

1 Here's the Idea

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A **verb** is a word that shows action, condition, or state of being.

- An **action verb**, such as *believe* and *protest*, shows either mental or physical activity.
- A **linking verb**, such as *feel* and *be*, describes a state of being and connects the subject with a word in the predicate.

► **Every verb has four principal parts: present, present participle, past, and past participle.** Use these to form the various verb tenses and to create other verb forms.

Principal Parts of Verbs

Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
protest	(is) protesting	protested	(has) protested
organize	(is) organizing	organized	(has) organized
speak	(is) speaking	spoke	(has) spoken
write	(is) writing	wrote	(has) written

Verbs can be regular or irregular. Most verbs are regular and form their principal parts similarly. Irregular verbs follow several patterns.

Regular Verbs

► **Create the past and past participle of regular verbs by adding -d or -ed to the present.**

Regular Verbs

Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
protest	(is) protest ing	protest ed	(has) protest ed
organize	(is) organiz ing	organiz ed	(has) organiz ed

Irregular Verbs

- The past and past participle of irregular verbs are formed in several ways. Most can be grouped into one of five spelling patterns.

Common Irregular Verbs				
Spelling Pattern	Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
Group 1 Present, past, and past participle are the same.	let put split spread	(is) letting (is) putting (is) splitting (is) spreading	let put split spread	(has) let (has) put (has) split (has) spread
Group 2 Past and past participle are the same.	bring get lead teach	(is) bringing (is) getting (is) leading (is) teaching	brought got led taught	(has) brought (has) got or gotten (has) led (has) taught
Group 3 Form past participle by adding -n or -en to past.	beat bite choose speak	(is) beating (is) biting (is) choosing (is) speaking	beat bit chose spoke	(has) beaten (has) bitten (has) chosen (has) spoken
Group 4 Change <i>i</i> in the present form to <i>a</i> for the past and to <i>u</i> for the past participle.	begin ring sink spring	(is) beginning (is) ringing (is) sinking (is) springing	began rang sank or sunk sprang or sprung	(has) begun (has) rung (has) sunk (has) sprung
Group 5 Change vowel of present to form past. Add -n or -en to form most past participles.	do fall see write	(is) doing (is) falling (is) seeing (is) writing	did fell saw wrote	(has) done (has) fallen (has) seen (has) written

For more about irregular verbs, see p. 129.

The principal parts of some regular and irregular verbs require spelling changes.

For more about spelling changes in regular verbs, see pp. 640–642.