

Some frequent irregular verbs

As we saw with the Preterit Simple, the regular verbs follow rules. In the case of irregular verbs, specific changes are made to the infinitive of the verb to make the simple past and the past participle. These changes must be learned. There are no rules to follow.

The charts which follow show general verbs which you will use everyday. Many of the verbs mentioned are used regularly in a sports context.

Les

Category 1 : Vowel change

Infinitive	Simple past	Past participle	French Translation
Begin	Began	Begun	Commencer
Come [ʌ] (bus)	Came [eɪ] (play)	Come [ʌ] (bus)	Venir
Fight [aɪ] (my)	Fought [ɔ:] (ball)	Fought [ɔ:] (ball)	Combattre
Find [aɪ] (my)	Found [aʊ] (house)	Found [aʊ] (house)	Trouver
Get	Got	Got	Obtenir
Hang	Hung [ʌ] (bus)	Hung [ʌ] (bus)	Pendre, suspendre
Hold [əʊ] (oh no!)	Held	Held	Tenir
Lead [i:]	Led	Led	Conduire, mener
Meet [i:]	Met	Met	Rencontrer
Read [i:]	Read [e] (bed)	Read [e] (bed)	Lire
Ring	Rang	Rung [ʌ] (bus)	Sonner
Run [ʌ] (bus)	Ran	Ran	Courir
Sit	Sat	Sat	Être assis
Stand	Stood [ʊ] (book)	Stood [ʊ] (book)	Être debout
Swim	Swam	Swum [ʌ] (bus)	Nager
Understand	Understood	Understood	Comprendre
Win	Won [ʌ] (bus)	Won [ʌ] (bus)	gagner

Category 2 : Adding N or EN to the past participle

Infinitive	Simple past	Past participle	French Translation
To be	Was	Been	Être
To beat [i:]	Beat [i:]	Beaten [i:]	Battre
To blow [əʊ] (oh no!)	Blew [u:] (blue)	Blown [əʊ] (oh no!)	souffler
To break [eɪ] (play)	Broke [əʊ] (oh no!)	Broken [əʊ] (oh no!)	Briser
To choose [u:] (blue)	Chose [əʊ] (oh no!)	Chosen [əʊ] (oh no!)	Choisir
To do	Did	Done [ʌ] (bus)	Faire
To draw [ɔ:] (ball)	Drew [u:] (blue)	Drawn [ɔ:] (ball)	Tirer, dessiner
To drive [aɪ] (my)	Drove [əʊ] (oh no!)	Driven [ɪ] (fit)	Conduire

To eat [i:]	Ate	Eaten [i:]	Manger
To fall [ɔ:] (ball)	Fell	Fallen [ɔ:] (ball)	Tomber
To fly [aɪ] (my)	Flew [u:] (blue)	Flown	Voler (dans l'air)
To forget	Forgot	Forgotten	Oublier
To forgive	Forgave [eɪ] (play)	Forgiven	Pardonner
To give	Gave [eɪ] (play)	Given	Donner
To go [əʊ] (oh no!)	Went	Gone	Aller
To grow [əʊ] (oh no!)	Grew [u:] (blue)	Grown [əʊ] (oh no!)	Pousser, grandir
To know [əʊ] (oh no!)	Knew /nju:/ (= new)	Known [əʊ] (oh no!)	Savoir, connaître
To lay [eɪ] (play)	Laid [e] (bed)	Laid [e] (bed)	Poser, allonger
To lie [aɪ] (my)	Lay [eɪ] (play)	Lain	Être allonger
To ride [aɪ] (my)	Rode [əʊ] (oh no!)	Ridden	Monter (un cheval/un vélo)
To see	Saw [ɔ:] (ball)	Seen	Voir
To shake [eɪ] (play)	Shook [ʊ] (book)	Shaken [eɪ] (play)	Secouer
To show [əʊ] (oh no!)	Showed [əʊ] (oh no!)	Shown [əʊ] (oh no!)	Montrer
To speak [i:]	Spoke [əʊ] (oh no!)	Spoken [əʊ] (oh no!)	Parler
To steal [i:]	Stole [əʊ] (oh no!)	Stolen [əʊ] (oh no!)	Parler
To swear [eə] (hair)	Swore [ɔ:] (ball)	Sworn [ɔ:] (ball)	Jurer
To take [eɪ] (play)	Took [ʊ](book)	Taken [eɪ] (play)	Prendre
To tear [eə] (hair)	Tore [ɔ:] (ball)	Torn [ɔ:] (ball)	Déchirer
To throw [əʊ] (oh no!)	Threw [u:] (blue)	Thrown [əʊ] (oh no!)	Jeter, lancer
To wake [eɪ] (play)	Woke [əʊ] (oh no!)	Woken (up)	Réveiller
To wear [eə] (hair)	Wore [ɔ:] (ball)	Worn [ɔ:] (ball)	Porter (vêtements)
To write	Wrote [əʊ] (oh no!)	Written	Écrire

Category 3: Three identical forms

Infinitive	Simple past	Past participle	French Translation
To bet	Bet	Bet	Parier
To burst [ɜ:] (girl)	Burst [ɜ:] (girl)	Burst [ɜ:] (girl)	Éclater, exploser
To cost [ɒ] (dog)	Cost [ɒ] (dog)	Cost [ɒ] (dog)	Coûter
To cut [ʌ] (bus)	cut [ʌ] (bus)	cut [ʌ] (bus)	Couper
To hit	Hit	Hit	Frapper
To hurt [ɜ:] (girl)	Hurt [ɜ:] (girl)	Hurt [ɜ:] (girl)	Blesser
To let	Let	Let	Laisser, autoriser
To put [ʊ](book)	Put [ʊ](book)	Put [ʊ](book)	Poser, placer
To set	Set	Set	Placer

To shut [ʌ] (bus)	shut [ʌ] (bus)	shut [ʌ] (bus)	Fermer
To spread [e] (bed)	Spread [e] (bed)	Spread [e] (bed)	étendre

Category 4: Ending in 'd' and 't'

Without a vowel change :

Infinitive	Simple past	Past participle	French Translation
To burn [ɜ:] (girl)	Burnt [ɜ:] (girl)	Burnt [ɜ:] (girl)	Brûler
To build [ɪ] (fit)	Built [ɪ] (fit)	Built [ɪ] (fit)	Construire
To have	Had	Had	Avoir
Learn [ɜ:] (girl)	Learnt [ɜ:] (girl)	Learnt [ɜ:] (girl)	Apprendre
To make [eɪ] (play)	Made [eɪ] (play)	Made [eɪ] (play)	Faire
To send	Sent	Sent	Envoyer
To spend	Spent	Spent	Dépenser / passer du temps

With a vowel change :

Infinitive	Simple past	Past participle	French Translation
To buy [aɪ] (my)	Bought [ɔ:] (ball)	Bought [ɔ:] (ball)	Acheter
To bring	Brought [ɔ:] (ball)	Brought [ɔ:] (ball)	Apporter
To catch	Caught [ɔ:] (ball)	Caught [ɔ:] (ball)	Attraper
To deal [i:]	Dealt [e] (bed)	Dealt [e] (bed)	Distribuer
To dream [i:]	Dreamt [e] (bed)	Dreamt [e] (bed)	Rêver
To Feel	Felt	Felt	Ressentir, se sentir
To hear [ɪə] (=here)	Heard [ɜ:] (girl)	Heard [ɜ:] (girl)	Entendre
To keep	Kept	Kept	Garder
To leave [i:]	Left	Left	Laisser, quitter
To lose [u:] (blue)	Lost [ɒ] (dog)	Lost [ɒ] (dog)	Perdre
To mean [i:]	Meant	Meant	Vouloir dire
To pay	Paid [e] (bed)	Paid [e] (bed)	Payer
To say	Said [e] (bed)	Said [e] (bed)	Dire
To sell	Sold [əʊ] (oh no!)	Sold [əʊ] (oh no!)	Vendre
To sleep	Slept	Slept	Dormir
To teach [i:]	Taught [ɔ:] (ball)	Taught [ɔ:] (ball)	Enseigner
To tell	Told [əʊ] (oh no!)	Told [əʊ] (oh no!)	Dire
To think	Thought [ɔ:] (ball)	Thought [ɔ:] (ball)	Penser