

Name _____

Date _____

Regular or Irregular Two Kinds of Verbs

Reading and Discussion

Verbs are action words. Verbs show us the action or state of **being** in a sentence. Every sentence you write must have a verb.

There are two kinds of **verbs**:

- regular verbs
- irregular verbs

Most verbs are regular verbs. Regular verbs are simple to use. With a regular verb, you can add an **ed** to the ending to make the past tense of the verb.

When you want to use the **past participle** of a regular verb, you can use it with one of the helping words like **have**, **has** or **had**. Here are the three main parts of the regular verb **to skip**.

- **Present.** I skip.
- **Past.** I skipped.
- **Future.** I will skip.

The past participle of the verb **to skip** is **skipped**. It is used with a helping word:

- **Present Perfect.** I have skipped.
- **Past Perfect.** I had skipped.
- **Future Perfect.** I will have skipped.

Regular verbs are easy. **Irregular verbs** are not.

Irregular verbs are verbs that change to the past tense in unexpected ways. The verb **to swim** is a good example. The present tense of swim is easy:

- I **swim** in the pool.

Now try to write the verb swim as a past tense regular verb and you get an incorrect answer like this:

- I **swimmed** in the pool. Very bad grammar!

Name _____

Date _____

To make the past tense of swim, you must change a vowel. Many irregular verbs change a vowel to make their past tense. So, instead of **swimmed**, the correct word is **swam**.

- Yesterday, I **swam** in the pool.

When you need to make the past participle of the verb **to swim**, you must change another vowel to make your verb and we have **swum**.

- I have **swum** in my pool all day.

Swim, swam and swum are the three main parts of the verb **to swim**.

Other irregular verbs change their final letter to something different. Here are some examples:

- fly, flew, flown;
- lend, lent, lent;
- go, went, gone.

Irregular verbs are very different! Sometimes they don't change at all from the main verb. For example, **read, read, and read** are the principal parts of the verb **to read**.

Irregular verbs can change in three ways to make their past tense:

1. By changing a vowel;
2. By changing a final letter;
3. By not changing at all.

Name _____

Date _____

Activities

Activity A: You probably know more irregular verbs than you think. Look at the irregular verbs listed below. Fill in the blanks with the **present** form of the verb. If you get stuck, try to use the verb in a sentence: "Today I _____." The first one has been done for you.

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| 1. <u>swim</u> _____ | swam | swum |
| 2. _____ | got | gotten |
| 3. _____ | lent | lent |
| 4. _____ | knew | known |
| 5. _____ | thought | thought |
| 6. _____ | paid | paid |
| 7. _____ | took | taken |
| 8. _____ | sprang | sprung |
| 9. _____ | blew | blown |
| 10. _____ | ate | eaten |
| 11. _____ | swore | sworn |
| 12. _____ | tore | torn |

Name _____

Date _____

Answer Key

Activity A

1. Swim
2. Get
3. Lend
4. Know
5. Think
6. Pay
7. Take
8. Spring
9. Blow
10. Eat
11. Swear
12. Tear