



*Directed Learning Activity*

**Topic: Past Tense Verbs**

**Course: English B**

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME (SLO):** Paragraphs should use basic rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation so that the writer’s ideas are clearly communicated.

**DLA OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE:** Student will use past tense verb forms correctly.

**TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE: 35-50 minutes** (You’ll need to complete the independent activity IN THE WRITING CENTER, so be sure you’ve allotted enough time to do so.)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Get DLA handout, look over directions, go to a work station (computer, desk) to complete the independent activity, and then sign up with a tutor to review the activity.

**INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY (25-35 minutes):**

- A. Look over the handout “**Verbs: Past Tense**” and complete **Activities 1 and 2** on the handout.
- B. Look over the list of “**IRREGULAR PAST TENSE VERBS.**” Use a piece of paper to cover the column that gives the past tense, look at the base form, and try to guess the correct past tense. Then move the piece of paper down to check your answer. Circle any of the past tense verb forms you don’t know. Memorize them.
- C. Practice what you’ve learned by completing the **Practice Exercise**.
- D. Online Challenge: Practice using what you’ve learned by trying the Speed Word Game online at [http://www.manythings.org/wbg/verbs\\_past1-sw.html](http://www.manythings.org/wbg/verbs_past1-sw.html)

**REVIEW WITH TUTOR: (10-15 minutes)**

- 1. Review the completed **Practice Exercise** with a tutor.
- 2. Show the tutor the words you circled in the list of Irregular Past Tense Verbs. The tutor may be able to help you find a pattern to the words you’ve circled, such as verbs where the base form and the past tense are the same. Or you might need to review words like *am/was* or *do/did* or *have/had* that have widely used nonstandard forms.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** You must complete all of the items in the Independent Activity portion of this DLA before meeting with a tutor for the Review. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor’s signature included.

## Verbs: Past Tense

**Verb Tense:** shows *when* an action or event took place.

**Past Tense:** The past tense shows that an action or event began and ended at a specific time in the past.

**Present Tense:** This semester I register for classes early. (now)

**Past Tense:** Last semester I registered for classes late. (before now)

**Regular Past Tense Verbs:** Formed by adding *-d* or *-ed* to the base form of the verb (the present tense form used with "I").

**Base Form:** Almost always the present tense form of the verb that is used with the subject "I"

I walk    I live    I try    I play   ← BASE FORMS

### Regular Past Tense Forms:

1. **Most regular verbs** → form the past tense by adding *-ed* to the base form: walk + ed = walked

I walked to the library earlier this morning.

Sometimes you'll need to double the final consonant when you add *-ed* to a base form that has a soft vowel sound: bat + t + ed = **batted**

**Example:** The children batted the piñata with a decorated stick.

2. **Regular verbs that end in -e** → form the past tense by adding *-d*: live + d = lived

Martin lived in Texas for a year.

3. **Regular verbs that end in a consonant followed by -y** → form the past tense by changing the *y* to *i* and adding *-ed*:

try → tri + ed = tried

*r is a consonant, so Rule 3 applies here*

My friend tried out for *American Idol* last month.

play + ed = played

*a is not a consonant, so Rule 1 applies here*

My sister played shortstop on her high school softball team.

NOTE: *b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, z* and sometimes *y* are consonants;

### ACTIVITY 1: Write the regular past tense verbs for the base forms below.

turn \_\_\_\_\_

like \_\_\_\_\_

display \_\_\_\_\_

cry \_\_\_\_\_

level \_\_\_\_\_

tie \_\_\_\_\_

prey \_\_\_\_\_

defy \_\_\_\_\_

**Irregular Past Tense Verbs:** Past tense verbs that don't follow these 3 rules are called **Irregular Past Tense Verbs**. **These are the ones that often cause problems for writers.**

## Test Your Understanding of Irregular Past Tense Verbs

How well do you know your irregular past tense verbs? Fold this page in half so you can't see the answers. Then **write in the correct past tense of the base form given in parentheses**. Check your answers.

1. Wow, you \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) me some flowers!
2. I'm so sorry that I \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) your birthday.
3. Melanie \_\_\_\_\_ (hide) the present from her sister.
4. The children \_\_\_\_\_ (take) their schoolwork home.
5. John \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) in class.
6. The angry mother \_\_\_\_\_ (hit) the child on the leg.
7. Tony \_\_\_\_\_ (read) about the Monroe Doctrine in his history textbook.
8. Alisa was tired, so she \_\_\_\_\_ (lie) down for a nap.
9. Thomas \_\_\_\_\_ (lay) the book on the coffee table.
10. My brother \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) a cold when he went snowboarding.

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## Answers

1. brought
2. forgot
3. hid
4. took
5. slept
6. hit
7. read
8. lay\*
9. laid\*
10. caught

\* Lie/lay are difficult words to remember. Lots of people get them confused and use them incorrectly. Look at this:

**lie, lay** (present tense, past tense) To lie means to put *oneself* down (like *recline*). Examples - I'm tired. I'm going to lie down. Yesterday I lay down on the couch.

**lay, laid** (present tense, past tense) To lay means to put *something else* down (like *put*.) Examples - Please lay that bowl on the table. She laid the blanket on the bed.

The key with irregular verbs is to identify the ones you don't know and focus on learning those. You'll find you already know a lot of them.

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### IRREGULAR PAST TENSE VERBS

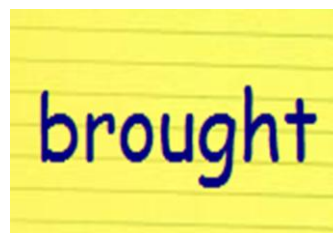
Base Form	Past Tense	Base Form	Past Tense
arise	arose	forbid	forbade or forbad
awake	awoke	forget	forgot
be (am)	was, were	forgive	forgave
bear	bore	forgo	forwent
beat	beat	freeze	froze
become	became	get	got
begin	began	give	gave
bend	bent	go	went
bet	bet	grind	ground
bite	bit	grow	grew
bleed	bled	hang	hung or hanged
blow	blew	have	had
break	broke	hear	heard
bring	brought	hide	hid
build	built	hit	hit
burn	burned or burnt	hold	held
burst	burst	hurt	hurt
buy	bought	keep	kept
catch	caught	kneel	knelt or kneeled
choose	chose	knit	knitted or knit
cling	clung	know	knew
come	came	lay	laid
cost	cost	lead	led
creep	crept	leap	leapt or leaped
cut	cut	leave	left
deal	dealt	lend	lent
dig	dug	let	let
dive	dived or dove	lie (down)	lay
do	did	light	lit or lighted
draw	drew	lose	lost
dream	dreamed or dreamt	make	made
drink	drank	mean	meant
drive	drove	meet	met
eat	ate	pay	paid
fall	fell	prove	proved
feed	fed	put	put
feel	felt	quit	quit
fight	fought	read	read
find	found	ride	rode
fit	fit, fitted	ring	rang
flee	fled	rise	rose
fling	flung	run	ran
fly	flew	saw (cut)	sawed

Base Form	Past Tense	Base Form	Past Tense
say	said	stand	stood
see	saw	steal	stole
seek	sought	stick	stuck
sell	sold	sting	stung
send	sent	stink	stank or stunk
set	set	strew	strewed
sew	sewed	strike	struck
shake	shook	strive	strove or strived
shave	shaved	swear	swore
shear	sheared	sweep	swept
shine	shone or shined	swim	swam
shoot	shot	swing	swung
show	showed	take	took
shrink	shrank or shrunk	teach	taught
shut	shut	tear	tore
sing	sang	tell	told
sink	sank	think	thought
sit	sat	thrive	thrived or throve
slay (means kill)	slew	throw	threw
sleep	slept	undergo	underwent
slide	slid	understand	understood
sneak	sneaked or snuck	upset	upset
speak	spoke	wake	woke or waked
speed	sped	wear	wore
spend	spent	weave	wove
spill	spilled or spilt	weep	wept
spin	spun	win	won
spit	spat or spit	wind	wound
split	split	withdraw	withdrew
spread	spread	wring	wrung
spring	sprang	write	wrote



Write the verb forms you need to memorize on 3" x 5" cards to create flashcards. Review them whenever you have a few free minutes.

flashcard



## Practice Exercise: Past Tense Verbs

### Part I: Regular Past Tense

Instructions: Write the past tense form of the following regular verbs. Base forms are given in parentheses.

1. Yesterday we \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) painting our new apartment.
2. My car \_\_\_\_\_ (stall) on the way to school this morning.
3. Recently Jamal \_\_\_\_\_ (change) his major to math.
4. The first day of school I \_\_\_\_\_ (worry) that I would not be able to find my classes.
5. When my sister and I moved to California, my parents \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) in Alabama.

### Part II: Irregular Past Tense

Instructions: From the list of Irregular Past Tense Verbs, select 5 words that are giving you trouble. Write the base form and the past tense on the short line. Then write a sentence that demonstrates the correct use of the past tense of the verb. Circle the past tense verb in your sentence.

Example:

give / gave

base form/past tense

Lara **gave** me a ticket to the concert last weekend.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_