

Past Tense Detectives

Sort verbs by how they make the past.

3.LU.1.D "Form and use regular and irregular verbs when speaking and writing."

NAME _____

DATE _____

REGULAR PAST

A regular verb makes the past tense by adding -ed or -d. Look for the ending.

Yesterday, Omar cleaned his desk.

IRREGULAR PAST

An irregular verb makes the past tense in a different way. It does not just add -ed or -d.

Yesterday, the turtle came out.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence, circle REGULAR or IRREGULAR for its past-tense verb, then pick two items and explain how you knew.

1. 1. The fox jumped over a log.

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

2. 2. I washed my hands.

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

3. 3. We drank cold water.

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

4. 4. Lena played the drum.

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

5. 5. The baby slept.

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

6. 6. My kite flew high.

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

7. 7. Dad baked bread.

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

8. 8. The class wrote poems.

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one sentence with a regular past-tense verb and one sentence with an irregular past-tense verb.

REGULAR _____

IRREGULAR _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about a trip, using a regular past-tense verb in one sentence and an irregular past-tense verb in the other.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. The fox jumped over a log.	REGULAR	Jumped is regular because jump adds -ed.
2	2. I washed my hands.	REGULAR	Washed is regular because wash adds -ed.
3	3. We drank cold water.	IRREGULAR	Drank is the irregular past tense of drink.
4	4. Lena played the drum.	REGULAR	Played is regular because play adds -ed.
5	5. The baby slept.	IRREGULAR	Slept is the irregular past tense of sleep.
6	6. My kite flew high.	IRREGULAR	Flew is the irregular past tense of fly.
7	7. Dad baked bread.	REGULAR	Baked is regular because bake adds -d.
8	8. The class wrote poems.	IRREGULAR	Wrote is the irregular past tense of write.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **REGULAR:** The bird chirped at dawn.
- **IRREGULAR:** I found a shiny shell.

Challenge: On my trip, I visited a farm. I saw a pony.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the past-tense verb and tell whether it adds -ed or -d or changes in a different way. Part 3 and the challenge may have many correct answers if the verbs are used correctly.