

## Simple past tense

We use the **simple past tense** to write or talk about an action that happened in the *past* and is finished. To form the simple past tense of a regular verb we usually just add the suffixes *-ed*, *-d* or *-t* to the verb.

**Examples:** I play. → I played. suffix  
 They arrive. → They arrived. suffix  
 I learn. → I learnt. suffix  
 He dreams. → He dreamt. suffix

- For some verbs, we double the last letter of the present tense verb and add *-ed* to form the past tense, for example: stop → stopped; travel → travelled.
- For verbs that end in *-c* in the present tense, we need to add *-ked* to form the past tense, for example: panic → panicked.
- For verbs that end in *-y* in the present tense, we drop the *-y* and add *-ied* to form the past tense, for example: try → tried; copy → copied; tidy → tidied.

Irregular verbs don't follow the rules and change completely in the simple past tense.

**Examples:** I catch. → I caught. The birds fly. → The birds flew. She writes. → She wrote.

Note how the verb *to be* changes in the past tense.

Singular subjects		Plural subjects	
First person (I)	I <i>was</i> there.	First person (we)	We <i>were</i> there.
Second person (you)	You <i>were</i> there.	Second person (you)	You <i>were</i> there.
Third person (he, she, it)	He <i>was</i> there.	Third person (they)	They <i>were</i> there.

- Underline the present tense verbs in the sentences and write them in the past tense. The first one has been done for you.
  - I walk to the shops. I save my taxi fare. walked, saved
  - The teacher talks and the girls listen. \_\_\_\_\_
  - I watch Grandpa while he speaks. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Thandi uses a brush and paints. \_\_\_\_\_
  - The hadedas crow and screech. \_\_\_\_\_
- Write out the correct past tense form of the irregular verbs in brackets. The first one has been done for you.
  - I (catch) caught a big fish.
  - We (think) \_\_\_\_\_ we were going to town.
  - The old lady (stands) \_\_\_\_\_ under the tree.
  - My sister (breaks) \_\_\_\_\_ three eggs.
  - I (make) \_\_\_\_\_ a card for my friend.

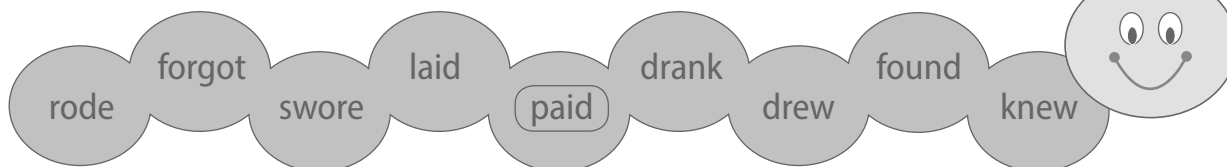
3. Read the present tense verbs in the table below and find the correct irregular past tense verbs in the word-worm. Write the irregular past tense verbs next to the present tense verbs. The first one has been done for you.

a) pay – <u>paid</u>	d) swear – _____	g) ride – _____
b) drink – _____	e) draw – _____	h) know – _____
c) find – _____	f) lay – _____	i) forget – _____



Hint

Circle the past tense verbs in the word-worm as you complete the table.



4. Circle the irregular past tense verbs that are incorrect. Write out the correct irregular past tense verbs. The first one has been done for you.

a) The cheese we buyed was mouldy. We taked it back to the shop. bought, took

b) I waked late because my alarm clock goed off.

\_\_\_\_\_

c) I singed in the choir and forgetted my words.

\_\_\_\_\_

d) My mom teachd me how to cook and the family eated my food hungrily. \_\_\_\_\_

e) I beed very cross when my little brother drawed on my project with a black pen. \_\_\_\_\_



Hint

There are two mistakes in each sentence.

5. Rewrite the paragraph below in the simple past tense.

My mom has a baby. She only eats, sleeps and cries. I dislike her because she is so noisy! My parents think she is wonderful. They make me so cross when they fuss and sing over her. However, when she smiles and grabs my finger and makes cute noises I think she is not so bad.

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Hint

Start by underlining the verbs in the paragraph (there are 16 in total). This will help you see what needs to be changed.