

Past simple spelling rules

In English we normally add -ed ending to a verb to make the past simple and the past participle of regular verbs.

Past simple: *I worked, you worked, he worked.*

Past participle: *I have worked, you have worked, he has worked.*

Below you can find English verbs that form the past simple and the past participle in a different way.

1. Regular verbs that end in -e (like, love)

We only add -d (not -ed) to the verb: *like - liked, love - loved.*

Some of the most common verbs in this category:

analyse, apologise, admire, agree, approve, behave, change, care, bake, argue, appreciate, bore, breathe, cause, charge, chase, close, compare, complete, like, decide, escape, force, guide, hate, hope, invite, live, move, manage, notice, owe, phone, recognise, remove, settle, shave, smile, snore, stare, taste, use

2. Regular verbs that end in a consonant and -y (carry, try)

We change -y into -i: *carry - carried, try - tried.*

More examples:

accompany, apply, bully, bury, carry, clarify, copy, cry, deny, dry, empty, fancy, fry, horrify, hurry, identify, imply, marry, multiply, rely, reply, satisfy, supply, study, terrify, tidy, try

Note

We do not change -y into -i if the verb ends in a **vowel** and -y: *play - played.*

More examples:

annoy, delay, destroy, enjoy, employ, spray, stay

3. Regular verbs that end in a single vowel and a consonant (stop, admit, travel)

a) We double the consonant in verbs that only have one syllable and end in a single vowel and a consonant to keep the same pronunciation: *stop - stopped, hop - hopped.*

More examples:

ban, beg, chat, chop, clap, clip, drop, drag, fit, flip, grab, grin, grip, hug, jog, knit, mug, nod, pat, plan, rob, shop, skid, scrub, ship, skip, slip, snap, spot, star, stir, thin, top, trip, wrap

b) We double the consonant in verbs with more syllables if the stress falls on the last syllable: *ad'mit - admitted.*

More examples:

comit, confer, deter, kidnap, permit, prefer, refer, regret, transfer, transmit

Note

If the stress is not on the last syllable, we do not double the consonant.

Example: *'enter - entered*

c) In verbs ending in -l the consonant is always doubled after a single vowel.

Example: *travel - travelled.*

More examples:

cancel, control, label, marvel, patrol, pedal, quarrel