Irregular Verbs List

106 common irregular verbs in American English, grouped by pattern. Each row shows the base form, the past simple and the past participle.

Group 1 · Same in all three forms

These verbs never change. Read is spelled the same in all three forms, but the past forms are pronounced like “red”.

Base form	Past simple	Past participle
bet	bet	bet
burst	burst	burst
cast	cast	cast
cost	cost	cost
cut	cut	cut
hit	hit	hit
hurt	hurt	hurt
let	let	let
put	put	put
quit	quit	quit
read	read	read
set	set	set
shut	shut	shut
split	split	split
spread	spread	spread

Group 2 · Base form and past participle are the same

Only the past simple changes.

Base form	Past simple	Past participle
become	became	become
come	came	come
run	ran	run

Group 3 · Past forms end in -ought or -aught

Both past forms are the same word.

Base form	Past simple	Past participle
bring	brought	brought
buy	bought	bought
catch	caught	caught
fight	fought	fought
seek	sought	sought
teach	taught	taught
think	thought	thought

Group 4 · Past forms end in -t

Both past forms are the same word, and many of them drop a vowel or a letter from the base form.

Base form	Past simple	Past participle
bend	bent	bent
build	built	built
deal	dealt	dealt
feel	felt	felt
keep	kept	kept
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
lose	lost	lost
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
send	sent	sent
sleep	slept	slept
spend	spent	spent
sweep	swept	swept

Group 5 · Past simple and past participle are the same

Both past forms are the same word, and the base form is different. This is the biggest group.

Base form	Past simple	Past participle
bleed	bled	bled
dig	dug	dug
feed	fed	fed
find	found	found
hang	hung	hung
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hold	held	held
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
light	lit	lit
make	made	made
pay	paid	paid
say	said	said
sell	sold	sold
shoot	shot	shot
sit	sat	sat
spin	spun	spun
stand	stood	stood
stick	stuck	stuck
strike	struck	struck
swing	swung	swung
tell	told	told
understand	understood	understood
win	won	won

Group 6 · Three different forms: the essentials

These verbs are used all the time, so they are worth learning first.

Base form	Past simple	Past participle
be	was / were	been
do	did	done
go	went	gone
see	saw	seen

Group 7 · Three different forms, past participle in -en or -n

The past participle often ends in -en or -n.

Base form	Past simple	Past participle
beat	beat	beaten
bite	bit	bitten
break	broke	broken
choose	chose	chosen
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	gotten
give	gave	given
hide	hid	hidden
ride	rode	ridden
rise	rose	risen
shake	shook	shaken
speak	spoke	spoken
steal	stole	stolen
swear	swore	sworn
take	took	taken
tear	tore	torn
wake	woke	woken
wear	wore	worn
write	wrote	written

Group 8 · Three different forms, past participle adds -n

The past simple ends in -ew for most of these verbs.

Base form	Past simple	Past participle
blow	blew	blown
draw	drew	drawn
fly	flew	flown
grow	grew	grown
know	knew	known
show	showed	shown
throw	threw	thrown

Group 9 · Three different forms: i, a, u

The vowel changes from i to a to u.

Base form	Past simple	Past participle
begin	began	begun
drink	drank	drunk
ring	rang	rung
shrink	shrank	shrunk
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk
swim	swam	swum

Notes: the past participle of get is got in British English. In American English it is usually gotten, and got is used in have got (“I have got a pen”). Read is spelled the same in all three forms, but the past simple and the past participle are pronounced like “red”. Show also has the regular past participle showed in some uses.