

English Grammar: Irregular Verbs (123)

Base Form	Past Simple	Past Participle (perfect tenses)	Present Participle (continuous tenses)
be (am/is/are)	was, were	been	being
bear	bore	born / borne (1)	bearing
beat	beat	beaten	beating
become (2)	became	become	becoming
begin (2)	began	begun	beginning
bend	bent	bent	bending
bet	bet	bet	betting
bind	bound	bound	binding
bite	bit	bitten	biting
bleed	bled	bled	bleeding
blow	blew	blown	blowing
break	broke	broken	breaking
breed	bred	bred	breeding
bring	brought	brought	bringing
build	built	built	building
burn	burned / burnt	burned / burnt	burning
burst	burst	burst	bursting
buy	bought	bought	buying
catch	caught	caught	catching
choose	chose	chosen	choosing
come	came	come	coming
cost	cost	cost	(costing) (3)
cut	cut	cut	cutting
deal	dealt	dealt	dealing
dig	dug	dug	digging
do	did	done	doing
draw	drew	drawn	drawing
dream	dreamed / dreamt	dreamed / dreamt	dreaming
drive	drove	driven	driving
drink	drank	drunk	drinking
eat	ate	eaten	eating
fall	fell	fallen	falling
feed	fed	fed	feeding
feel	felt	felt	feeling
fight	fought	fought	fighting
find	found	found	finding
fit	fit / fitted	fit / fitted	fitting
fly	flew	flown	flying
forbid	Forbade	forbidden	forbidding

forget (2)	forgot	forgot / forgotten	forgetting
forgive (2)	forgave	forgiven	forgiving
freeze	froze	frozen	freezing
get	got	got / gotten	getting
give	gave	given	giving
go	went	gone	going
grow	grew	grown	growing
hang	hung	hung	hanging
have	had	had	(having) (3)
hear	heard	heard	hearing
hide	hid	hidden	hiding
hit	hit	hit	hitting
hold	held	held	holding
hurt	hurt	hurt	hurting
keep	kept	kept	keeping
know	knew	known	(knowing) (3)
lay	laid	laid	laying
lead	led	led	leading
lean	leaned / leant	leaned / leant	leaning
leap	leapt	leapt	leaping
learn	learned / learnt	learned / learnt	learning
leave	left	left	leaving
lend	lent	lent	lending
let	let	let	letting
lie	lay	lain	lying
light	lit	lit	lighting
lose	lost	lost	losing
make	made	made	making
mean	meant	meant	(meaning) (3)
meet	met	met	meeting
pay	paid	paid	paying
put	put	put	putting
quit	quit	quit	quitting
read	read ('red')	read ('red')	reading
rewind	rewound	rewound	rewinding
ride	rode	ridden	riding
ring	rang	rung	ringing
rise	rose	risen	rising
run	ran	run	running
say	said	said	saying
see	saw	seen	seeing
seek	sought	sought	seeking

sell	sold	sold	selling
send	sent	sent	sending
set	set	set	setting
shake	shook	shaken	shaking
shine	shone	shone	shining
shoot	shot	shot	shooting
show	showed	shown	showing
shrink	shrank	shrunk	shrinking
shut	shut	shut	shutting
sing	sang	sung	singing
sink	sank	sunk	sinking
sit	sat	sat	sitting
sleep	slept	slept	sleeping
speak	spoke	spoken	speaking
spend	spent	spent	spending
spill	spilt	spilt	spilling
split	split	split	splitting
spoil	spoilt	spoilt	spoiling
spread	spread	spread	spreading
spring	sprang	sprung	springing
stand	stood	stood	standing
steal	stole	stolen	stealing
stink	stank	stunk	stinking
strike	struck	struck / stricken	striking
swear	swore	sworn	swearing
sweep	swept	swept	sweeping
swim	swam	swum	swimming
swing	swung	swung	swinging
take	took	taken	taking
teach	taught	taught	teaching
tear	tore	torn	tearing
tell	told	told	telling
think	thought	thought	thinking
throw	threw	thrown	throwing
understand (2)	understood	understood	understanding
wake (up)	woke (up)	woken (up)	waking (up)
wear	wore	worn	wearing
weep	wept	wept	weeping
win	won	won	winning
wind	wound	wound	winding
withdraw (2)	withdrew	withdrawn	withdrawing
write	wrote	written	writing

Observations:

1) The verb “bear” has two meanings:

- “to give birth” (bear/bore/born)
- “to carry” (bear/bore/borne) (see uses in “YouGlish”)

For more details, see:

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/borne-vs-born-difference-usage-spelling>

Examples of from the series “Outlander”, set in 18th century Scotland:



So she had more children.
(most common)

So she gave birth to more children.
(less common)

So she bore more children.
(rare, formal, old-fashioned)



You have had seven children.
(most common)

You have given birth to seven children.
(less common)

You have born seven children.
(rare, formal, old-fashioned)

(“bairn” = “child” in Scottish)

2) “to strike”: <https://leangrammar.com/struck-or-stricken-whats-the-past-tense-of-strike/>

3) Only 6 of the verbs have more than one syllable, and they are all based on one-syllable verbs: become, begin, forget, forgive, understand, withdraw

4) The continuous forms of these verbs are rarely used because they are usually state verbs. Continuous verbs are used to describe actions and so are only used for active verbs.

The English language has about **200 irregular verbs**. If you included all regional variations and less commonly used verbs, the list would be a little bigger. There are about **60 irregular verbs** that are in daily use by about 90% of English speakers (see “Irregular list(common).pdf”).

Irregular verbs song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MA3NFtLc22k> (64 verbs in 5 mins)