

Using Irregular Verbs

Reading and Discussion

There are two kinds of verbs:

- **regular verbs**
- **irregular verbs**

Most verbs are regular verbs. With a regular verb, you can add **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 sneeze**.

- Present: **sneeze**
- Past: **sneezed**
- Past participle: **sneezed**

Now let's look at the irregular verb **to write**.

- Present: **write**
- Past: **wrote**
- Past participle: **written**

Do you see how irregular verbs can change their forms? They are almost like chameleons that change to match their surroundings. Irregular verbs change to match the other words surrounding them in a sentence. Often you can tell an irregular verb by how it sounds in a sentence.

- I **writtred** a book report last week.

You wouldn't use this bad grammar to tell about a book report you wrote last week. Instead you would write:

- I **wrote** a book report last week.

If you listen to the sentence carefully, your ear will know which word sounds better.

Name _____

Date _____

Activities

Activity A: Change the underlined verbs in the sentences below to the correct form of the verb. Write the new sentence on the blank line.

1. We swimmed in Tammy's pool.

2. Mark and John bitted off the taffy.

3. The wind blowed all night.

4. Sam catched a fish in the lake last week.

5. My little brother losed another tooth.

6. Erica forgetted her lunch money.

Activity B: Fill in the blanks with the missing **present**, **past** or **past participle** of the following verbs. If you get stuck, look in the dictionary.

1. _____

cut

cut

2. set

set

3. read

read

Name _____

Date _____

Activity C: Did you notice anything different about the verbs in Question B? Give a short answer on the line below:

Activity D: What ending do regular verbs use to make a past tense of the word?

Activity E: List three irregular verbs we have learned about in this lesson.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Activity F: You know more irregular verbs than you might think. Think of five irregular verbs you have done today. Did you **grow** an inch? **Slide** down the slide in the playground? **Go** to school? Write your five verbs on the lines below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Activity G: Can you guess this irregular verb? It changes form by changing a vowel in the second letter of each word. It's something that a bell does. Write the three parts of this irregular verb on the lines below. Hint: it begins with an R.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Name _____

Date _____

Answer Key

Activity A

1. We swam in Tammy's pool.
2. Mark and John bit off the taffy.
3. The wind blew all night.
4. Sam caught a fish in the lake last week.
5. My little brother lost another tooth.
6. Erica forgot her lunch money.

Activity B

1. cut
2. set
3. read

Activity C

Answers will vary but students should notice that the verbs were all the same word. They did not change form. These irregular verbs stayed the same.

Activity D

ed

Activity E

Answers will vary. Irregular verbs used in this lesson include: write, bit, lost, forget, swam, blew, caught, cut, set, and read. Children should not use **sneeze** because it is a regular verb.

Activity F

Answers will vary.

Activity G

1. Ring
2. Rang
3. Rung