

The hundred verbs that refuse to take -ed

Most verbs are rule keepers. Add -ed and they change without a fuss. These hundred refuse, so they have to be learned by heart. They are grouped into families here, because sing, ring and drink are one pattern rather than three separate facts, and a family is far lighter to carry than an alphabetical list.

FOUR WAYS TO USE THIS LIST

Five a week. Cover the past column, say each verb in a full sentence out loud, then check.

Fold and test. Fold the page along the middle column so only the plain verb shows, then write the past form in the blank column.

Family hunt. Read one family aloud together and listen for the pattern before reading the words.

Sentence race. Pick any five and write one sentence for each, all starting with the word Yesterday.

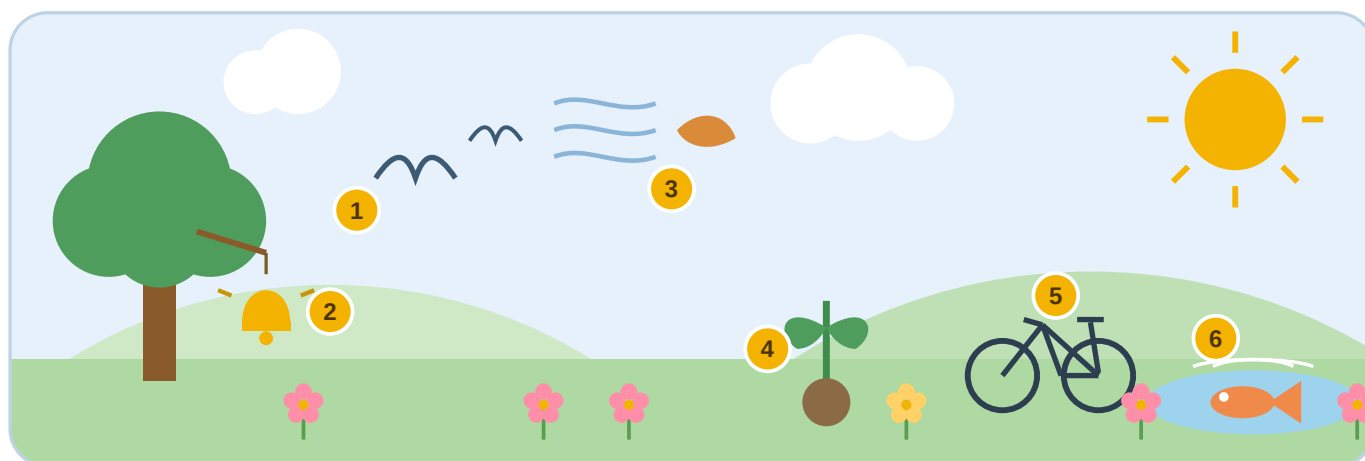
A WARNING WORTH READING

Some of these have a third form used with has and have, such as go, went, gone.

That third form is Level 3 work. This list gives the plain verb and the simple past only, which is all Grade 3 to 5 needs.

Six rule breakers are hiding in this garden

Find each numbered one, then write what it did yesterday. Every answer is on the list over the page.



1 fly

2 ring

3 blow

4 grow

5 ride

6 swim

One hundred squares, one for each rule breaker

Shade a square in every time you can say a verb and its past form without looking. Race yourself to a hundred.



How the hundred split up

- 10 The a family
- 7 The ought and aught family
- 6 The ew family
- 10 The long o family
- 10 The shorten and add t family
- 5 The d turns into t family
- 5 The two ways family

- 10 The twins family
- 4 The ound family
- 5 The double o family
- 3 The aid family
- 5 The go short family
- 5 The u family
- 15 The loners

The a family: the vowel in the middle turns into an a

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
sing	sang	.....
ring	rang	.....
drink	drank	.....
swim	swam	.....
begin	began	.....
sink	sank	.....
spring	sprang	.....
shrink	shrank	.....
sit	sat	.....
run	ran	.....

The ought and aught family: the ending is swapped for that same sound

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
buy	bought	.....
bring	brought	.....
think	thought	.....
fight	fought	.....
seek	sought	.....
catch	caught	.....
teach	taught	.....

The ew family: the ending turns into ew

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
grow	grew	.....
know	knew	.....
throw	threw	.....
blow	blew	.....
fly	flew	.....
draw	drew	.....

The long o family: an o sound takes over the middle

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
break	broke	.....
speak	spoke	.....
choose	chose	.....
freeze	froze	.....
wake	woke	.....
steal	stole	.....
drive	drove	.....
ride	rode	.....
write	wrote	.....
rise	rose	.....

The shorten and add t family: the long sound goes short and a t arrives

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
sleep	slept	.....
keep	kept	.....
sweep	swept	.....
creep	crept	.....
feel	felt	.....
kneel	knept	.....
leave	left	.....
lose	lost	.....
mean	meant	.....
deal	dealt	.....

The d turns into t family: the last letter swaps to a t

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
build	built	.....
send	sent	.....
spend	spent	.....
lend	lent	.....
bend	bent	.....

The two ways family: -ed in America, often a t in Britain. Both are correct

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
burn	burned or burnt	.....
learn	learned or learnt	.....
smell	smelled or smelt	.....
spell	spelled or spelt	.....
spoil	spoiled or spoilt	.....

The twins family: the past looks exactly the same

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
cut	cut	.....
put	put	.....
hit	hit	.....
let	let	.....
shut	shut	.....
cost	cost	.....
hurt	hurt	.....
set	set	.....
spread	spread	.....
read	read	.....

The ound family: they all end in ound

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
find	found	.....
wind	wound	.....
bind	bound	.....
grind	ground	.....

The double o family: an oo appears in the middle

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
take	took	.....
shake	shook	.....
stand	stood	.....
understand	understood	.....
mistake	mistook	.....

The aid family: they all end in the letters aid

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
lay	laid	.....
pay	paid	.....
say	said	.....

The go short family: a long ee or ea turns into a short sound

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
feed	fed	.....
lead	led	.....
bleed	bled	.....
breed	bred	.....
hear	heard	.....

The u family: the vowel turns into a u

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
dig	dug	.....
hang	hung	.....
stick	stuck	.....
swing	swung	.....
strike	struck	.....

The loners: no pattern at all, so learn these one by one

VERB	YESTERDAY	YOUR TURN
go	went	.....
eat	ate	.....
see	saw	.....
come	came	.....
become	became	.....
do	did	.....
have	had	.....
make	made	.....
get	got	.....
give	gave	.....
meet	met	.....
sell	sold	.....
tell	told	.....
hold	held	.....
win	won	.....

BEFORE YOU CLOSE THIS LIST

The five you will use every single day: go went, have had, do did, say said, get got.

If you only ever learn one family, learn the a family. It holds ten verbs and they all change the same way.

The two ways family is not a mistake. Burned and burnt are both correct, so neither can be marked wrong.

Every verb on this list turns up somewhere in the free Level 2 lesson, games and worksheet at numrahedu.com/english/verbs/level-2/