

UNIT 4: IRREGULAR VERBS IN THE PAST TENSE

4.1 Outcomes

At the end of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Recall the new words in your vocabulary and describe the meaning of each
2. List the correct irregular verb in the past tense for given words

Vocabulary


Ticket	Infinitive	Base	Form	
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4.2 Irregular Verbs

You learnt that most past tense verbs in English end with "-ed." However, many do not. Many don't follow the rule. They are called irregular verbs. Here are 50 of the most used irregular verbs in English:

Rank	Base Form	Past Tense Form	Past Participle
1	Say	said	said
2	Make	made	made
3	Go	went	gone
4	Take	took	taken
5	Come	came	come
6	See	saw	seen
7	Know	knew	known
8	Get	got	got
9	Give	gave	given
10	Find	found	found
11	Think	thought	thought
12	Tell	told	told
13	Become	became	become
14	Show	showed	shown
15	Leave	left	left
16	Feel	felt	felt
17	Put	put	put
18	Bring	brought	brought
19	Begin	began	begun
20	Keep	kept	kept
21	Hold	held	held
22	Write	wrote	written
23	Stand	stood	stood
24	Hear	heard	heard
25	Let	let	let
26	Mean	meant	meant
27	Set	set	set
28	Meet	met	met
29	Run	ran	run
30	Pay	paid	paid
31	Sit	sat	sat
32	Speak	spoke	spoken
33	Lie	lay	lain

34	Lead		
35	Read	led	led
36	Grow	read	read
37	Lose	grew	grown
38	Fall	lost	lost
39	Send	fell	fallen
40	Build	sent	sent
41	Understand	built	built
42	Draw	understood	understood
43	Break	drew	drawn
44	Spend	broke	broken
45	Cut	spent	spent
46	Rise	cut	cut
47	Drive	rose	risen
48	Buy	drove	driven
49	Wear	bought	bought
50	Choose	wore	worn
		chose	chosen ^{xiv}

	Working in pairs find the correct verb for each sentence in the column to the left. Then read the sentence to each other practicing your pronunciation.
Leave	Last night Dumi _____ letters to his cousins.
find	John and his family _____ to Limpopo on holiday.
buy	Zanele _____ her bike. She now walks to college.
ring	Jabu was in bed when he _____ a terrible noise.
meet	She _____ college early because she was feeling ill.
fight	Cele _____ his motor cycle to town.
catch	They _____ about the last cake on the table.
take	I _____ a nice picture for my math project in the internet.
sell	The policeman _____ the man who stole the watch.
teach	Zanele _____ some new clothes at the mall.
go	My dad _____ his own vegetables when he was young.
wear	The church bell _____ last Sunday.
hear	She _____ her prettiest dress to the movies.

win	Dumi _____ lots of photos of his family in Limpopo.
steal	The police took the man to jail because _____ money.
write	The lecturer _____ the students a new poem.
grow	Dumi _____ Jane on Saturday night.
ride	My favourite soccer team _____ last Saturday.



In pairs take turns to ask the questions. Check how you pronounce the words and make sure you know what they mean. It is important that you practice the questions so your answers can be short. See the example below.

You're coming to class tomorrow aren't you?	Yes I am No I'm not
You can make nice food, can't you?	You have a dog at home, don't you?
Your friend is from Limpopo, isn't he?	You aren't Zambian, are you?
You weren't here yesterday, were you?	You can speak English, can't you?
You are a student, aren't you?	This is English Literacy class, isn't it?
We aren't Russian, are we?	There are 10 people in this class, aren't there?
It isn't raining, is it?	It isn't holidays yet, is it?