

ENGLISH VERB GROUPS

REGULAR VERBS

GROUP 1: infinitive verb ends in a consonant

spelling pattern: to — / —ed / —ed

a) in past tenses, spelling –ed adds sound [t] to the last syllable:

Card	infinitive	past tense	past participle
A13	help	helped	helped
A16	cook	cooked	cooked
A25	talk	talked	talked
A33	work	worked	worked
B3	wash	washed	washed
B4	dress	dressed	dressed
B12	dream	dreamed (or dremt)	dreamed (or dremt) <i>note sound irregularity: dream/dremt</i>
B13	ask	asked	asked
B15	spell	spelled (or spelt)	spelled (or spelt)
B23	touch	touched	touched
B24	smell	smelled (or smelt)	smelled (or smelt)
B25	look	looked	looked
B31	laugh	laughed	laughed
C3	push	pushed	pushed
C7	pick	picked	picked
C15	finish	finished	finished
C17	stop	stopped	stopped <i>note spelling irregularity: pp</i>
C18	jump	jumped	jumped

b) in past tenses –ed adds sound [d] to the last syllable:

Card	infinitive	past tense	past participle
A15	call	called	called
A28	remember	remembered	remembered
B14	answer	answered	answered
B28	listen	listened	listened
B32	cry	cried	cried <i>but note irregular spelling: y becomes i</i>
C1	open	opened	opened
C4	pull	pulled	pulled
C8	carry	carried	carried <i>but note irregular spelling: y becomes i</i>
C13	clean	cleaned	cleaned
C20	play	played	played
C25	travel	travelled	travelled <i>but note irregular spelling: ll (but not US)</i>

c) in past tenses, spelling **-ed** adds an additional syllable:

Card	infinitive	past tense	past participle
A14	visit	visited	visited
A25	chat	chatted	chatted <i>but note irregular spelling: tt</i>
A30	want	wanted	wanted
A34	rest	rested	rested
B16	count	counted	counted
B29	shout	shouted	shouted
C11	mend	mended	mended
C14	start	started	started
C15	end	ended	ended
C30	wait	waited	waited

GROUP 2: Infinitive verb ends in a vowel

spelling pattern: — / —d / —d)

a) past tense spelling adds spelling **-d** and sound adds sound [t] to last syllable

Card	infinitive	past tense	past participle
A26	dance	danced	danced
B34	hope	hoped	hoped

b) past tense adds spelling **-d** and sound [d] to last syllable

Card	infinitive	past tense	past participle
A5	die	died	died
A6	love	loved	loved
A10	argue	argued	argued
A15	phone	phoned	phoned
A23	receive	received	received
A31	change	changed	changed
C2	close	closed	closed
C26	arrive	arrived	arrived

c) past tense spelling **-ed** and sound [-ed] adds a syllable

Card	infinitive	past tense	past participle
A7	hate	hated	hated

IRREGULAR VERBS

GROUP 1 Pattern: — / = / =

Card	infinitive	past tense	past participle
A3	have	had	had
A23	get	got	got
A24	meet	met	met
A32	buy	bought	bought
B11	sleep	slept	slept
B33	think	thought	thought
C5	lose	lost	lost
C6	find	found	found
C12	build	built	built
C22	catch	caught	caught
C23	win	won	won
C27	leave	left	left
C32	stand	stood	stood
C33	sit	sat	sat

GROUP 2

Pattern: – / X / –en (or –n) *past participle add –en or –n to infinitive as an extra syllable*

Card	infinitive	past tense	past participle
A17	eat	ate	eaten
A20	take	took	taken
A22	give	gave	given
C19	fall	fell	fallen

Pattern: — / X / Xn *past participle adds -en to past tense as an extra syllable*

A21	choose	chose	chosen
B1	wake	woke	woken
B27	speak	spoke	spoken
C10	break	broke	broken
A29	forget	forgot	forgotten (note double tt)
B19	write	wrote	written (note double tt)

Pattern: – / X / –n *past participle adds –n to infinitive (no extra syllable)*

B20	draw	drew	drawn
B21	show	showed	shown
C12	throw	threw	thrown
B26	see	saw	seen

GROUP 3: Vowel change

Pattern: – / x / = (i / a / u)

Card	infinitive	past tense	past participle
A18	drink	drank	drunk
B30	sing	sang	sung
C14	begin	began	begun

Pattern: – / x / –

C16	run	ran	run
C28	come	came	come

GROUP 4: No change

Pattern: — / — / —

Card	infinitive	past tense	past participle
A19	cut	cut	cut
C9	put	put	put
B18	read	read	read <i>note pronunciation change: read [red] [red]</i>

Irregular verbs (one offs)

Card	infinitive	past tense	past participle
B6	go	went	gone
B17	have to (must)	have to	have to

NOTE ON RESOURCES

These notes were originally prepared to accompany MLG Publishing's Vital Verbs Pack of language dice and over a hundred verb cards. These are the cards referred to in the first column, above.

For information about the new downloadable module developed from this pack, go to MGL's website: <http://www.mlgpublishing.com/vitalverbs.cfm>

NOTE ON TENSES

(Shoebox theatre)

Make, or imagine, an old-fashioned shoebox theatre, or imagine you are making a video.

Present simple, present continuous

There are (at least) two layers of action. One is the action being focused on, what the actors do, that is: actions which begin and end as we watch (present simple) and the background to that (present continuous).

Describe the scene when the curtains open for our attention. The sun is shining, the villagers **are standing** around in the street as if they **are waiting** for something to happen. They **are chatting** happily to one another. Some **are wearing** festive clothes, others **are hurrying** home to change out of their working gear. One wee boy **is playing** with a spinning top.

Suddenly the music *changes*; the sky *grows* dark, the people *look* fearful. Lightning *flashes*. A tall dark-haired man *strides* onto the stage. He **is wearing** a heavy black cloak and **is holding** a large scroll in his hand. (i.e. background information, not what he does.) He pauses centre stage, opens the scroll and begins to read from it in a loud, rough voice.

“All those who **are living** in houses which belong to Squire Benchley (- that’s the background to the story-) must pack up their belongings immediately. The Squire **is going to** (ie has already decided this will happen soon) knock down the old houses and (he is going to - understood) build a fine new manor for himself.”

The villagers *look* shocked ...

Past tenses

Retell the story as if telling someone else about it later. What happens to each of the verbs? Is there any pattern to this?