gave	given	A1
go	went	gone	A1
grow	grew	grown	A2
hide	hid	hidden	—
know	knew	known	A1
lie	lay	lain	B1
mistake	mistook	mistaken	A2
ride	rode	ridden	A1
rise	rose	risen	B1
see	saw	seen	A1
shake	shook	shaken	B1
speak	spoke	spoken	A1
steal	stole	stolen	B1
swear	swore	sworn	—
take	took	taken	A1

BASE FORM (V1)	PAST SIMPLE (V2)	PAST PARTICIPLE (V3)	CEFR
tear	tore	torn	B1
throw	threw	thrown	B1
wake	woke	woken	A1
wear	wore	worn	A2
withdraw	withdrew	withdrawn	B1
write	wrote	written	A1

Base and participle identical · A – B – A

The past steps away and the participle steps back: come, came, come.

BASE FORM (V1)	PAST SIMPLE (V2)	PAST PARTICIPLE (V3)	CEFR
become	became	become	A1
come	came	come	A1
overcome	overcame	overcome	B1
run	ran	run	A1

Regular past, irregular participle · A – B(-ed) – C

The past is a plain -ed, then the participle takes the old -n ending: showed, but shown.

BASE FORM (V1)	PAST SIMPLE (V2)	PAST PARTICIPLE (V3)	CEFR
mow	mowed	mown / mowed	—
prove	proved	proven / proved	B1
saw	sawed	sawn	—
sew	sewed	sewn / sewed	—
show	showed	shown / showed	A1
sow	sowed	sown / sowed	—
swell	swelled	swollen / swelled	—