

3.4 The Simple Past of Irregular Verbs¹²

Many past tense verbs are irregular. They do not have an *-ed* ending.

Verbs With No Change				Final <i>d</i> Changes to <i>t</i>	
beat	fit	put	spit	bend—bent	send—sent
bet	hit	quit	split	build—built	spend—spent
cost	hurt	set	spread	lend—lent	
cut	let	shut			

Verbs with Vowel Changes			
feel—felt	mean—meant ¹³	dig—dug	sting—stung
keep—kept	sleep—slept	hang—hung	strike—struck
leave—left	sweep—swept	spin—spun	swing—swung
lose—lost	weep—wept	stick—stuck	win—won
awake—awoke	speak—spoke	begin—began	sing—sang
break—broke	steal—stole	drink—drank	sink—sank
choose—chose	wake—woke	ring—rang	spring—sprang
freeze—froze		shrink—shrank	swim—swam
bring—brought	fight—fought	blow—blew	grow—grew
buy—bought	teach—taught	draw—drew	know—knew
catch—caught	think—thought	fly—flew	throw—threw
arise—arose	rise—rose	bleed—bled	meet—met
drive—drove	shine—shone	feed—fed	read—read ¹⁴
ride—rode	write—wrote	flee—fled	speed—sped
		lead—led	
sell—sold	tell—told	find—found	wind—wound
mistake—mistook	take—took	lay—laid	say—said ¹⁵
shake—shook		pay—paid	
swear—swore	wear—wore	bite—bit	light—lit
tear—tore		hide—hid	slide—slid
become—became	forgive—forgave	fall—fell	run—ran
come—came	give—gave	hold—held	sit—sat
eat—ate	lie—lay		see—saw
forget—forgot	shoot—shot	stand—stood	
get—got		understand—understood	

Miscellaneous Changes		
be—was/were	go—went	hear—heard
do—did	have—had	make—made

¹²For an alphabetical list of irregular verbs, see Appendix M.

¹³There is a change in the vowel sound. *Meant* rhymes with *sent*.

¹⁴The past form of *read* is pronounced like the color *red*.

¹⁵*Said* rhymes with *bed*.