

English Irregular Verbs



Over **180**
English irregular
verbs

with usage and examples

Stuart Cook
for www.speakspeak.com

List of English irregular verbs

About this list

This is a list of over **180 common English irregular verbs**. Each verb is shown with its present and past participles, past simple form, and third-person present simple form.

We have also added example sentences to show usage most relevant to English learners up to approximately B1 or B2 level. However, we have not included verbs which simply add the prefixes *re-*, *un-* or *out-* to a verb already on the list.

What are regular and irregular verbs?

Regular verbs follow a rule to get their past simple and past participle forms. They add *-d*, *-ed* or *-ied*:

Regular verbs: forming the past simple and past participle

Add **-ed** or just **-d**:

infinitive		past simple		past participle
play	→	played	→	played
work	→	worked	→	worked
like	→	liked	→	liked

For some verbs ending in **-y** we use **-ied**:

infinitive		past simple		past participle
marry	→	married	→	married
hurry	→	hurried	→	hurried

List of English irregular verbs

Irregular verbs do *not* follow the *-d, -ed, -ied* rule. They have a variety of spellings. Their infinitive, past simple and past participle forms are sometimes the same, sometimes different:

- Some irregular verbs have **the same** infinitive, past simple and past participle forms: *cut* → *cut* → *cut*
- Some irregular verbs have **different** infinitive, past simple and past participle forms: *drive* → *drove* → *driven*
- Some irregular verbs have **the same** past simple and past participle forms, but a **different** infinitive: *buy* → *bought* → *bought*

Abbreviations used in the list

[BrE]	British English – The verb form is used in British English.
[AmE]	American English – The verb form is used in American English.
(f), [formal]	The verb is formal. Such verbs are used in official or serious situations but less often in everyday spoken situations.
(lit), [literary]	The verb is used mainly in literature or in a literary sense, not in everyday spoken situations.
sb, sth	somebody, something
syn	synonym – You may see this in the last column. A synonym is a word which means the same or nearly the same as another word.
coll	collocation – You may see this in the last column to show nouns which are commonly used together with the verb.
adj	adjective
[old]	The verb is old-fashioned and not used often in modern English.
*	A note on how common the usage of the verb form is.

List of English irregular verbs

About verb forms

Verb infinitive	This is the basic form of a verb, without changes: <i>eat, go, have</i> , etc.
Past simple form	The past simple form is used for speaking about finished things in the past: <i>We went to Japan last year.</i> <i>Man walked on the Moon in 1969.</i>
Past participle	Used in the present perfect and past perfect, the passive, and also in some conditional structures: <i>I have eaten all the biscuits – there are none left.</i> [present perfect] <i>I had never met him.</i> [past perfect] <i>The robbers were caught.</i> [passive] <i>I would have told you if I'd known.</i> [third conditional]
Present participle	This is used in the present continuous and past continuous tenses: <i>She is sleeping right now.</i> [present continuous] <i>He was eating when we arrived.</i> [past continuous]
Present tense <i>he, she, it</i>	To form the third person singular in the present simple we take the infinitive and add -s or -es, depending on the last letter of the infinitive. This applies to both regular and irregular verbs (but not to modal verbs and the verb <i>be</i>). <i>She speaks English.</i> <i>He watches television a lot.</i>

List of English irregular verbs

Index

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | K | L | M | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | W

A

Verb infinitive	Past simple	Past participle	Present participle	Present tense <i>he, she, it</i>	Notes, collocations, examples
arise	arose	arisen	arising	arises	sth arises <i>Many problems arose during the project. A crisis has arisen.</i> coll: problems arise, situations arise [quite formal]
awake (f)	awoke	awoken	awaking	awakes	used more in writing and in the past tense <i>He awoke to brilliant sunshine.</i> [formal]

B

Verb infinitive	Past simple	Past participle	Present participle	Present tense <i>he, she, it</i>	Notes, collocations, examples
be	was, were*	been	being	is**	* I, he, she, it, was; you, we, they were ** I am; you, we, they are
bear	bore	borne	bearing	bears	coll: bear fruit, bear pain, bear responsibility (for sth) <i>The tree bore more fruit last year. I couldn't bear the pain when I broke my foot.</i>

List of English irregular verbs

beat	beat	beaten	beating	beats	beat sb, sth, an opponent <i>Liverpool have beaten Arsenal in the last three matches.</i> You can't beat Italian food. (= Italian food is the best.) to physically attack <i>The man was beaten to death.</i>
become	became	become	becoming	becomes	become sth, sb <i>She became queen in 1952.</i> become + adj <i>He became famous at the age of twenty.</i> become + comparative adj <i>After his explanation, everything became clearer.</i>
begin	began	begun	beginning	begins	<i>The celebrations began yesterday.</i> <i>The match hasn't begun yet.</i> syn: start
bend	bent	bent	bending	bends	bend sth <i>He can't bend his broken finger.</i> sth bends <i>Young trees bend in strong winds.</i>
beset (f)	beset	beset	besetting	besets	beset with; often used in passive <i>The plan was beset with problems.</i>
bet	bet betted*	bet betted*	betting	bets	bet money, sth <i>He bet fifty dollars on a horse and lost it.</i> bet sb that <i>I'll bet you ten dollars that he doesn't come.</i> * less common
bid	bid	bid	bidding	bids	bid (money) for sth <i>He bid a million dollars for the painting.</i>
bind	bound	bound	binding	binds	syn: tie <i>The bank robbers bound his hands and feet together.</i> <i>The prisoner's hands were bound.</i>
bite	bit	bitten	biting	bites	<i>A dog bit him last week.</i> <i>An insect has just bitten my leg – ouch!</i>
bleed	bled	bled	bleeding	bleeds	sth bleeds <i>I cut my finger yesterday; it bled for a long time.</i>
blow	blew	blown	blowing	blows	blow sth down, out <i>The wind blew a lot of trees down.</i> <i>Blow the candle out, please.</i> sth blows <i>A strong wind was blowing.</i>

List of English irregular verbs

break	broke	broken	breaking	breaks	sth breaks <i>My TV has broken.</i> break sth <i>I've broken my leg. He broke the world record for 200 metres.</i> coll: break a record, break the law
breed	bred	bred	breeding	breeds	to reproduce, produce babies: <i>Birds breed in spring.</i> to keep animals and produce young ones <i>My father bred dogs.</i>
bring	brought	brought	bringing	brings	bring sth, sb, <i>He brought his new girlfriend to the party.</i> bring sb sth <i>I've brought you a present!</i> coll: hope, a present
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast	broadcasting	broadcasts	<i>The BBC broadcast the concert last night. The concert was broadcast live on the radio.</i>
build	built	built	building	builds	coll: a house, relations, a business <i>Rome wasn't built in a day.</i>

[A-Z index](#)

END OF THE SAMPLE VERSION

This is the end of the sample version of this e-book. Please visit the following web page to get the full version as a PDF file:

<http://speakspeak.com/irregular-verbs-book>

The full version has 27 pages and over 180 verbs.
