Forms of Verbs

Your everyday reference: 83 verbs, five forms.

Base / V1: I work. Past / V2: I worked. Participle / V3: I have worked. -ing: I am working. He/she/it: She works.

Be: am/is/are in the present; was/were in the past; been; being. Read: /ri:d/ in the present, /red/ in the past and participle. British English usually uses got as the participle of get.

Regular verbs

Add -ed: work - worked. Final e: live - lived. Consonant + y: study - studied. Short stressed vowel + final consonant: stop - stopped. Do not double w, x or y. Longer words: prefer - preferred, open - opened.

Other endings

Drop silent e before -ing: make - making. Double when needed: run - running. Change ie to y: lie - lying. He/she/it: work - works; watch - watches; study - studies; have - has; do - does.

Remember

After did, does and modal verbs, use the base: Did she go? She does not work. He can swim. After have/has/had, use the participle: She has eaten. A participle is not usually a complete verb on its own.

Accepted British alternatives

Learned/learnt, burned/burnt and dreamed/dreamt are accepted variants. Travelled and travelling use double l in British English. State verbs such as know normally use simple forms: I know, not I am knowing.

Irregular verbs

Base / V1	Past / V2	Participle / V3	-ing	He/she/it
be	was/were	been	being	is
have	had	had	having	has
do	did	done	doing	does
go	went	gone	going	goes
come	came	come	coming	comes
get	got	got	getting	gets
make	made	made	making	makes
take	took	taken	taking	takes
give	gave	given	giving	gives
see	saw	seen	seeing	sees
say	said	said	saying	says
tell	told	told	telling	tells
speak	spoke	spoken	speaking	speaks
write	wrote	written	writing	writes
read	read	read	reading	reads
eat	ate	eaten	eating	eats
drink	drank	drunk	drinking	drinks
buy	bought	bought	buying	buys
bring	brought	brought	bringing	brings
think	thought	thought	thinking	thinks
know	knew	known	knowing	knows
find	found	found	finding	finds
feel	felt	felt	feeling	feels

Base / V1	Past / V2	Participle / V3	-ing	He/she/it
leave	left	left	leaving	leaves
meet	met	met	meeting	meets
keep	kept	kept	keeping	keeps
sleep	slept	slept	sleeping	sleeps
sit	sat	sat	sitting	sits
stand	stood	stood	standing	stands
run	ran	run	running	runs
swim	swam	swum	swimming	swims
begin	began	begun	beginning	begins
break	broke	broken	breaking	breaks
choose	chose	chosen	choosing	chooses
drive	drove	driven	driving	drives
ride	rode	ridden	riding	rides
wear	wore	worn	wearing	wears
lose	lost	lost	losing	loses
pay	paid	paid	paying	pays
send	sent	sent	sending	sends
spend	spent	spent	spending	spends
build	built	built	building	builds
teach	taught	taught	teaching	teaches
catch	caught	caught	catching	catches
hear	heard	heard	hearing	hears
understand	understood	understood	understanding	understands
put	put	put	putting	puts

Base / V1	Past / V2	Participle / V3	-ing	He/she/it
cut	cut	cut	cutting	cuts
hit	hit	hit	hitting	hits
let	let	let	letting	lets

Regular verbs

Base / V1	Past / V2	Participle / V3	-ing	He/she/it
work	worked	worked	working	works
walk	walked	walked	walking	walks
play	played	played	playing	plays
stay	stayed	stayed	staying	stays
help	helped	helped	helping	helps
cook	cooked	cooked	cooking	cooks
clean	cleaned	cleaned	cleaning	cleans
wash	washed	washed	washing	washes
watch	watched	watched	watching	watches
listen	listened	listened	listening	listens
open	opened	opened	opening	opens
close	closed	closed	closing	closes
live	lived	lived	living	lives
like	liked	liked	liking	likes
love	loved	loved	loving	loves
want	wanted	wanted	wanting	wants
need	needed	needed	needing	needs
visit	visited	visited	visiting	visits
wait	waited	waited	waiting	waits
start	started	started	starting	starts
finish	finished	finished	finishing	finishes
call	called	called	calling	calls
ask	asked	asked	asking	asks

Base / V1	Past / V2	Participle / V3	-ing	He/she/it
answer	answered	answered	answering	answers
study	studied	studied	studying	studies
try	tried	tried	trying	tries
carry	carried	carried	carrying	carries
stop	stopped	stopped	stopping	stops
plan	planned	planned	planning	plans
move	moved	moved	moving	moves
use	used	used	using	uses
learn	learned	learned	learning	learns
travel	travelled	travelled	travelling	travels