

GRAMMAR EXPLANATION

What are irregular verbs?

Most verbs in the English language take -ed to form the past tense and the past participle forms. For example:

I *worked* in New York for many years.

I *have worked* in New York for many years.

Some verbs are irregular, which means they don't follow the usual -ed pattern. In fact, irregular verbs are more a matter of vocabulary memorization than grammar, and so you must simply work towards memorizing the words. Here are a few examples of irregular verbs:

Thomas *swam* in the lake every summer afternoon.

I *had forgotten* my lunch appointment, so I *got* to the restaurant thirty minutes late.

Our teacher *taught* us about irregular verbs yesterday.

Here's a list of many irregular verbs. The ones marked with the following symbol (⊙) are more often used, and should perhaps first be studied.

<i>plain form</i>	<i>past tense</i>	<i>past participle</i>
awake	awoke	awoken
⊙ be	was & were	been
beat	beat	beat
⊙ become	became	become
⊙ begin	began	begun
bend	bent	bent
bite	bit	bitten
bleed	bled	bled
blow	blew	blown
⊙ break	broke	broken
⊙ bring	brought	brought
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast
build	built	built
burn	burnt / burned	burnt / burned
⊙ buy	bought	bought
⊙ catch	caught	caught
⊙ choose	chose	chosen
⊙ come	came	come
⊙ cost	cost	cost
creep	crept	crept

continued

Skill Builders: Grammar – Irregular Verbs
Lower-Intermediate

<i>plain form</i>	<i>past tense</i>	<i>past participle</i>
⊙ cut	cut	cut
deal	dealt	dealt
dive	dived / dove	dived
dig	dug	dug
⊙ do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
dream	dreamt / dreamed	dreamt / dreamed
⊙ drink	drank	drunk
⊙ drive	drove	driven
⊙ eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
⊙ fly	flew	flown
forbid	forbade	forbidden
⊙ forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
freeze	froze	frozen
⊙ get	got	got / gotten
⊙ give	gave	given
⊙ go	went	gone / been
grow	grew	grown
hang	hung	hung
⊙ have	had	had
⊙ hear	heard	heard
hide	hid	hidden
⊙ hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
kneel	knelt	knelt
⊙ know	knew	known
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
⊙ learn	learnt / learned	learnt / learned

continued

Skill Builders: Grammar – Irregular Verbs

Lower-Intermediate

<i>plain form</i>	<i>past tense</i>	<i>past participle</i>
⊙ leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
⊙ let	let	let
lie	lay	lain
light	lit / lighted	lit / lighted
lose	lost	lost
⊙ make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
⊙ meet	met	met
mistake	mistook	mistaken
⊙ pay	paid	paid
prove	proved	proved / proven
⊙ put	put	put
⊙ read	read	read
rid	rid	rid
⊙ ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
⊙ run	ran	run
⊙ say	said	said
⊙ see	saw	seen
⊙ sell	sold	sold
⊙ send	sent	sent
set	set	set
shake	shook	shaken
shine	shone	shone
shoot	shot	shot
⊙ show	showed	shown
shrink	shrank	shrunk
shut	shut	shut
⊙ sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk
⊙ sit	sat	sat
⊙ sleep	slept	slept
⊙ smell	smelt / smelled	smelt / smelled
⊙ speak	spoke	spoken

continued

Skill Builders: Grammar – Irregular Verbs

Lower-Intermediate

<i>plain form</i>	<i>past tense</i>	<i>past participle</i>
speed	sped	sped
⊙ spell	spelt / spelled	spelt / spelled
⊙ spend	spent	spent
spill	spilt / spilled	spilt / spilled
spin	span	spun
spit	spat	spat
split	split	split
spoil	spoilt / spoiled	spoilt / spoiled
⊙ stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
stick	stuck	stuck
stink	stank	stunk
strike	struck	struck
sweep	swept	swept
swing	swung	swung
⊙ swim	swam	swum
⊙ take	took	taken
⊙ teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
⊙ tell	told	told
⊙ think	thought	thought
throw	thrown	thrown
⊙ understand	understood	understood
⊙ wake	woke	woken
⊙ wear	wore	worn
⊙ win	won	won
wind	wound	wound
wring	wrung	wrung
⊙ write	wrote	written