

Irregular Verbs

Most verbs are REGULAR: they form their past tense and past participle by adding *-d* or *-ed* to the plain form—live, lived, lived. About two hundred English verbs are IRREGULAR: they form their past tense and past participle in some irregular way—break, broke, broken.

Simple Present Tense: Action that is occurring now, occurs habitually, or is generally true.

Example: Many artists live in New York.

Example: The dishwasher breaks dishes every day.

Simple Past Tense: Action that occurred before now.

Example: Many artists lived in New York prior to last year.

Example: He broke three plates yesterday.

Past Participle: The past participle of a verb is sometimes similar in form to the past tense but it cannot be used alone; it must be accompanied by a helping verb, unless it is used as an adjective. The past participle can be used (1) with *has* or *have* in the present perfect tense, (2) with *had* in the past perfect tense, (3) with some form of *be* to create a passive-voice construction, and (4) by itself, as an adjective, to modify a noun.

Examples: (1) Many artists have lived in New York all of their lives.
(present perfect)

(2) Those artists had lived in the suburbs. (past perfect)

(3) The plates were broken for several days before he threw them away. (passive voice)

(4) The broken plates were thrown into the trash. (adjective—modifies plates)

Below is a partial list of irregular verbs:

Simple Present Tense Participle	Simple Past Tense	Past
arise	arose	arisen
awake	awoke	awoken
am/is/are	was/were	been
bear	bore	borne
beat	beat	beaten
become	became	become
begin	began	begun
bend	bent	bent
bet	bet	bet
bind	bound	bound
bite	bit	bitten
bleed	bled	bled

**Simple Present Tense
Participle****Simple Past Tense****Past**

blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
breed	bred	bred
bring	brought	brought
build	built	built
burn	burned, burnt	burned, burnt
buy	bought	bought
cast	cast	cast
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
cling	clung	clung
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
creep	crept	crept
cut	cut	cut
deal	dealt	dealt
dig	dug	dug
dive	dived, dove	dived
do	did	done
drag	dragged	dragged
draw	drew	drawn
dream	dreamed, dreamt	dreamed, dreamt
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
fit	fit	fit
flee	fled	fled
fling	flung	flung
fly	flew	flown
forbid	forbade	forbidden
forget	forgot	forgotten, forgot
forgive	forgave	forgiven
forsake	forsook	forsaken
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	gotten, got
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grind	ground	ground
grow	grew	grown

**Simple Present Tense
Participle****Simple Past Tense****Past**

hang (execute)	hanged	hanged
hang (suspend)	hung	hung
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hide	hid	hidden
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
kneel	knelt, kneeled	knelt, kneeled
knit	knit, knitted	knit, knitted
know	knew	known
lay (put)	laid	laid
lead	led	led
leap	leapt, leaped	leapt, leaped
learn	learnt, learned	learnt, learned
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lie (recline)	lay	lain
light	lighted, lit	lighted, lit
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
mislaid	mislaid	mislaid
mislead	misled	misled
pay	paid	paid
prove	proved	proved, proven
put	put	put
quit	quit	quit
read	read	read
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
saw	sawed	sawn
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
seek	sought	sought
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
set	set	set
shake	shook	shaken
shed	shed	shed

**Simple Present Tense
Participle****Simple Past Tense****Past**

shine	shone	shone
shoe	shod	shod
shoot	shot	shot
show	showed	shown
shrink	shrank	shrunk, shrunken
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk
sit	sat	sat
slay	slew	slain
sleep	slept	slept
slide	slid	slid
sling	slung	slung
speak	spoke	spoken
spend	spent	spent
spin	spun	spun
spread	spread	spread
spring	sprang	sprung
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
stick	stuck	stuck
sting	stung	stung
stink	stank	stunk
strike	struck	struck, stricken
string	strung	strung
strive	strove	striven
swear	swore	sworn
sweep	swept	swept
swim	swam	swum
swing	swung	swung
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
throw	threw	thrown
tread	trod	trodden
wake	woke	woken
wear	wore	worn
understand	understood	understood
win	won	won
wind	wound	wound
wring	wrung	wrung
write	wrote	written