

Irregular verbs

CEFR A2-B1 · 20 questions · A4 / US Letter

The three forms (go, went, gone) grouped by pattern, with the mistakes to avoid.

The rule

Three forms, three jobs

- Base form: the dictionary form. Use it for the present, after did and after to. "I go", "Did you go?", "I want to go".
- Past simple: one finished moment in the past. "I went home at six."
- Past participle: use it after have or has and after be. "I have gone home", "The window was broken".
- Never use the past simple form after have: "I have went" is wrong.

Group 1: the same in all three forms

- cut, cut, cut; put, put, put; hit, hit, hit; let, let, let; shut, shut, shut; cost, cost, cost.
- "I put the keys on the table" and "I have put the keys on the table" use the same form.
- These verbs never take -ed. "Putted" is not a word.

Group 2: same past simple and past participle

- buy, bought, bought; bring, brought, brought; think, thought, thought.
- teach, taught, taught; catch, caught, caught.
- keep, kept, kept; feel, felt, felt; sleep, slept, slept; meet, met, met.
- Once you know the middle form, you know the third form too.

Group 3: three different forms

- go, went, gone; do, did, done; see, saw, seen.
- eat, ate, eaten; write, wrote, written; drink, drank, drunk.
- take, took, taken; give, gave, given; speak, spoke, spoken.
- These are the verbs learners get wrong most often, so learn them inside whole phrases: "have done", "have seen", "have taken".

A few verbs change a vowel and nothing else

- sing, sang, sung; ring, rang, rung; swim, swam, swum; begin, began, begun.
- win, won, won; sit, sat, sat; run, ran, run; come, came, come.
- Read is special: the spelling stays read, but the sound changes from "reed" to "red" in the past.

Questions

Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. I ___ the news last night.

2. Have you ___ my keys anywhere?

3. She ___ me a beautiful song at the party.

4. We have ___ to that restaurant twice.

5. He ___ the ball over the wall.

6. They have ___ the kitchen window.

7. I ___ a new phone last week.

8. She has ___ English for ten years.

9. She has ___ three books this year.

10. Someone has ___ my umbrella by mistake.

11. He ___ his mother a postcard from Rome.

12. I have ___ a cold all week.

13. The children ___ in the garden all afternoon.

14. Have you ___ your bed yet?

15. She ___ me the truth at last.

16. The bell has ___ three times.

17. We ___ a great film on Friday.

18. He has ___ his leg twice.

19. I ___ my homework before dinner.

20. They have ___ each other since 2018.

Answer key

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1. **heard** — Hear is irregular: hear, heard, heard. Last night needs the past simple: heard.
2. **seen** — After have, use the past participle of see, which is seen.
3. **sang** — The past simple of sing is sang. Sing, sang, sung.
4. **gone** — After have, use the participle gone. "Have went" is a common mistake.
5. **threw** — The past simple of throw is threw. The participle thrown comes after have or be.
6. **broken** — After have, use the participle broken: have broken.
7. **bought** — Last week is finished time, so use the past simple bought. Buy, bought, bought.
8. **taught** — Teach is irregular: teach, taught, taught. After has, use taught.
9. **written** — After has, use the past participle written. Write, wrote, written.
10. **taken** — After has, use the past participle taken: have taken, has taken.
11. **sent** — Send is irregular: send, sent, sent. The past simple is sent, and it needs no -ed.
12. **had** — The past participle of have is had: have had. All week is an open period, so the present perfect fits.
13. **ran** — The past simple of run is ran. Run, ran, run.
14. **made** — Make is irregular: make, made, made. After have, use made.
15. **told** — Tell is irregular: tell, told, told. The past simple is told.
16. **rung** — After has, use the past participle rung. Ring, rang, rung.
17. **saw** — On Friday is finished time, so use the past simple saw. Saw is never used after have.
18. **broken** — After has, use the past participle broken: has broken.
19. **did** — The past simple of do is did. Done is the participle, used after have or be.
20. **known** — After have, use the past participle known. Know, knew, known.