

Most Common Irregular Verbs in Past Simple

Sorted by Hickey Lesson number

(There are others!)

Note: If you think it's important to teach a given verb sooner, teach it as a "sight word" on a yellow card.

(Example: the learner has asked about a word from school work.)

Hickey Lesson	Present tense	Past tense
1. itpns	sit	
2. a	sit	sat
3. d	stand	said did
4. h	hit has	hit had
5. e	spend send	spent sent
7. k		kept
8. b		bit
9. r		ran
10.m		met
13a. -i_e	bite ride rise	bit
14. l		slept held
15. -ll	sell tell	
16.a	fly	
16b.	babysit	babysat
17.f	fall find	fell felt left
21. -a_e	make take	made ate came became
23. o	do/does cost	did cost
23a. g	begin get go	began got

Hickey Lesson	Present tense	Past tense
24. -o_e	come become ride rise lose	came became rode rose lost broke spoke
25. -ng	sing bring hang	sang
26. u	cut put hang run buy	cut put hung ran
29. w, sw	swim go win	swam went won
30.v	give drive have	gave drove had
32. -nk	drink think	drank
35.ee	feel keep meet sleep see	felt kept met slept
36. oo	stand take	stood took
39. er	understand	understood
41. -ay	say pay	said
47. or	forget	forgot wore
48. ea	eat speak leave dream read	ate spoke left
50. ai	pay	paid
53. ow, ou	grow throw find	found
54. ch	choose	chose

Hickey Lesson	Present tense	Past tense
	teach	
55. -tch	catch	
57. igh	fight	
60. ew	fly grow throw	flew grew threw drew
37. ea (short e, long a)	break dream read	broke dreamt read
65. aw	draw see	drew saw
71. wild old words	sell tell hold	sold told held
76. ear	wear hear	wore heard
83. silent letters	know write bring buy fight think teach catch	knew wrote brought bought fought thought taught caught
94. ui	build	built

What is this list good for?

- In Israel students learn these past irregular verbs in sixth grade. They often have spelling quizzes in class for which they have to know the present and past form of the verb. This list tells you the very soonest, within the Hickey framework, that you can teach the present-past irregular pairs. If this is something the learner wants and needs to know, you can write these verb pairs on special yellow cards, or give the learner some other kind of cards (such as blue cards, or index cards cut down to 5.5 x 8 cm to match the other cards in the practice reading pack.)
- When you write Hickey stories, you will use verbs. Since you can't use "-ed" past regular verbs until Lesson 40, you have to work with the irregular past verbs and present tense verbs you have available to you. Sometimes this leads to mixing tenses in a story. It's unavoidable, given this lesson order. Just try not to mix tenses in the same sentence and, when possible, be consistent.

Common Irregular Verbs in Past Simple

(grouped by spelling pattern of the past tense form)

For a non-Hickey student, have the student make a "Happy Families" game, with a pattern being a family, using authentic-looking cards and permanent pens. Just the act of making the game is good practice for writing the verb pairs several times, and writing their meanings. Playing it provides even more practice, and they can play with their classmates, who are also preparing for the English class quiz!

<p>(i) → (ä) begin - began drink - drank sing - sang sit - sat swim - swam babysit - babysat</p> <p>-i_e → -a_e give - gave</p>	<p>-ought bring - brought buy - bought fight - fought think - thought</p>	<p>(ë) fall - fell hold - held</p>	<p>ee → (ě) meet - met feel - felt</p>																		
	<p>-aught teach - taught catch - caught</p>	<p>-ear → -ore wear - wore swear - swore</p>																			
<p>-ew draw - drew fly - flew grow - grew know - knew throw - threw</p>	<p>-t dream - dreamt feel - felt keep - kept leave - left sleep - slept</p>	<p>d → t build - built send - sent spend - spent</p>																			
<p>(ō) break - broke choose - chose drive - drove ride - rode rise - rose speak - spoke write - wrote</p>	<p>(ě) → (ö) forget - forgot get - got</p>	<p>no change in spelling cost - cost cut - cut hit - hit put - put read - read (sounds different)</p>																			
<p>ay → ai pay - paid say - said</p>	<p>a → (ȯo) stand - stood understand - understood</p> <p>ell → old sell - sold tell - told</p>	<p>others</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">hide - hid</td> <td style="width: 50%;">hear - heard</td> </tr> <tr> <td>bite - bit</td> <td>lose - lost</td> </tr> <tr> <td>do/does - did</td> <td>make - made</td> </tr> <tr> <td>eat - ate</td> <td>run - ran</td> </tr> <tr> <td>find - found</td> <td>see - saw</td> </tr> <tr> <td>go - went</td> <td>take - took</td> </tr> <tr> <td>hang - hung</td> <td>win - won</td> </tr> <tr> <td>have/has - had</td> <td>is/am - was</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>are - were</td> </tr> </table>		hide - hid	hear - heard	bite - bit	lose - lost	do/does - did	make - made	eat - ate	run - ran	find - found	see - saw	go - went	take - took	hang - hung	win - won	have/has - had	is/am - was		are - were
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