

# 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        |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <u>eat/overeat</u> | <u>ate/overate</u> | <u>eaten/overeaten</u> |
| <u>do/undo</u>     | <u>did/undid</u>   | <u>done/undone</u>     |

| 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           |

|                  |                              |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>break</b>     | <b>broke</b>                 | <b>broken</b>                |
| <b>breed</b>     | <b>bred</b>                  | <b>bred</b>                  |
| <b>bring</b>     | <b>brought</b>               | <b>brought</b>               |
| <b>broadcast</b> | <b>broadcast/broadcasted</b> | <b>broadcast/broadcasted</b> |
| <b>build</b>     | <b>built</b>                 | <b>built</b>                 |
| <b>burn</b>      | <b>burnt/burned</b>          | <b>burnt/burned</b>          |
| <b>burst</b>     | <b>burst</b>                 | <b>burst</b>                 |
| <b>buy</b>       | <b>bought</b>                | <b>bought</b>                |
| <b>cast</b>      | <b>cast</b>                  | <b>cast</b>                  |
| <b>catch</b>     | <b>caught</b>                | <b>caught</b>                |
| <b>choose</b>    | <b>chose</b>                 | <b>chosen</b>                |
| <b>cling</b>     | <b>clung</b>                 | <b>clung</b>                 |
| <b>clothe</b>    | <b>clothed</b>               | <b>clothed/clad**</b>        |
| <b>come</b>      | <b>came</b>                  | <b>come</b>                  |
| <b>cost</b>      | <b>cost</b>                  | <b>cost</b>                  |
| <b>creep</b>     | <b>crept</b>                 | <b>crept</b>                 |
| <b>cut</b>       | <b>cut</b>                   | <b>cut</b>                   |
| <b>deal</b>      | <b>dealt</b>                 | <b>dealt</b>                 |
| <b>dig</b>       | <b>dug</b>                   | <b>dug</b>                   |
| <b>dive</b>      | <b>dived/dove</b>            | <b>dived</b>                 |
| <b>do</b>        | <b>did</b>                   | <b>done</b>                  |
| <b>draw</b>      | <b>drew</b>                  | <b>drawn</b>                 |
| <b>dream</b>     | <b>dreamt/dreamed</b>        | <b>dreamt/dreamed</b>        |
| <b>drink</b>     | <b>drank</b>                 | <b>drunk</b>                 |
| <b>drive</b>     | <b>drove</b>                 | <b>driven</b>                |
| <b>dwell</b>     | <b>dwelt/dwelled</b>         | <b>dwelt/dwelled</b>         |
| <b>eat</b>       | <b>ate</b>                   | <b>eaten</b>                 |
| <b>fall</b>      | <b>fell</b>                  | <b>fallen</b>                |
| <b>feed</b>      | <b>fed</b>                   | <b>fed</b>                   |
| <b>feel</b>      | <b>felt</b>                  | <b>felt</b>                  |
| <b>fight</b>     | <b>fought</b>                | <b>fought</b>                |
| <b>find</b>      | <b>found</b>                 | <b>found</b>                 |
| <b>fit</b>       | <b>fitted/fit</b>            | <b>fitted/fit</b>            |
| <b>flee</b>      | <b>fled</b>                  | <b>fled</b>                  |
| <b>fling</b>     | <b>flung</b>                 | <b>flung</b>                 |
| <b>fly</b>       | <b>flew</b>                  | <b>flown</b>                 |
| <b>forbear</b>   | <b>forbore</b>               | <b>forborne</b>              |
| <b>forbid</b>    | <b>forbade</b>               | <b>forbidden</b>             |
| <b>forecast</b>  | <b>forecast</b>              | <b>forecast</b>              |
| <b>foresee</b>   | <b>foresaw</b>               | <b>foreseen</b>              |
| <b>forget</b>    | <b>forgot</b>                | <b>forgotten</b>             |
| <b>forgive</b>   | <b>forgave</b>               | <b>forgiven</b>              |
| <b>forsake</b>   | <b>forsook</b>               | <b>forsaken</b>              |

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

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

|              |                 |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 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       | stroved/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 | troubleshoot    | troubleshoot    |
| 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*     |

|              |                   |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>weep</b>  | <b>wept</b>       | <b>wept</b>       |
| <b>wet</b>   | <b>wet/wetted</b> | <b>wet/wetted</b> |
| <b>win</b>   | <b>won</b>        | <b>won</b>        |
| <b>wind</b>  | <b>wound</b>      | <b>wound</b>      |
| <b>wring</b> | <b>wrung</b>      | <b>wrung</b>      |
| <b>write</b> | <b>wrote</b>      | <b>written</b>    |

- \* **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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