

Regular and Irregular Verbs in English

Regular Verbs

Definition:

Regular verbs follow a predictable pattern when forming the **past tense** and **past participle**—they simply add **-ed** (or **-d** if the verb ends in **-e**).

Examples:

Base Verb Past Tense Past Participle

play	played	played
clean	cleaned	cleaned
love	loved	loved
talk	talked	talked

Spelling Rules for Regular Verbs:

1. **Add -ed**
want → wanted
2. **Verbs ending in -e:** just add **-d**
like → liked
3. **Consonant + y:** change **y** to **i** and add **-ed**
study → studied
4. **One-syllable verbs ending in CVC:** double final consonant
stop → stopped, plan → planned

Irregular Verbs

Definition:

Irregular verbs do **not** follow a fixed pattern when forming the **past tense** and **past participle**. Their forms must be memorized.

Examples:

Base Verb Past Tense Past Participle

go	went	gone
eat	ate	eaten
take	took	taken
have	had	had
see	saw	seen

Notes:

- Some irregular verbs have the same past and past participle:
buy – bought – bought, say – said – said
- Others have all three forms different:
drink – drank – drunk, begin – began – begun

Comparison Table

Verb Type	Rule	Example
Regular	Add -ed/-d	play → played
Irregular	No fixed rule; must be memorized	go → went → gone

Common Irregular Verbs List

Base	Past	Past Participle
be	was/were	been
do	did	done
make	made	made
write	wrote	written
know	knew	known

Practice Exercise

Fill in the blanks with the correct past or past participle form:

1. She _____ (go) to London last year.
2. I have never _____ (eat) sushi.
3. We _____ (watch) a movie yesterday.
4. They have _____ (take) the test already.
5. He _____ (play) football last weekend.