Irregular verbs and past participles

Irregular verbs do not follow the 'ed' rules for forming the past simple or past participle:
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'walk' + 'ed' = walked [regular verb]

Some irregular verbs stay the same in all forms, others change a vowel and some change completely. Some verbs have two possible forms; the difference might be regional or a personal choice, sometimes depending on whether we are speaking or writing. It is important to choose the correct one if the choice depends on different meanings or transitive and intransitive forms. If in doubt, check in a good dictionary.

Where a verb has two meanings and one meaning has regular form, this is included in the list for comparison.

Note that the list does not include all compound verbs because they follow the same rules as the root verb. For example:

Bare Infinitive	Past Simple	Past Participle
eat/overeat	ate/overate	eaten/overeaten
do/undo	did/undid	done/undone

Bare Infinitive	Past Simple	Past Participle
arise	arose	arisen
awake	awoke/awakened	awoken/awakened
babysit	babysat	babysat
be	was, were	been
bear	bore	born/borne
beat	beat	beaten
become	became	become
befall	befell	befallen
begin	began	begun
behold	beheld	beheld
bend	bent	bent
bet	bet	bet
bid [farewell]	bid/bade	bid/bidden
bid [offer amount]	bid	bid
bind	bound	bound
bite	bit	bitten
bleed	bled	bled
blow	blew	blown

break	**broke**	**broken**
breed	**bred**	**bred**
bring	**brought**	**brought**
broadcast	**broadcast/broadcasted**	**broadcast/broadcasted**
build	**built**	**built**
burn	**burnt/burned**	**burnt/burned**
burst	**burst**	**burst**
buy	**bought**	**bought**
cast	**cast**	**cast**
catch	**caught**	**caught**
choose	**chose**	**chosen**
cling	**clung**	**clung**
clothe	**clothed**	**clothed/clad****
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**
draw	**drew**	**drawn**
dream	**dreamt/dreamed**	**dreamt/dreamed**
drink	**drank**	**drunk**
drive	**drove**	**driven**
dwell	**dwelt/dwelled**	**dwelt/dwelled**
eat	**ate**	**eaten**
fall	**fell**	**fallen**
feed	**fed**	**fed**
feel	**felt**	**felt**
fight	**fought**	**fought**
find	**found**	**found**
fit	**fitted/fit**	**fitted/fit**
flee	**fled**	**fled**
fling	**flung**	**flung**
fly	**flew**	**flown**
forbear	**forbore**	**forborne**
forbid	**forbade**	**forbidden**
forecast	**forecast**	**forecast**
foresee	**foresaw**	**foreseen**
forget	**forgot**	**forgotten**
forgive	**forgave**	**forgiven**

forsake	**forsook**	**forsaken**
freeze	**froze**	**frozen**
get	**got**	**got/gotten**
give	**gave**	**given**
go	**went**	**gone [not returned]/been [returned]**
grind	**ground**	**ground**
grow	**grew**	**grown**
handwrite	**handwrote**	**handwritten**
hang [execute]	**hanged 'They hanged a killer.'**	**hanged**
hang [other uses]	**hung 'They hung a picture.'**	**hung**
have	**had**	**had**
hear	**heard**	**heard**
hide	**hid**	**hidden**
hit	**hit**	**hit**
hold	**held**	**held**
hurt	**hurt**	**hurt**
input	**input/inputted**	**input/inputted**
keep	**kept**	**kept**
kneel	**knelt/kneeled**	**knelt/kneeled**
knit	**knitted/knit**	**knitted/knit**
know	**knew**	**known**
lay	**laid**	**laid**
lead	**led**	**led**
lean	**leant/leaned**	**leant/leaned**
leap	**leapt/leaped**	**leapt/leaped**
learn	**learnt/learned**	**learnt/learned**
leave	**left**	**left**
lend	**lent**	**lent**
let	**let**	**let**
lie [not tell the truth]	**lied**	**lied**
lie [recline]	**lay**	**lain**
light	**lit/lighted**	**lit/lighted**
lose	**lost**	**lost**
make	**made**	**made**
mean	**meant**	**meant**
meet	**met**	**met**
mislay	**mislaid**	**mislaid**
mislead	**misled**	**misled**
mistake	**mistook**	**mistaken**
mow	**mowed**	**mowed/mown***
offset	**offset**	**offset**

outbid	**outbid**	**outbid**
overcome	**overcame**	**overcome**
partake	**partook**	**partaken**
pay	**paid**	**paid**
prove	**proved**	**proved/proven**
put	**put**	**put**
quit	**quit**	**quit**
read	**read [sounds like 'red']**	**read [sounds like 'red']**
rid	**rid**	**rid**
ride	**rode**	**ridden**
ring	**rang**	**rung**
rise	**rose**	**risen**
run	**ran**	**run**
saw	**sawed**	**sawed/sawn***
say	**said**	**said**
see	**saw**	**seen**
seek	**sought**	**sought**
sell	**sold**	**sold**
send	**sent**	**sent**
set	**set**	**set**
sew	**sewed**	**sewed/sewn***
shake	**shook**	**shaken**
shave	**shaved**	**shaved/shaven****
shear	**sheared**	**sheared/shorn***
shed	**shed**	**shed**
shine [make shiny]	**shined 'He shined his shoes.'**	**shined**
shine [emit light]	**shone/shined 'The sun shone.'**	**shone/shined**
shoe	**shod**	**shod**
shoot	**shot**	**shot**
show	**showed**	**showed/shown***
shrink	**shrank**	**shrunk**
shut	**shut**	**shut**
sing	**sang**	**sung**
sink	**sank**	**sunk**
sit	**sat**	**sat**
sleep	**slept**	**slept**
slide	**slid**	**slid**
sling	**slung**	**slung**
slit	**slit**	**slit**
smell	**smelt/smelled**	**smelt/smelled**
sneak	**sneaked/snuck**	**sneaked/snuck**

sow	**sowed**	**sowed/sown***
speak	**spoke**	**spoken**
speed	**sped/speeded**	**sped/speeded**
spell	**spelt/spelled**	**spelt/spelled**
spend	**spent**	**spent**
spill	**spilt/spilled**	**spilt/spilled**
spin	**spun/span**	**spun**
spit	**spit/spat**	**spit**
split	**split**	**split**
spoil	**spoilt/spoiled**	**spoilt/spoiled**
spread	**spread**	**spread**
spring	**sprang/sprung**	**sprung**
stand	**stood**	**stood**
steal	**stole**	**stolen**
stick	**stuck**	**stuck**
sting	**stung**	**stung**
stink	**stank/stunk**	**stunk**
strew	**strewed**	**strewn/strewed**
stride	**strode**	**stridden**
strike	**struck**	**struck**
string	**strung**	**strung**
strive	**strove/strived**	**strived/striven**
swear	**swore**	**sworn**
sweat	**sweated/sweat**	**sweated/sweat**
sweep	**swept**	**swept**
swell	**swelled**	**swelled/swollen**
swim	**swam**	**swum**
swing	**swung**	**swung**
take	**took**	**taken**
teach	**taught**	**taught**
tear	**tore**	**torn**
tell	**told**	**told**
think	**thought**	**thought**
thrive	**thrived/throve**	**thrived/thriven**
throw	**threw**	**thrown**
thrust	**thrust**	**thrust**
tread	**trod**	**trodden/trod**
troubleshoot	**troubleshot**	**troubleshot**
understand	**understood**	**understood**
undertake	**undertook**	**undertaken**
uphold	**upheld**	**upheld**
upset	**upset**	**upset**
wake	**woke**	**woken**
wear	**wore**	**worn**

weave	**wove**	**woven**
wed	**wed/wedded**	**wedded/wed***
weep	**wept**	**wept**
wet	**wet/wetted**	**wet/wetted**
win	**won**	**won**
wind	**wound**	**wound**
wring	**wrung**	**wrung**
write	**wrote**	**written**

* **Both forms can be used for perfect tenses but the second is preferred for passives.**
** **The second form is only used for passives.**

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