

THE PARADIGMS OF THE IRREGULAR VERBS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The irregular verbs in the English language can be quite challenging to understand, this is why it is better to have a closer look at them. Unlike regular verbs, which form the past and past participle by adding “-ed” to the base form (e.g., play → play^{ed}), irregular verbs have their own forms, often unpredictable, that must be memorized.

🔍 The paradigm of the English verbs (regular, irregular), has three different forms of a certain verb:

- 1) Base form – used for the infinitive without “to” and the present simple;
- 2) Past Simple – used for actions that ended in the past;
- 3) Past Participle – used for compound tenses (ex. Present perfect, Past perfect).

BASE FORM	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
catch	caught	caught
teach	taught	taught

think	thought	thought
fight	fought	fought
bring	brought	brought
buy	bought	bought
seek	sought	sought

hit	hit	hit
shut	shut	shut
bet	bet	bet
read	read	read
put	put	put
cut	cut	cut
hurt	hurt	hurt
let	let	let
set	set	set
cost	cost	cost

tell	told	told
sell	sold	sold

pay	paid	paid
say	said	said

wear	wore	worn
tear	tore	torn
swear	swore	sworn
bear	bore	born(e)

know	knew	known
throw	threw	thrown
grow	grew	grown
blow	blew	blown
fly	flew	flown
draw	drew	*drawn

show	showed	shown
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come	came	come
run	ran	run
become	became	become

spoil	spoil t /spoiled	spoil t /spoiled
learn	learnt t /learned	learnt t /learned
burn	burnt t /burned	burnt t /burned
dream	dreamt t /dreamed	dreamt t /dreamed
kneel	knelt t /kneeled	knelt t /kneeled
smell	smelt t /smelled	smelt t /smelled
spell	spelt t /spelled	spelt t /spelled
spill	spilt t /spilled	spilt t /spilled