

Irregular Verbs with IPA

Pronunciation of some verbs, like *read* and *dream*, changes different from what would be expected from the spelling. In this list of irregular verbs, phonetic transcription of these verbs is given using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).

Some verbs have two possible forms for past or past participle. When separated by a slash, both forms are used equally. When one is placed between brackets, that form is less common. Remember though that preferences and rules like this, change over time and from region to region.

Modal verbs

Modal verbs are included in this list because for instance *could* and *would* are the past of *can* and *will* respectively although they are often presented as independent modal verbs. A confusing aspect of modal verbs is that the past of a modal verb can have a very different meaning or is used in a very different way than its present form. Modal verbs don't have a past participle. *Must* doesn't even have a past form. For these reasons they are marked (modal).

Phonetic transcription in this verb list

In this list a narrower IPA transcription is used than in most dictionaries or other irregular verb lists because many learners of English have difficulty with the pronunciation of for instance the letter **r** in English. Writing *read* and *dream* as [ɹi:d] and [dɹi:m] instead of /ri:d/ and /dri:m/ can help them overcome this problem. It shows that, in English, the letter **r** is pronounced different from how it is pronounced in many other languages.

Hearing the sounds of the IPA characters

To hear the sounds indicated by these and other IPA characters, the best options are the clickable IPA charts of the International Phonetic Association and of Seeing Speech. Just click on a symbol in a chart to hear a recording of the corresponding sound. With the charts of the International Phonetic Association it is possible to hear variations in pronunciations by choosing different speakers. As the name Seeing Speech suggests, this site shows the movement of the mouth. There are videos of ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging as well as animations.

- https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/IPAcharts/inter_chart_2018/IPA_2018.html
- <https://www.seeingspeech.ac.uk/> click on [IPA charts]

Present / Infinitive	Past	Past Participle
arise	arose	arisen
awake	awoke	awoken
be	was - were	been
bear (bring forth)	bore	born
bear (carry)	bore	borne
beat	beat	beaten

This material can be downloaded for free from: <https://www.tonvanhattum.com.br/teachmat.html>

Present / Infinitive	Past	Past Participle
become	became	become
begin	began	begun
bend	bent	bent
bet	bet	bet
bid (check dictionary for details)	bid / bade	bid / bidden
bind	bound	bound
bite	bit	bitten
bleed	bled	bled
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
bread	bred	bred
bring	brought	brought
build	built	built
burn	burned / burnt	burned / burnt
burst	burst	burst
buy	bought	bought
cast	cast	cast
can (modal)	could	-
can (to conserve in cans; is regular)	canned	canned
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
cling	clung	clung
clothe	clothed / clad	clothed / clad
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
creep	crept	crept
cut	cut	cut
deal [di:l]	dealt [delt]	dealt [delt]
dig	dug	dug
dive	dived / dove	dived
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
dream [dri:m]	dreamed / dreamt [dremt]	dreamed / dreamt [dremt]
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
dwell	dwelt / dwelled	dwelt / dwelled
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
	(note: these past and past-participle are homophone with the regular verb <i>to found</i>)	
fit	fit	fit

Enfos

Present / Infinitive	Past	Past Participle
flee	fled	fled
fling	flung	flung
fly	flew	flown
forbid	forbade / forbad	forbidden
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
forsake	forsook	forsaken
found (regular)	founded	founded
(note: the word <i>found</i> is a confusing word; it can be the infinitive or base form of one verb, the regular verb <i>to found</i> but also the past or past participle of another verb, the irregular verb <i>to find</i> ; the regular verb <i>to found</i> means - lay a foundation, - set up an organisation.)		
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	got / gotten
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grind	ground	ground
grow	grew	grown
hang (suspend)	hung	hung
hang (kill)	hanged	hanged
have	had	had
hear [hɪə]	heard [hɛəd]	heard [hɛəd]
hew	hewed	hewn / hewed
hide	hid	hidden / hid
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
kneel	knelt (kneeled)	knelt (kneeled)
know	knew	known
lay (put, place, prepare)	laid	laid
lead	led	led
lean	lent / leaned	lent / leaned
leap	leapt [lɛpt li:pt] / leaped	leapt [lɛpt li:pt] / leaped
learn	(learnt) learned	(learnt) learned
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lie (tell untruth)	lied	lied
lie (recline, be situated)	lay	lain
light	lighted / lit	lighted / lit
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
may (modal)	might	-
(note: the following two lines give clear examples of illogical English spelling)		
mean [mi:n]	meant [ment]	meant [ment]
meet [mi:t]	met [met]	met [met]

Enfos

Present / Infinitive	Past	Past Participle
mow	mowed	mown / mowed
must (modal)	-	-
pay	paid	paid
plead	pleaded / pled	pleaded / pled
prove	proved	proved / proven
put	put	put
quit	quit / quitted	quit / quitted
read [ɹiːd]	read [ɹɛd]	read [ɹɛd]
relay (lay again)	relaid	relaid
relay (transmit, channel electricity or signal; next person or team of animals taking place; is regular)	relayed	relayed
rid	rid	rid
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
saw	saw	saw
say	said [seɪd]	said [seɪd]
see	saw	seen
seek	sought	sought
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
set (place, put)	set	set
sew	sewed	sewn / sewed
shake	shook	shaken
shall (modal)	should	-
shed	shed	shed
shine	shone	shone
shoot	shot	shot
show	showed	shown / showed
shrink	shrank / shrunk	shrunk / shrunk
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk / sunken
sit	sat	sat
slay	slew	slain
sleep	slept	slept
slide	slid	slid
sling	slung	slung
slink	slunk	slunk
slit	slit	slit
smell	smelled / smelt	smelled / smelt
sneak	sneaked (snuck)	sneaked (snuck)
snow	sowed	sown (sowed)
speak	spoke	spoken

Enfos

Present / Infinitive	Past	Past Participle
speed	sped	sped
spell	spelt (spelled)	spelt (spelled)
spend	spent	spent
spill	spilt / spilled	spilt / spilled
spin	spun	spun
spit	spat (US spit)	spat (US spit)
split	split	split
spoil	spoilt / spoiled	spoilt / spoiled
spread	spread	spread
spring	sprang	sprung
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
stick	stuck	stuck
sting	stung	stung
stink	stunk / stank	stunk
strew	strewed	strewn / strewed
stride	strode	stridden
strike	struck	struck
string	strung	strung
strive	strove / strived	striven / strived
swear	swore	sworn
sweep	swept	swept
swell	swelled	swelled / swollen
swim	swam	swum
swing	swung	swung
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
throw	threw	thrown
thrust	thrust	thrust
tread	trod	trod / trodden
understand	understood	understood
upset	upset	upset
wake	woke	woken
wear	wore	worn
weave	wove / weaved	woven / weaved
wed	wed / wedded	wed / wedded
weep	wept	wept
wet	wet (wetted)	wet (wetted)
whet (sharpen; is regular)	whetted	whetted
will (modal)	would	-
win	won	won
wind	wound	wound
wring	wrung	wrung

Enfos

Present / Infinitive	Past	Past Participle
write	wrote	written

Enfos

The font used for IPA is Doulos SIL, freely available from
<http://scripts.sil.org/DoulosSILfont>

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