

Lesson 22: More Irregular Verbs

LEARN

- **Irregular verbs** do not form the past tense by adding *-ed*. Instead the spelling of an irregular verb changes when the past tense is formed. The spelling may change again when the irregular verb is used with the helping verbs *has*, *have*, or *had*.

PRESENT

PAST

PAST WITH HAVE

People **write** tall tales today.

People **wrote** tall tales in the past.

People **have written** tall tales for a long time.



Present	Past	Past with <i>has, have, or had</i>
break	broke	has, have, or had broken
draw	drew	has, have, or had drawn
drive	drove	has, have, or had driven
fly	flew	has, have, or had flown
ride	rode	has, have, or had ridden
sing	sang	has, have, or had sung
take	took	has, have, or had taken
tell	told	has, have, or had told
throw	threw	has, have, or had thrown
write	wrote	has, have, or had written

PRACTICE

A Write the verb in parentheses that correctly completes each sentence.

1. Cowboys have **told** tall tales about Pecos Bill. (tell, told)
2. They have **sung** about how he was raised. (sang, sung)
3. The coyotes **took** Bill to the Texas plains. (took, taken)

4. Bill _____ **rode** _____ faster than any other cowboy. (rode, ridden)
5. He _____ **drove** _____ the biggest cattle to market. (drove, driven)
6. No cowboy had ever _____ **thrown** _____ a lasso so well! (threw, thrown)
7. One tale has _____ **told** _____ of a terrible drought. (tell, told)
8. Pecos Bill had _____ **ridden** _____ up into the sky on his horse. (rode, ridden)
9. He had _____ **driven** _____ some storm clouds over to Texas. (drove, driven)
10. He _____ **broke** _____ them open so the rain would fall. (broke, broken)

B *Write the past form of the verb in parentheses to correctly complete each sentence.*

1. Almost everyone _____ **rode** _____ railroads in the early 1900s. (ride)
2. People _____ **wrote** _____ songs and tall tales about John Henry. (write)
3. Many tales have _____ **told** _____ about his incredible strength. (tell)
4. Henry _____ **drove** _____ spikes into the wooden boards that hold down railroad tracks. (drive)
5. His huge sledgehammer _____ **flew** _____ through the air. (fly)
6. Some people have _____ **written** _____ that Henry could swing two hammers at once! (write)
7. A folk singer _____ **sang** _____ about Henry's contest with a new power drill. (sing)
8. Henry's boss had _____ **taken** _____ the drill to the work site. (take)
9. The amazing contest _____ **drew** _____ a large crowd. (draw)
10. Even after the power drill had _____ **broken** _____, John Henry was still working. (break)



C Sam wrote this story about Paul Bunyan, another hero of many tall tales. Sam made eight mistakes with the past forms of irregular verbs. Use the proofreading marks in the box to correct the errors.

The spelling of the verb changes in the past tense or when used with *has*, *have*, or *had*.

Paul Bunyan ^{threw} ~~threwed~~ down his ax. Then he ^{took} ~~taked~~ a deep breath. "What a job!" he said. It had ^{taken} ~~took~~ a week, but the giant logger and his big blue ox Babe were finally done. They had cleared the trees out of the Great Forests. People would now call this area the Great Plains.

"To float these logs down to my sawmill in Louisiana," Paul said, "we need a river." Paul hitched a plow to Babe and ^{drove} ~~drived~~ her and the plow down to New Orleans. Believe it or not that's how the Mississippi River got started!

"Step more lightly," Paul ^{told} ~~telled~~ Babe. Every so often her heavy hoofs ^{broke} ~~breaked~~ through the rocky ground, and streams of oil ^{flew} ~~flyed~~ up. Those were the first oil wells.

How do I know these things? Babe told me about them herself, and I have ^{written} ~~wrote~~ down everything she said.

Proofreading Marks

- ^ Add
- ⊙ Period
- ↘ Take out
- ≡ Capital letter
- / Small letter



Did you correct eight mistakes with irregular verbs?



D The tall tale below tells what Paul Bunyan might do in today's world. Complete the sentences in the story with past forms of irregular verbs. Use forms of the verbs in the chart on page 100. Then write a few sentences of your own to complete the story. Use past forms of irregular verbs in your sentences.

Paul Bunyan and the Trees

Last year Paul Bunyan _____ **drove** _____ across the country in a supersized truck. He _____ **flew** _____ over other areas of the world in a jumbo jet. Along the way Paul _____ **took** _____ a long, hard look at the places he passed. What he saw almost _____ **broke** _____ his heart!

Actually it was the lack of trees that almost _____ **drove** _____ Paul crazy. "People have always _____ **told** _____ tall tales about my logging," he moaned. "They have even _____ **sung** _____ songs about me and Babe working together. Maybe we have _____ **taken** _____ this logging business too seriously. Now it's time to plant some trees!" **Story endings will vary. A sample is given.**

Paul Bunyan threw his axes and chain saws into a big trash can.

Then he told Babe to start planting trees. Paul and Babe drove across the country planting trees. Everyone they met told them to keep up the good work.

Proofreading Checklist

- Did you use the correct past forms of irregular verbs?
- Did you use the correct form of the verb with **has**, **have**, and **had**?