Irregular Verbs Game Pack

Pattern sort cards, a verb table grouped by pattern, and chain story cards with openings from adult life. Students find the patterns, learn the forms, then tell a story with them.

LEVEL	STUDENTS	GROUPING	TIME
A1 to B1	Teens and adults	Pairs and fours	10 to 20 minutes

Before class

1 Print
Page 3 for every student. Pages 2, 4 and 5 once per group of four.

2 Cut
The 30 pattern sort cards and the 24 story cards.

3 Sort first
Play the pattern sort before you hand out the verb table.

4 Deal
Story verb cards face down, one opening card face up.

Three ways to use the pack

PATTERN SORT

Find the patterns

Groups spread the 24 verb cards and sort them into piles that change in the same way. Do not name the patterns first. When each group has explained its piles, hand out the pattern cards.

10 min: sort and explain
15 min: then place three new verbs

TABLE

Learn the forms

Pairs cover the past and participle columns and test each other, one group at a time. Then they cover the infinitive column and go backwards: *brought? Bring.*

5 min: one group
15 min: the whole page

CHAIN STORY

Tell it together

A group reads a Story card, then each player draws a verb card and adds one sentence with its past form, starting with the word on the card: *Suddenly, I lost my phone.* The last player ends with *In the end, ...* and one player retells the story.

10 min: one story, 5 cards each
20 min: two stories, new groups

Language for the task

TELLING

Suddenly, the lights went out.
Luckily, we found a taxi.
In the end, we got home at six.

SORTING

These two change the same way.
Swim goes with *sing*.
This one doesn't fit. Why?

CHECKING

Is it bought or brought?
How do you spell it?
What's the third form?

Which errors to fix

FIX THESE, THEY ARE THE POINT

~~I didn't went.~~ → **I didn't go.**

~~Did you saw it?~~ → **Did you see it?**

~~I buyed new shoes.~~ → **I bought new shoes.**

LET THESE GO

"I learnt" or "I learned", "I dreamt" or "I dreamed" (both are correct)

In a game, praise the right verb first. Correct the article or the word order after the round.

Play this before students see the verb table. Sort the 24 verb cards into piles that change in the same way and explain each pile. Then match the six pink pattern cards to your piles.

bring · brought · brought	**swim · swam · swum**	**speak · spoke · spoken**
build · built · built	**teach · taught · taught**	**lend · lent · lent**
break · broke · broken	**write · wrote · written**	**catch · caught · caught**
begin · began · begun	**spend · spent · spent**	**sing · sang · sung**
keep · kept · kept	**cut · cut · cut**	**sleep · slept · slept**
meet · met · met	**cost · cost · cost**	**drink · drank · drunk**
hit · hit · hit	**put · put · put**	**take · took · taken**
send · sent · sent	**buy · bought · bought**	**feel · felt · felt**
No change All three forms are the same.	**-ought and -aught** Past and participle end in -ought or -aught.	**Short vowel and -t** The long vowel gets short, often with -t.
d becomes t The final d changes to t.	**i, a, u** The vowel moves from i to a to u.	**Participle ends in -n** The third form adds -n or -en.

INFINITIVE	PAST	PARTICIPLE
No change All three forms are the same.		
cut	cut	cut
put	put	put
let	let	let
hit	hit	hit
cost	cost	cost
hurt	hurt	hurt
shut	shut	shut
set	set	set
-ought and -aught Past and participle end in -ought or -aught.		
buy	bought	bought
bring	brought	brought
think	thought	thought
fight	fought	fought
catch	caught	caught
teach	taught	taught
Short vowel and -t The long vowel gets short, often with -t.		
keep	kept	kept
sleep	slept	slept
feel	felt	felt
meet	met	met
leave	left	left
mean	meant	meant
lose	lost	lost
Past = participle One new form for both columns.		
say	said	said
pay	paid	paid
make	made	made
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
sell	sold	sold
tell	told	told
find	found	found
sit	sat	sat
stand	stood	stood
win	won	won
get	got	got

INFINITIVE	PAST	PARTICIPLE
d becomes t The final d changes to t.		
send	sent	sent
spend	spent	spent
lend	lent	lent
build	built	built
i, a, u The vowel moves from i to a to u.		
sing	sang	sung
drink	drank	drunk
swim	swam	swum
begin	began	begun
ring	rang	rung
Participle = base The third form goes back to the first.		
come	came	come
become	became	become
run	ran	run
Participle ends in -n The third form adds -n or -en.		
take	took	taken
give	gave	given
eat	ate	eaten
see	saw	seen
fall	fell	fallen
write	wrote	written
drive	drove	driven
ride	rode	ridden
speak	spoke	spoken
break	broke	broken
choose	chose	chosen
forget	forgot	forgotten
know	knew	known
grow	grew	grown
throw	threw	thrown
fly	flew	flown
wear	wore	worn
No pattern at all Learn these three by heart.		
be	was / were	been
do	did	done
go	went	gone

Past: *Yesterday I **took** a taxi.* Participle: *I've **taken** a taxi* (present perfect), *It was **taken*** (passive). US English often uses *gotten* as the participle of *get*.

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STORY 1 START HERE

Last Friday, my boss called me at eleven at night.

Read this line aloud. The next player draws a verb card.

STORY 2 START HERE

On my first day in a new city, I got off at the wrong station.

Read this line aloud. The next player draws a verb card.

STORY 3 START HERE

Last summer, we rented a tiny flat by the sea.

Read this line aloud. The next player draws a verb card.

STORY 4 START HERE

The night before my big presentation, the power went out.

Read this line aloud. The next player draws a verb card.

lose

START WITH

Then …

One sentence in the past.

find

START WITH

Suddenly …

One sentence in the past.

forget

START WITH

Luckily …

One sentence in the past.

break

START WITH

After that …

One sentence in the past.

buy

START WITH

Unfortunately …

One sentence in the past.

bring

START WITH

Because of that …

One sentence in the past.

think

START WITH

Later …

One sentence in the past.

leave

START WITH

But …

One sentence in the past.

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meet

START WITH

Then ...

One sentence in the past.

send

START WITH

Suddenly ...

One sentence in the past.

spend

START WITH

Luckily ...

One sentence in the past.

fall

START WITH

After that ...

One sentence in the past.

catch

START WITH

Unfortunately ...

One sentence in the past.

run

START WITH

Because of that ...

One sentence in the past.

take

START WITH

Later ...

One sentence in the past.

tell

START WITH

But ...

One sentence in the past.

sell

START WITH

Then ...

One sentence in the past.

drive

START WITH

Suddenly ...

One sentence in the past.

win

START WITH

Luckily ...

One sentence in the past.

sleep

START WITH

After that ...

One sentence in the past.

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