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Regular and Irregular Verbs in English

Although there is not a separate stand-alone grammar test in IELTS, your ability to recognise and use a range of grammatical structures accurately will be important in the listening, reading, speaking, and writing modules of the IELTS test. Having a good command of verb patterns is an important aspect of grammar.

In English, the **regular** forms of verbs are as follows:

Base form	Past tense	Past participle
play	played	played

For example:

I play tennis once a week. (Present simple)

I played tennis last Wednesday. (Past simple)

I have played tennis since I was a child. (Present Perfect)

However, many common verbs in English are **irregular**. Here is a list of common **irregular** verbs.

Base form	Past tense	Past participle
be	was/were	been
begin	began	begun
break	broke	broken
bring	brought	brought
buy	bought	bought
build	built	built
choose	chose	chosen
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
cut	cut	cut
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
drive	drove	driven



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eat	ate	eaten
feel	felt	felt
find	found	found
get	got	got
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hold	held	held
keep	kept	kept
know	knew	known
leave	left	left
lead	led	led
let	let	let
lie	lay	lain
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
pay	paid	paid
put	put	put
run	ran	run
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
set	set	set



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speak	spoke	spoken
spend	spent	spent
stand	stood	stood
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
understand	understood	understood
wear	wore	worn
win	won	won
write	wrote	written

Be sure to revise these verbs regularly and when you learn a new verb, make a note of all of its forms. You might like to record them like this in your vocabulary notebook:

New Verbs

Base form	Past tense	Past participle