

Irregular Verbs

Verbs can be regular or irregular.

Regular verbs form their past tense and past participle by adding -ed.

Walk / walked / walked

Laugh / laughed / laughed

Paint / painted / painted

Wait / waited / waited

Insist / insisted / insisted

Irregular verbs form their past and past participle in other ways.

Sit / sat / sat

Ring / rang / rung

Come / came / come

Cut / cut / cut

There are mainly three types of irregular verbs:

Verbs which have all the three forms alike.

Put / put / put

Read / read / read

Cut / cut / cut

Bet / bet / bet

Hit / hit / hit

Let / let / let

Set / set / set

Spread / spread / spread

Split / split / split

Burst / burst / burst

Irregular Verbs

Verbs which have two of the three forms alike.

Sit / sat / sat

Run / ran / run

Beat / beaten / beaten

Become / became / become

Bend / bent / bent

Bleed / bled / bled

Breed / bred / bred

Bring / brought / brought

Build / built / built

Buy / bought / bought

Come / came / come

Fight / fought / fought

Keep / kept / kept

Say / said / said

Tell / told / told

Verbs which have three different forms:

Break / broke / broken

Write / wrote / written

Ring / rang / rung

Begin / began / begun

Fly / flew / flown

Do / did / done

Forget / forgot / forgotten

Rise / rose / risen

See / saw / seen

A few verbs have two past participle forms. One of these forms end in -en and can only be

Irregular Verbs

used like an adjective.

Drink / drunk (regular past participle) / drunken (adjectival past participle) Melt / melted / molten

Prove / proved / proven

Shave / shaved / shaven

Sink / sunk / sunken

Compare:

He has drunk milk.

A drunken driver

He has proved it.

A proven technique

The clock has struck five.

A grief-stricken widow

He has shaved off his beard.

A shaven head

The ship has sunk.

A sunken ship