

The Past Irregular Verbs Collector Challenge

You may have heard of **train spotters**, or **bird spotters** but how about an **irregular verb spotter**? Irregular verbs are difficult to learn; there are a lot of them and they don't seem to conform to any kind of pattern. Well, in fact they do! The list below is made up of groups according to patterns in the past simple and past participle forms of verbs, which hopefully will make them a bit easier to learn.

Also, as with all new vocabulary, simply learning lists of words on their own isn't necessarily going to help you when it comes to using the words in practice. The best way to really get to know words and to feel confident using them is to discover them in as many different formats as possible, whether it's reading them in a magazine article or overhearing them in a conversation. By encountering new words in different contexts, you will find it much easier to keep them in your long-term memory so you're ready to use them when you need to.

The idea of the chart below is that when you're watching a film in English, or reading a story, whenever you come across a past irregular verb form you can add it to the chart. The aim is to encounter all the verbs by reading, writing, listening or speaking them. For each verb added you get points according to where you source them!

How it works

- 🔊 Find the verb in its **base or infinitive** form and fill in the **Past Simple** and **Past Participle** versions.
- 🔊 Make a note of the **source** where you found the verb. For example: *Reading – magazine* or *Listening – conversation on bus*
- 🔊 According to the source you can reward yourself **points** – see the table below
- 🔊 As it's useful to remember the verbs in context try to write out in the **quote** column the sentence or phrase you found or used it in.

Important! Irregular verbs that come as part of a grammar exercise or activity don't count! The source must be authentic not from English coursebooks.

To encourage learners to search out irregular verbs, this chart has a **points system** according to where the verbs are found. For example, it's much easier to spot them when reading a text than, for example, hearing them in the middle of a movie.

| | Types of sources | Points |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| Reading | Texts messages, emails, adverts, magazine or newspaper articles, short stories, novels | 4 points |
| Writing | Texts messages, emails, letters, postcards, journal, stories, | 5 points |
| Listening | Radio programmes, songs, podcasts, audio books, adverts, overheard conversations, | 6 points |
| Watching | YouTube videos, films, TV series, documentaries, news, interviews, cartoons | 8 points |
| Speaking | Your own conversations with other people in English | 10 points |

Name:

Start date:

| GROUP DESCRIPTION | INFINITIVE | PAST SIMPLE | PAST PARTICIPLE | SOURCE | POINTS | QUOTE |
|---|--------------|-------------|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|
| No change | | | | | | |
| <i>The past forms are the same as the base (infinitive) forms</i> | <i>bet</i> | <i>bet</i> | <i>bet</i> | | | |
| | <i>Let</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>Set</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>Hit</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>Quit</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>Split</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>Put</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>Cut</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>Shut</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>Hurt</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>cost</i> | | | | | |
| Vowel change only | | | | | | |
| <i>The past simple and past participle are formed by changing only the vowel sound of the base form</i> | <i>meet</i> | <i>met</i> | <i>met</i> | | | |
| | <i>feed</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>bleed</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>lead</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>sit</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>light</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>hold</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>get</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>shoot</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>win</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>shine</i> | | | | | |

| GROUP DESCRIPTION | INFINITIVE | PAST SIMPLE | PAST PARTICIPLE | SOURCE | POINTS | QUOTE |
|---|--------------|----------------|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Consonant change | | | | | | |
| The past simple & past participle are formed by changing the consonant at the end of the base form | <i>lend</i> | <i>lent</i> | <i>lent</i> | | | |
| | <i>bend</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>spend</i> | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Vowel + Consonant change | | | | | | |
| The past simple and past participle are formed by changing the vowel sound of the base form and by adding or changing a consonant at the end. | <i>sleep</i> | <i>slept</i> | <i>slept</i> | | | |
| | <i>keep</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>feel</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>leave</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>mean</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>tell</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>stand</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>lose</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>sell</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>creep</i> | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| -ought/-aught | | | | | | |
| | <i>think</i> | <i>thought</i> | <i>thought</i> | | | |
| | <i>bring</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>fight</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>buy</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>catch</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>teach</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>Seek</i> | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

| GROUP DESCRIPTION | INFINITIVE | PAST SIMPLE | PAST PARTICIPLE | SOURCE | POINTS | QUOTE |
|--|------------|-------------|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2 vowel changes | | | | | | |
| The past simple is formed by changing only the vowel sound of the base form, and the past participle is formed by changing the vowel sound again | sing | sang | sung | | | |
| | ring | | | | | |
| | spring | | | | | |
| | drink | | | | | |
| | begin | | | | | |
| | swim | | | | | |
| | run | | | | | |
| | come | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Vowel change plus -en or -n ending in past participle | | | | | | |
| The past simple is formed by changing only the vowel sound of the base form, and the past participle is formed by attaching and -en or -n to the past simple | break | broke | broken | | | |
| | freeze | | | | | |
| | tear | | | | | |
| | steal | | | | | |
| | wake | | | | | |
| | choose | | | | | |
| | bite | | | | | |
| | hide | | | | | |
| | wear | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| No pattern | | | | | | |
| The past simple and past participle forms are completely irregular | be | | | | | |
| | see | | | | | |
| | do | | | | | |
| | go | | | | | |
| | read | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |