
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute Vocabulary

Irregular verbs 1



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NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Catherine

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute Vocabulary. I'm Catherine.

Finn

And I'm Finn. Actually Catherine, sorry I'm late.

Catherine

Yes, you should be.

Finn

It's **taken** me forever to get here!

Catherine

I know.

Finn

The bus **took** hours.

Catherine

Oh did it really, Finn? But you usually **take** the train.

Finn

I missed it today.

Catherine

OK, no problem. Because actually, Finn, you have introduced today's topic with the words: **take**, **took**, and **taken**...

Finn

Ah yes, irregular verbs.

Catherine

That's right, and today we'll look at three different groups of irregular verbs. So, let's start by listening to Mike and Neil's conversation. And poor Mike can't find his phone.

Finn

Oh no. While you listen, think about this question: How many times has Abdullah rung?

INSERT

Mike: Have you **seen** my phone, Neil?

Neil: Well, I haven't **taken** it.

Mike: I didn't **say** you '**took**' it. I just **said** 'Have you **seen** it?'

Neil: I **saw** it on your desk this morning.

Mike: I can't **see** it here! I've got to **ring** Abdullah. He **rang** again today. He's **rung** me five times this week...

Neil: I'll ring it for you – I'll just get my phone... out... of... my pocket... Oh, this is your phone! You **put** it on my desk by mistake... So, where have I **put** my phone? I always **put** it in my pocket...

Catherine

So we asked you: How many times has Abdullah rung this week?

Finn

And the answer is: five. He's **rung** five times this week.

Catherine

Ring... rang... rung. So, the past simple of **ring** is **rang**, and the past participle is **rung**.

Finn

There are several irregular verbs like **ring**, with different forms for the base verb, past simple and past participle.

Catherine

The verb **take**, for example, which we had earlier, is one of them. Listen out for it in this clip.

INSERT

Neil: Well, I haven't **taken** it.

Mike: I didn't **say** you '**took**' it. I just **said** 'Have you **seen** it?'

Neil: I **saw** it on your desk this morning.

Mike: I can't **see** it here!

Finn

So the verb **take** changes to **took** in the past simple...

Catherine

...and **taken** is the past participle.

Finn

We also heard **see, saw** and **seen**.

Catherine

...three different forms again. **See** is the main verb, **saw** is the past simple...

Finn

...and **seen** is the past participle.

Catherine

Other verbs that follow this pattern are **write, wrote, written**...

Finn

Break, broke, broken...

Catherine

Speak, spoke, spoken...

Finn

...and **choose, chose, chosen**.

Catherine

Good. Now, in the clip we also heard **say** and **said**. The verb **say** belongs to a different group of irregular verbs.

Finn

Yes, verbs in this group have just two different forms. For example, with **say, said, said**, the past simple and the past participle are the same.

Catherine

Other verbs in this second group are:

Finn

Tell, told, told; have, had, had; lose, lost, lost...

Catherine

...**meet, met, met; find, found, found**.

Finn

Very good. Now, in the third group of irregular verbs we are looking at today, all three forms are the same.

Catherine

Listen to this clip and see if you can spot an example.

INSERT

Neil: Oh, this is your phone. You **put** it on my desk by mistake... So, where have I **put** my phone? I always **put** it in my pocket...

Finn

So, we had **put, put, put** - all three forms are exactly the same.

Catherine

That's right. And other verbs in this group include **cut, cut, cut; let, let, let** and **shut, shut, shut**.

IDENT

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Catherine

And we're talking about three different groups of irregular verbs. In one group, the verb is the same in all three forms, like **put, put, put**.

Finn

In another group the verb is the same in two of its forms, like **say, said, said**.

Catherine

...And in the third, and biggest group, all three forms are different, like **take, took, taken**.

Finn

And now, it's quiz time! Question one. What are the three forms of the verb **shut** – as in **shut the door**?

Catherine

And the answer is **shut, shut, shut**.

Finn

That's right. Number two. What are the three forms of the verb **find** – as in **find some money**?

Catherine

And the answer is **find, found, found**.

Finn

And number three: Which of these verbs is different in all three forms: a) **have**, b) **choose** or c) **let**?

Catherine

And the answer is b) choose, chose, chosen. The others are a) **have, had, had** and c) is **let, let, let**.

Finn

And that's the end of the quiz quiz quiz! Well done if you got them right.

Catherine

And now, today's top tip tip tip for learning vocabulary: most good grammar books and websites have verb tables. So, find a good one, print it if you can, and check it regularly. Use a highlighter pen to mark the verbs that you find tricky or that you really need to know.

Finn

There's more about this at bbclearningenglish.com. Join us again for more 6 Minute Vocabulary.

Both

Bye!

Vocabulary points to take away

Irregular verbs with one form

Infinitive	Past simple	Past participle
cut	cut	cut
let	let	let
put	put	put
shut	shut	shut

Irregular verbs with two different forms

Infinitive	Past simple	Past participle
find	found	found
have	had	had
lose	lost	lost
meet	met	met
say	said	said
tell	told	told

Irregular verbs with three different forms

Infinitive	Past simple	Past participle
break	broke	broken
choose	chose	chosen
ring	rang	rung
see	saw	seen
take	took	taken
write	wrote	written