

Irregular verbs

This is a comprehensive list of common irregular verbs. Irregular verbs do not form their past tense and past participle in a regular way. Regular verbs form their past tense and past participle by adding *-ed* or *-d* to the end.

The irregular verbs are listed here in the following forms: infinitive, simple present, simple past tense, past participle and present participle. If we take *swim* as an example, this is how the forms appear:

Infinitive: to swim Simple present: I swim Simple past tense: I swam

Past participle: I have/had swum Present participle: I am swimming

Some irregular verbs have been omitted because the list should include the relevant stem word (e.g. *overthrow* does not appear but *throw* does).

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Verb forms confirmed using *Fowler's Dictionary of Modern English Usage* or Oxford Dictionaries Online: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/>

	Infinitive	Simple Present	Simple Past	Past Participle	Present Participle
B					
	to be	am, is, are	was, were	been	being
	to bear	bear(s)	bore	borne	bearing
	to beat	beat(s)	beat	beaten	beating
	to beget	beget(s)	begot	begotten	begetting
	to begin	begin(s)	began	begun	beginning
	to bend	bend(s)	bent	bent	bending
	to beseech	beseech(es)	beseeched or besought	beseeched or besought	beseeching
	to bet	bet(s)	bet or betted	bet or betted ¹	betting
	to bid [to offer]	bid(s)	bid	bid	bidding
	to bid [to tell]	bid(s)	bade or bid	bidden or bid ²	bidding
	to bind	bind(s)	bound	bound	binding
	to bite	bite(s)	bit	bitten	biting
	to bleed	bleed(s)	bled	bled	bleeding
	to blow	blow(s)	blew	blown	blowing
	to break	break(s)	broke	broken	breaking
	to breed	breed(s)	bred	bred	breeding
	to bring	bring(s)	brought	brought	bringing
	to build	build(s)	built	built	building
	to burn	burn(s)	burned or burnt	burned or burnt	burning
	to burst	burst(s)	burst	burst	bursting
	to bust	bust(s)	busted or bust	busted or bust ³	busting
	to buy	buy(s)	bought	bought	buying
C					
	to cast	cast(s)	cast	cast	casting
	to catch	catch(es)	caught	caught	catching
	to choose	choose(s)	chose	chosen	choosing
	to clad [to encase]	clad(s)	clad or cladded	clad or cladded	cladding
	to cleave [to split]	cleave(s)	cleft or clove or cleaved	cleft or cloven or cleaved	cleaving
	to cling	cling(s)	clung	clung	clinging
	to clothe	clothe(s)	clad or clothed	clad or clothed	clothing
	to come	come(s)	came	come	coming
	to cost	cost(s)	cost	cost	costing
	to creep	creep(s)	crept	crept	creeping
	to crow	crow(s)	crowed or crew ⁴	crowed	crowing
	to cut	cut(s)	cut	cut	cutting
D					
	to deal	deal(s)	dealt	dealt	dealing
	to dig	dig(s)	dug	dug	digging

¹ *Betted* is unusual as the past tense and past participle but it is correct (unless a sum of money is stated immediately after it – *bet* should be used in that circumstance).

² Opinions differ on whether *bade* and *bidden* are archaic or standard. You can find more information on which meanings of *bid* can take these forms here: <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/bid>

³ You can find more information on when to use *bust* or *busted* here: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/bust#nav2>

⁴ *Crew* is typically used in the UK and is usually in reference to the noise made by birds.

	to dive	dive(s)	dived or dove	dived or dove ⁵	diving
	to do	do(es)	did	done	doing
	to draw	draw(s)	drew	drawn	drawing
	to dream	dream(s)	dreamed or dreamt	dreamed or dreamt	dreaming
	to drink	drink(s)	drank	drunk	drinking
	to drive	drive(s)	drove	driven	driving
	to dwell	dwell(s)	dwelt or dwelled	dwelt or dwelled	dwelling
E					
	to eat	eat(s)	ate	eaten	eating
F					
	to fall	fall(s)	fell	fallen	falling
	to feed	feed(s)	fed	fed	feeding
	to feel	feel(s)	felt	felt	feeling
	to fight	fight(s)	fought	fought	fighting
	to find	find(s)	found	found	finding
	to fit	fit(s)	fit or fitted	fit or fitted ⁶	fitting
	to flee	flee(s)	fled	fled	fleeing
	to fly	fly, flies	flew	flown	flying
	to fling	fling(s)	flung	flung	flinging
	to forbid	forbid(s)	forbade or forbad	forbidden	forbidding
	to forecast	forecast(s)	forecast or forecasted	forecast or forecasted ⁷	forecasting
	to forget	forget(s)	forgot	forgotten or forgot ⁸	forgetting
	to forsake	forsake(s)	forsook	forsaken	forsaking
	to freeze	freeze(s)	froze	frozen	freezing
G					
	to get	get(s)	got	got or gotten ⁹	getting
	to give	give(s)	gave	given	giving
	to go	go(es)	went	gone	going
	to grind	grind(s)	ground	ground	grinding
	to grow	grow(s)	grew	grown	growing
H					
	to hang [to suspend]	hang(s)	hung	hung ¹⁰	hanging
	to have	has, have	had	had	having
	to hear	hear(s)	heard	heard	hearing
	to hew	hew(s)	hewed	hewed or hewn	hewing
	to hide	hide(s)	hid	hidden	hiding
	to hit	hit(s)	hit	hit	hitting
	to hold	hold(s)	held	held	holding
	to hurt	hurt(s)	hurt	hurt	hurting
K					
	to keep	keep(s)	kept	kept	keeping

⁵ *Dove* is generally considered standard in North American English, but it is not standard in British English.

⁶ *Fit* is often considered standard in American English, but it is not standard in British English.

⁷ *Forecasted* is generally accepted as valid but *forecast* is usually preferred.

⁸ *Forgot* sometimes appears as a past participle in American English.

⁹ *Gotten* is usually considered archaic in British English but is often used in American English.

¹⁰ *Hanged* is used for past tense and past participle when referring to capital punishment.

	to kneel	kneel(s)	knelt or kneeled	knelt or kneeled	kneeling
	to knit	knit(s)	knit or knitted	knit or knitted	knitting
	to know	know(s)	knew	known	knowing
L					
	to lade	lade(s)	laded	laden	lading
	to lay	lay(s)	laid	laid	laying
	to lead	lead(s)	led	led	leading
	to lean	lean(s)	leant or leaneded	leant or leaned ¹¹	leaning
	to leap	leap(s)	leaped or leapt	leaped or leapt	leaping
	to learn	learn(s)	learned or learnt	learned or learnt ¹²	learning
	to leave	leaves(s)	left	left	leaving
	to lend	lend(s)	lent	lent	lending
	to let	let(s)	let	let	letting
	to lie [to rest or recline]	lie(s)	lay	lain	lying
	to light	light(s)	lighted or lit	lighted or lit ¹³	lighting
	to lose	lose(s)	lost	lost	losing
M					
	to make	make(s)	made	made	making
	to mean	mean(s)	meant	meant	meaning
	to meet	meet(s)	met	met	meeting
	to mow	mow(s)	mowed	mowed or mown	mowing
P					
	to pay	pay(s)	paid	paid	paying
	to plead	plead(s)	pleaded or plead or pled	pleaded or plead or pled ¹⁴	pleading
	to prove	prove(s)	proved	proved or proven	proving
	to put	put(s)	put	put	putting
Q					
	to quit	quit(s)	quit or quitted	quit or quitted	quitting
R					
	to read	read(s)	read	read	reading
	to rend	rend(s)	rent	rent	rending
	to rid	rid(s)	rid	rid	ridding
	to ride	ride	rode	ridden	riding
	to ring	ring(s)	rang	rung	ringing
	to rise	rise(s)	rose	risen	rising
	to rive	rive(s)	rived	riven	riving
	to run	run(s)	ran	run	running
S					
	to saw	saw(s)	sawed	sawn or sawed ¹⁵	sawing
	to say	say(s)	said	said	saying
	to see	see(s)	saw	seen	seeing
	to seek	seek(s)	sought	sought	seeking
	to sell	sell(s)	sold	sold	selling

¹¹ *Leaned* is usually the preferred form but *leant* is common in British English.

¹² *Learnt* is uncommon in North American English.

¹³ In British English, *lit* is usually the standard past tense and past participle.

¹⁴ *Pleaded* is standard in British English but *plead* and *pled* occur in American and dialect forms of English.

¹⁵ The past participle *sawn* is typically British English; the past participle *sawed* is typically North American English.

to send	send(s)	sent	sent	sending
to set	set(s)	set	set	setting
to sew	sew(s)	sewed	sewn or sewed ¹⁶	sewing
to shake	shake(s)	shook	shaken	shaking
to shear	shear(s)	sheared ¹⁷	sheared or shorn	shearing
to shed	shed(s)	shed	shed	shedding
to shine [to glow]	shine(s)	shone	shone	shining
to shit	shit(s)	shit or shitted or shat	shit or shitted or shat	shitting
to shoe	shoe(s)	shod	shod	shoeing
to shoot	shoot(s)	shot	shot	shooting
to show	show(s)	showed	shown or showed	showing
to shrink	shrink(s)	shrank or shrunk ¹⁸	shrunk or shrunken	shrinking
to shut	shut(s)	shut	shut	shutting
to sing	sing(s)	sang	sung	singing
to sink	sink(s)	sank	sunk	sinking
to sit	sit(s)	sat	sat	sitting
to slay	slay(s)	slew	slain	slaying
to sleep	sleep(s)	slept	slept	sleeping
to slide	slide(s)	slid	slid	sliding
to sling	sling(s)	slung	slung	slinging
to slit	slit(s)	slit	slit ¹⁹	slitting
to smell	smell(s)	smelt or smelled	smelt or smelled ²⁰	smelling
to smite	smite(s)	smote	smitten	smiting
to sneak	sneak(s)	sneaked or snuck	sneaked or snuck ²¹	sneaking
to sow	sow(s)	sowed	sown or sowed	sowing
to speak	speak(s)	spoke	spoken	speaking
to speed	speed(s)	sped or speeded	sped or speeded ²²	speeding
to spell	spell(s)	spelt or spelled	spelt or spelled	spelling
to spend	spend(s)	spent	spent	spending
to spill	spill(s)	spilt or spilled	spilt or spilled	spilling
to spin	spin(s)	spun	spun	spinning
to spit	spit(s)	spat	spat	spitting
to split	split(s)	split	split	splitting
to spoil	spoil(s)	spoilt or spoiled	spoilt or spoiled ²³	spoiling

¹⁶ *Sewn* is usually the preferred form.

¹⁷ In Australia and New Zealand, *shore* is often the past tense when referring to sheep shearing.

¹⁸ The standard past tense in British English is *shrank*. *Shrunk* is sometimes used and is considered a standard alternative in American and Australian English.

¹⁹ The past tense and past participle *slitted* is used when meaning 'form into slits' e.g. he slitted his eyes.

²⁰ *Smelt* is rare in North American English.

²¹ *Snuck* is standard in American English and is gaining popularity in British English. However, *snuck* is usually considered informal in British usage.

²² You can find more information on when to use *speeded* as the past tense and past participle here:

<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/speed>

²³ *Spoilt* is unusual in American and Canadian English.

	to spread	spread(s)	spread	spread	spreading
	to spring	spring(s)	sprang or sprung	sprung	springing
	to stand	stand(s)	stood	stood	standing
	to stave	stave(s)	stove or staved	stove or staved ²⁴	staving
	to steal	steal(s)	stole	stolen	stealing
	to stick	stick(s)	stuck	stuck	sticking
	to sting	sting(s)	stung	stung	stinging
	to stink	stink(s)	stank or stunk	stunk	stinking
	to strew	strew(s)	strewed	strewn or strewed ²⁵	strewing
	to stride	stride(s)	strode	stridden	striding
	to strike	strike(s)	struck	struck	striking
	to string	string(s)	strung	strung	stringing
	to strive	strive(s)	strove or strived	striven or strived ²⁶	striving
	to swear	swear(s)	swore	sworn	swearing
	to sweep	sweep(s)	swept	swept	sweeping
	to swell	swell(s)	swelled	swollen or swelled	swelling
	to swim	swim(s)	swam	swum	swimming
	to swing	swing(s)	swung	swung	swinging
T					
	to take	take(s)	took	taken	taking
	to teach	teach(es)	taught	taught	teaching
	to tear	tear(s)	tore	torn	tearing
	to tell	tell(s)	told	told	telling
	to think	think(s)	thought	thought	thinking
	to thrive	thrive(s)	thrived or throve	thrived or thriven ²⁷	thriving
	to throw	throw(s)	threw	thrown	throwing
	to thrust	thrust(s)	thrust	thrust	thrusting
	to tread	tread(s)	trod	trodden or trod	treading
W					
	to wake	wake(s)	woke or waked	woken or waked ²⁸	waking
	to wear	wear(s)	wore	worn	wearing
	to weave [to create fabric]	weave(s)	wove	woven	weaving
	to wed	wed(s)	wed	wed	wedding
	to weep	weep(s)	wept	wept	weeping
	to wet	wet(s)	wet or wetted	wet or wetted	wetting
	to win	win(s)	won	won	winning
	to wind [to twist]	wind(s)	wound	wound	winding
	to wring	wring(s)	wrung	wrung	wringing
	to write	write(s)	wrote	written	writing

²⁴ *Staved* is standard in the sense of *staved off* ('to avert or defer something bad or dangerous').

²⁵ The use of *strewed* as a past participle is rare.

²⁶ The past tense *strove* and the past participle *striven* are usually considered standard.

²⁷ *Throve* and *thriven* are now rarely used.

²⁸ *Waked* can be considered archaic, a dialect form or an American usage.