

1. Simple Past -Regular verbs

“-ed” form: to form the simple past tense of regular verbs in English the ending *-ed* is added to the base verb, with four distinguishing rules:

1. work - worked play - played
2. arrive - arrived (se c'è un *e finale*, si aggiunge *d* al *e finale*)
3. stop - **stopped** (se c'è un vocale pronunciato corto, seguito d'un consonante solo, il consonante viene radoppiato prima di aggiungere *ed*)
4. carry - **carried** (se c'è un consonante prima del'ipson, l'ipson cambia in *i* prima di aggiungere *ed*).

2. Pronuncia

Quando si pensa alla pronuncia del passato dei verbi regolari, si deve distinguere la pronuncia dalla forma (*-ed* viene pronunciato /d/ o /t/; la *e* viene pronunciato solo dopo le lettere *d* e *t*:

/d/	/t/*	/id/
arrived	looked	wanted
phoned	stopped	invited
played	relaxed	invented
carried	typed	needed
dined	washed	
loved	watched	

* note: The *-ed ending* is pronounced *t* after certain “hard letters”, such as: k,x,p,s,sh,ch.)

Simple past tense: irregular verbs.

Note: When studying simple past tense irregular verb forms, it is a good idea to group together verbs with similar forms and/or pronunciation, as listed below. This makes it easier to study and remember the irregular forms.

Try making your own ‘associations’ or grouping together different verbs with similar meanings and/or try to see some similarities in different verbs with similar past tense forms to make memorizing easier.

Both regular and irregular verbs in the simple past tense only have one form in the past (with the exception of the verb ‘to be’, which has two forms in the past):

To be was, were

I was we were
you were you were
he/she/it was they were

All other verbs have only one form in the simple past for all persons:

To have	had
to do	did
to make	made
to come	came
to become	became
to build	built

to catch	caught
to teach	taught

to buy	bought
to bring	brought
to think	thought
to fight	fought
to choose	chose
to get	got
to forget	forgot
to stand	stood
to understand	understood
to misunderstand	misunderstood
to eat	ate
to leave	left

Note: Many irregular verbs in the past tense form, follow the following rule: If the infinitive 'I' is pronounced long, like in the word *bite*, the 'I' changes to 'o' in the past tense; if the 'i' is pronounced short, like in the word *bit*, the 'i' changes to 'a' in the past tense:

Here are some examples:

to drink	drank
to begin	began
to write	wrote
to give	gave
to ring	rang
to sing	sang
to rise	rose
to ride	rode
to dive	dove
to drive	drove
to swim	swam
to sit	sat

to take	took
to shake	shook
to sell	sold
to tell	told
to hear	heard
to hide	hid
to hold	held
to keep	kept
to sleep	slept
to creep	crept
to mean	meant
to dream	dreamt
to win	won
to lose	lost
to say	said
to pay	paid
to run	ran
to wear	wore
to tear	tore
to see	saw
to send	sent
to spend	spent
to bend	bent

Note: Some irregular verbs remain in their infinitive form in the simple past tense:

In this case sometimes it is difficult to understand if the sentence is in the present or in the past (it depends on the context):

to shut	shut
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to cut	cut
to cost	cost
to put	put
to let	let
to hurt	hurt
to hit	
to beat	beat
to read	read (pronunciation changes to /red/ in the past tense)

to lead	led	
to fly		flew
to draw	drew	
to throw	threw	
to know	knew	
to blow	blew	
to grow	grew	
to shine	shined/shone (there is both a regular and irregular form)	
to spell	spelt (there is both a regular and irregular form)	
to go	went	
to speak	spoke	
to break	broke	
can (to be able to)	could	
must (to have to)	had to	
to fall	fell	
to shoot	shot	
to steal	stole	
to meet	met	
to find	found	
to bind	bound	
to grind	ground	
to feel	felt	
to wake	woke	