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.

ANSWER KEY

Past Tense Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.LU.1.D

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.