Regular and Irregular Verbs

Regular verbs

If a verb is regular, the simple past and past participle end in -ed. For example:

base form	clean	finish	use	paint	stop	carry
simple past } past participle }	cleaned	finished	used	painted	stopped	carried

For spelling rules, see Appendix 5.

For the simple past (I cleaned / they finished / she carried, etc.), see Unit 5.

We use the past participle to make the *perfect tenses* and for all the *passive* forms.

Perfect tenses (have/has/had cleaned):

- I have cleaned my room. (present perfect see Units 7–8)
- They were still working. They hadn't finished. (past perfect see Unit 14)

Passive (is cleaned / was cleaned, etc.):

- He was carried out of the room. (simple past passive)
- This gate has just been painted. (present perfect passive) see Units 39-41

1.2 Irregular verbs

When the simple past / past participle do not end in -ed (for example, I saw / I have seen), the

With some irregular verbs, the simple past and past participle are the same as the base form. For example, hit:

- Don't hit me. (base form)
- Somebody hit me as I came into the room. (simple past)
- I've never hit anybody in my life. (past participle present perfect)
- George was hit on the head by a stone. (past participle passive)

With other irregular verbs, the simple past is the same as the past participle (but different from the base form). For example, tell \rightarrow told:

- Can you tell me what to do? (base form)
- She told me to come back the next day. (simple past)
- Have you told anybody about your new job? (past participle present perfect)
- I was told to come back the next day. (past participle passive)

With other irregular verbs, all three forms are different. For example, wake \rightarrow woke/woken:

- I'll wake you up. (base form)
- I woke up in the middle of the night. (simple past)
- The baby has woken up. (past participle present perfect)
- I was woken up by a loud noise. (past participle passive)

1.3 List of irregular verbs

base form	simple past	past participle
be	was/were	been
beat	beat	beaten
become	became	become
begin	began	begun
bend	bent	bent
bet	bet	bet
bite	bit	bitten

base form	simple past	past participle
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
bring	brought	brought
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast
build	built	built
burst	burst	burst
buy	bought	bought

base form	simple past	past participle
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
creep	crept	crept
cut	cut	cut
deal	dealt	dealt
dig	dug	dug
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
fit	fit	fit
flee	fled	fled
fly	flew	flown
forbid	forbade	forbidden
		Particular and State of the State of the
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive freeze	forgave froze	forgiven frozen
get	got	gotten
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grow	grew	grown
hang	hung had	hung had
have		heard
hear hide	heard hid	hidden
Company of the second		(m) = 0.1 (m) 100 (m) 100 (m)
hit O	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
kneel	knelt	knelt
know	knew	known
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lie	lay	lain
light	lit	lit
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
pay	paid	paid
put	put	put

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opione opione
spring sprang sprung
stand stood stood
steal stole stolen
stick stuck stuck
sting stung stung
stink stank stunk
strike struck struck
swear swore sworn
sweep swept swept
swim swam swum
swing swung swung
take took taken
teach taught taught
tear tore torn
tell told told
think thought thought
throw threw thrown
understand understood understood
wake woken woken
wear wore worn
weep wept wept
win won won
write wrote written

^{*}pronounced [red]

Present and Past Tenses

	simple	continuous		
present	I do simple present (Units 2-4) ■ Ann often plays tennis. ■ I work in a bank, but I don't enjoy it very much. ■ Do you like parties? ■ It doesn't rain much in the summer.	I am doing present continuous (Units 1, 3-4) ■ "Where's Ann?" "She's playing tennis." ■ Please don't bother me now. I'm working. ■ Hello. Are you enjoying the party? ■ It isn't raining right now.		
present I have done perfect present perfect simple (Units 7–8, 10–13) Ann has played tennis many times. I've lost my key. Have you seen it anywhere? How long have they known each other? "Is it still raining?" "No, it has stopped." The house is dirty. We haven't cleaned it for weeks.		 I have been doing present perfect continuous (Units 9–12) Ann is very tired. She has been playing tennis. You're out of breath. Have you been running? How long have they been studying English? It's still raining. It has been raining all day I haven't been feeling well lately. Maybe I should go to the doctor. 		
past	 I did simple past (Units 5–6, 12–13) ■ Ann played tennis yesterday afternoon. ■ I lost my key a few days ago. ■ There was a movie on TV last night, but we didn't watch it. ■ What did you do when you finished work yesterday? 	 I was doing past continuous (Unit 6) I saw Ann in the park yesterday. She was playing tennis. I dropped my key when I was trying to open the door. The TV was on, but we weren't watching it. What were you doing at this time yesterday? 		
past perfect	 I had done past perfect (Unit 14) ■ It wasn't her first game of tennis. She had played many times before. ■ I couldn't get into the house because I had lost my key. ■ The house was dirty because we hadn't cleaned it for weeks. 	 I had been doing past perfect continuous (Unit 15) ■ Ann was tired last night because she had been playing tennis in the afternoon. ■ Matt decided to go to the doctor because he hadn't been feeling well. 		

For the passive, see Units 39-41.

The Future

List of future forms

	I'm leaving tomorrow.	present continuous	(Unit 18A)
ш	My train leaves at 9:30 tomorrow.	simple present	(Unit 18B)
	I'm going to leave tomorrow.	(be) going to	(Units 19, 22)
EQ.	I'll leave tomorrow.	will	(Units 20-22)
	I'll be leaving tomorrow.	future continuous	(Unit 23)
ı	I'll have left by this time tomorrow.	future perfect	(Unit 23D)
m	I hope to see you before I leave tomorrow.	simple present	(Unit 24C)

Future actions

prohibited We use the present continuous (I'm doing) for arrangements that have already been made:

- I'm leaving tomorrow. I have my plane ticket.
- "When are they getting married?" "Next month."

We use the simple present (I leave / it leaves, etc.) for schedules, programs, etc.:

- My train leaves at 9:30 tomorrow. (according to the schedule)
- What time does the movie start?

We use (be) going to . . . to say what somebody has already decided to do:

- I've decided not to stay here any longer. I'm going to leave tomorrow. (or I'm leaving tomorrow.)
- Are you going to watch the movie on TV tonight?

We use will ('ll) when we decide or agree to do something at the time of speaking:

- A: I don't want you to stay here any longer.
 - B: OK. I'll leave tomorrow. (B decides this at the time of speaking.)
- That bag looks heavy. I'll help you with it.
- I promise I won't tell anybody what happened. (won't = will not)

3.3 Future happenings and situations

We usually use will to talk about future happenings or situations (something will happen):

- I don't think John is happy at work. I think he'll leave soon.
- By this time next year I'll be in Japan. Where will you be?

We use (be) going to when the situation now shows what is going to happen in the future:

Look at those black clouds. It's going to rain. (You can see the clouds now.)

Future continuous and future perfect

Will be doing = will be in the middle of doing something:

This time next week I'll be on vacation. I'll be lying on a beach and swimming in the ocean.

We also use will be -ing for future actions (see Unit 23C):

What time will you be leaving tomorrow?

We use will have (done) to say that something will already be complete before a time in the future:

- I won't be here at this time tomorrow. I'll have already left.
- 3.5 We use the present (not will) after when/if/while/before, etc. (see Unit 24):
 - I hope to see you before I leave tomorrow. (not before I will leave)
 - Please come and see us when you are in New York again. (not when you will be)
 - If we don't hurry, we'll be late.

Short Forms (I'm/you've/didn't, etc.)

In spoken English we usually say I'm/you've/didn't, etc. (short forms), rather than I am / you have / did not, etc. We also use short forms in informal written English (for example, in letters to friends), but not in formal written English (for example, essays for school or business reports).

When we write short forms, we use an apostrophe (') for the missing letter(s):

I'm = I am you've = you have didn't = did not

List of short forms of auxiliary verbs

'm = am 's = is or has 're = are 've = have 'll = will 'd = would or had	I'm I've I'll I'd	he's	she's she'll she'd	it's	you're you'll you'd	we're we've we'll we'd	they're they've they'll they'd	
an be is or has: She's sick. (= She	ie eick							hibite
She's gone away.			ne awa	y.)				rolling
t let's = let us:							1.1	
■ Let's go now. (= I	Let us	go now	7.)					
can be would or had:								
I'd see a doctor if								
I'd never seen her	befor	e. (= I	had nev	er see	n) (n			
use some of these sh						on word	e /who/w	hat etc) and

's can be is or has:

- She's sick. (= She is sick.)
- She's gone away. (= She has gone away.)

but let's = let us:

'd can be would or had:

- I'd see a doctor if I were you. (= I would see)
- I'd never seen her before. (= I had never seen)

We use some of these short forms (especially 's) after question words (who/what, etc.) and after that/there/here:

who's what's where's how's that's there's here's who'll there'll who'd

- Who's that woman over there? (= Who is)
- What's happened? (= What has)
- Do you think there'll be many people at the party? (= there will)

You can also use short forms (especially 's) after a noun:

- John's going out tonight. (= John is)
- My friend's just gotten married. (= My friend has)

You cannot use 'm / 's / 're / 've / 'll / 'd at the end of a sentence (because the verb is stressed in this position):

- "Are you tired?" "Yes, I am." (not Yes, I'm.)
- Do you know where she is? (not Do you know where she's?)

Negative short forms

isn't aren't wasn't weren't	(= is not) (= are not) (= was not) (= were not)	don't doesn't didn't	(= do not) (= does not) (= did not)	haven't hasn't hadn't	(= have not) (= has not) (= had not)
can't couldn't	(= cannot) (= could not)	won't wouldn't	(= will not) (= would not)	shouldn'i	t (= should not)

Negative short forms for is and are can be:

he's not / she's not / it's not he isn't / she isn't / it isn't you aren't / we aren't / they aren't or you're not / we're not / they're not

Spelling

Nouns, verbs, and adjectives can have the following endings:

noun + -s/es (plural)	books	ideas	matches
verb + -s/-es (after he/she/it)	works	enjoys	washes
verb + -ing	working	enjoying	washing
verb + -ed	worked	enjoyed	washed
adjective + -er (comparative)	cheaper	quicker	brighter
adjective + -est (superlative)	cheapest	quickest	brightest
adjective + -ly (adverb)	cheaply	quickly	brightly

When we use these endings, there are sometimes changes in spelling. These changes are listed below.

5.2 Nouns and verbs + -s/-es

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Words ending in -y (baby, carry, easy, etc.)

If a word ends in a consonant* + y (-by, -ry, -sy, -vy, etc.):

y changes to ie before the ending -s:
baby/babies story/stories
hurry/hurries stud-/
      y changes to i before the ending -ed:
          hurry/hurried
                               study/studied
                                                      apply/applied
                                                                                  try/tried
      y changes to i before the endings -er and -est:
          easy/easier/easiest
                                     heavy/heavier/heaviest
                                                                        lucky/luckier/luckiest
      y changes to i before the ending -ly:
          easy/easily
                             heavy/heavily
                                                    temporary/temporarily
```

y does not change before -ing:

hurrying studying applying trying

y does not change if the word ends in a vowel* + y (-ay, -ey, -oy, -uy):

play/plays/played monkey/monkeys enjoy/enjoys/enjoyed buy/buys

An exception is: day/daily

Note also: pay/paid lav/laid say/said

5.4 Verbs ending in -ie (die, lie, tie)

If a verb ends in -ie, ie changes to y before the ending -ing: lie/lying die/dying tie/tving

^{*}a e i o u are vowel letters. The other letters (b c d f g, etc.) are consonant letters.

Words ending in -e (hope, dance, wide, etc.) Verbs

> If a verb ends in -e, we leave out e before the ending -ing: dance/dancing confuse/confusing hope/hoping smile/smiling Exceptions are: be/being and verbs ending in -ee: see/seeing agree/agreeing If a verb ends in -e, we add -d for the past (of regular verbs): dance/danced confuse/confused hope/hoped smile/smiled

Adjectives and adverbs

If an adjective ends in -e, we add -r and -st for the comparative and superlative: late/later/latest large/larger/largest wide/wider/widest If an adjective ends in -e, we keep e before the adverb ending -ly: polite/politely extreme/extremely absolute/absolutely prohibited If an adjective ends in -le (simple, terrible, etc.), we delete e and add y to form the adverb ending -ly: simple/simply terrible/terribly reasonable/reasonably

5.6 Doubling consonants (stop/stopping/stopped, wet/wetter/wettest, etc.)

Sometimes a word ends in vowel + consonant. For example:

thin prefer stop plan slip

Before the endings -ing/-ed/-er/-est, we double the consonant at the end. So $p \to pp$, $n \to nn$, etc. For example:

biggest stopped bigger stopping big $p \rightarrow pp$ $g \rightarrow gg$ plan $n \rightarrow nn$ planning planned wet $t \rightarrow tt$ wetter wettest rubbed thinner thinnest rub $b \rightarrow bb$ rubbing thin $n \rightarrow nn$

If the word has more than one syllable (prefer, begin, etc.), we double the consonant at the end only if the final syllable is stressed:

prefer / preferring / preferred

perMIT / permitting / permitted

beGIN / beginning reGRET / regretting / regretted

If the final syllable is not stressed, we do not double the final consonant:

VIsit / visiting / visited

developing / developed

HAPpen / happening / happened

remember / remembering / remembered

Note that:

We do not double the final consonant if the word ends in two consonants (-rt, -lp, -ng, etc.): help/helping/helped long/longer/longest start/starting/started

We do not double the final consonant if there are two vowel letters before it (-oil, -eed, etc.): need/needing/needed explain/explaining/explained boil/boiling/boiled loud/louder/loudest quiet/quieter/quietest cheap/cheaper/cheapest

We do not double y or w at the end of words. (At the end of words y and w are not consonants.)

stay/staying/stayed grow/growing new/newer/newest

British English

There are a few grammatical differences between North American English and British English:

Unit	North American	British			
7 A-C, 13A	The present perfect or the simple past can be used for an action in the past with a result now: I've lost my key. Have you seen it? or I lost my key. Did you see it?	The present perfect (not usually the simple past) is used: I've lost my key. Have you seen it?			
	Sally isn't here. She's gone out. She went out.	■ Sally isn't here. She's gone out.			
	The present perfect or the simple past can be used with just, already, and yet. I'm not hungar [I've just had lunch.	Usually the present perfect is used with just, already, and yet: I'm not hungry. I've just had lunch.			
	I'm not hungry. { I've just had lunch. I just had lunch.	= 4. What time is he leaving?			
	 A: What time is he leaving? B: { He has already left. He already left. 	A: What time is he leaving?B: He has already left.			
	Have you finished your work yet? or Did you finish your work yet?	Have you finished your work yet?			
16B	North American speakers say: take a bath, take a shower, take a vacation, take a break	British speakers say: have a bath, have a shower, have a holiday, have a break			
20D	Will is used with I/we. Shall is unusual: I will be late tonight.	Will or shall can be used with I/we: I will/shall be late this evening.			
	Should I? and should we? are used to ask for advice, etc.: Which way should we go?	Shall I ? and shall we ? are used to ask for advice, etc.: Which way shall we go?			
27	North American speakers use must not to say they feel sure something is not true: Their car isn't outside their house. They	British speakers usually use can't in these situations: Their car isn't outside their house. They			
prin	must not be at home. She walked past me without speaking. She must not have seen me.	can't be at home. She walked past me without speaking. She can't have seen me.			
32 A-B	After demand, insist, etc., the <i>subjunctive</i> is usually used: I demanded that he apologize.	British speakers also use the <i>simple past</i> and <i>simple present</i> : I demanded that he apologised.*			
	She suggested that I buy some new clothes.	I demand that he apologises. She suggested that I bought some new clothes.			
69C	North American speakers say "to/in the hospital": Two people were injured and taken to the hospital.	British speakers usually say "to/in hospital" (without the): Two people were injured and taken to hospital.			

^{*}Many verbs ending in -ize in North American English (apologize, organize, specialize, etc.) are spelled with -ise in British English (apologise, organise, specialise, etc.).

Unit	North American	British
118A	on the weekend / on weekends: Will you be here on the weekend?	at the weekend / at weekends: Will you be here at the weekend?
121B	on a street: Do you live on this street?	in a street: Do you live in this street?
128C	different from or different than: It was different from (or than) what I'd expected.	different from or different to: It was different from (or to) what I'd expected.
Appendix	North American	British
1.3	The following verbs are regular in North American English: burn → burned dream → dreamed lean → leaned learn → learned smell → smelled spell → spelled spill → spilled spoil → spoiled The past participle of get is gotten: Your English has gotten much better. (= has become much better) But have got (not gotten) is an alternative to have: I've got two brothers. (= I have two brothers.)	In British English, these verbs can be regular or irregular: burn → burned or burnt dream → dreamed or dreamt lean → leaned or leant learn → learned or smelt smell → smelled or smelt spell → spilled or spilt spill → spilled or spilt spoil → spoiled or spoilt The past participle of get is got: Your English has got much better. Have got is a more usual alternative to have: I've got two brothers.
5.6	Note the differences in spelling: travel → traveling, traveled cancel → canceling, canceled	travel → travelling, travelled cancel → cancelling, cancelled