

Irregular Verbs Practice: 56 Exercises with Answers (PDF)

Fifty-six gap-fill sentences in seven pattern groups, from cut–cut–cut to sing–sang–sung, each asking for the past simple or the past participle. Answers included: tap to reveal them online, or use the answer key at the back of the printable PDF.

No change: cut, cut, cut (A2)

1. I ____ (cut) my finger while I was cooking last night.
Past simple
2. She has ____ (put) her keys somewhere and now she can't find them.
Past participle — present perfect
3. The ball ____ (hit) the kitchen window and broke it.
Past simple
4. That jacket ____ (cost) me forty euros last winter.
Past simple
5. Have you ____ (shut) all the windows?
Past participle — present perfect
6. My parents ____ (let) me stay up late on New Year's Eve.
Past simple
7. I've ____ (hurt) my back lifting boxes.
Past participle — present perfect
8. We ____ (set) the table before the guests arrived.
Past simple

Same past and participle: keep, kept, kept (A2)

9. I ____ (sleep) badly because of the noise from the street.
Past simple
10. Have you ____ (meet) my brother before?
Past participle — present perfect
11. She ____ (leave) the party early last night.
Past simple
12. We've ____ (spend) all our money already.
Past participle — present perfect
13. He ____ (send) me a message at midnight.
Past simple

14. They have ____ (build) a new school near the station.

Past participle — present perfect

15. I ____ (lose) my wallet on the bus yesterday.

Past simple

16. Have you ever ____ (feel) nervous before an exam?

Past participle — present perfect

-ought and -aught: buy, bought, bought (A2–B1)

17. I ____ (buy) this jacket in the sales.

Past simple

18. Have you ____ (bring) your dictionary today?

Past participle — present perfect

19. I ____ (think) the test was easier than the last one.

Past simple

20. Who ____ (teach) you to swim?

Past simple

21. The goalkeeper ____ (catch) the ball with one hand.

Past simple

22. The two brothers have ____ (fight) about the same thing for years.

Past participle — present perfect

23. She ____ (seek) advice from her teacher before choosing a course.

Past simple

24. Have you ____ (think) about what you want to study next year?

Past participle — present perfect

-ew and -own: know, knew, known (B1)

25. I ____ (know) the answer, but I couldn't remember the word.

Past simple

26. Have you ever ____ (fly) in a helicopter?

Past participle — present perfect

27. The children have ____ (grow) so much this year.

Past participle — present perfect

28. He ____ (throw) the ball over the fence.

Past simple

29. The wind ____ (blow) my umbrella inside out.

Past simple

30. She has ____ (draw) a map of the town for us.

Past participle — present perfect

31. We ____ (fly) to Lisbon for the weekend.

Past simple

32. How long have you ____ (know) each other?

Past participle — present perfect

Vowel change: sing, sang, sung (B1)

33. We ____ (sing) Happy Birthday to our teacher.

Past simple

34. Have you ever ____ (swim) in the sea in winter?

Past participle — present perfect

35. The lesson had already ____ (begin) when I arrived.

Past participle — past perfect

36. Someone ____ (ring) the doorbell at six in the morning.

Past simple

37. I've ____ (drink) three cups of coffee today.

Past participle — present perfect

38. The ship ____ (sink) in less than an hour.

Past simple

39. My favourite jumper has ____ (shrink) in the wash.

Past participle — present perfect

40. She ____ (swim) across the lake in twenty minutes.

Past simple

-en participle: take, took, taken (B1)

41. Who has ____ (take) my pen?

Past participle — present perfect

42. I ____ (write) three emails before breakfast.

Past simple

43. Have you ____ (speak) to the manager yet?

Past participle — present perfect

44. He ____ (break) his leg skiing last winter.

Past simple

45. Have you ____ (choose) a topic for your presentation?

Past participle — present perfect

46. She ____ (drive) all the way to Madrid in one day.

Past simple

47. Oh no, I've ____ (forget) her name again.

Past participle — present perfect

48. The leaves had ____ (fall) before the end of September.

Past participle — past perfect

Mixed review: the tricky ones (B2)

49. Where have you ____ (be) all afternoon?

Past participle — present perfect

50. They ____ (go) home before the end of the film.

Past simple

51. Prices have ____ (rise) every month this year.

Past participle — present perfect

52. He ____ (lie) on the sofa all afternoon, doing nothing.

Past simple (lie = rest, not lay = put down)

53. She ____ (lay) the plates on the table before dinner.

Past simple (lay = put down)

54. The old tower was ____ (strike) by lightning in 1990.

Past participle — passive

55. A problem ____ (arise) when nobody checked the booking.

Past simple

56. The meeting was ____ (hold) in the main hall.

Past participle — passive

Answer key

1. cut (cut – cut – cut)
2. put (put – put – put)
3. hit (hit – hit – hit)
4. cost (cost – cost – cost)
5. shut (shut – shut – shut)
6. let (let – let – let)
7. hurt (hurt – hurt – hurt)
8. set (set – set – set)
9. slept (sleep – slept – slept)
10. met (meet – met – met)
11. left (leave – left – left)
12. spent (spend – spent – spent)
13. sent (send – sent – sent)
14. built (build – built – built)
15. lost (lose – lost – lost)
16. felt (feel – felt – felt)
17. bought (buy – bought – bought)
18. brought (bring – brought – brought)
19. thought (think – thought – thought)
20. taught (teach – taught – taught)
21. caught (catch – caught – caught)
22. fought (fight – fought – fought)
23. sought (seek – sought – sought)
24. thought (think – thought – thought)
25. knew (know – knew – known)
26. flown (fly – flew – flown)
27. grown (grow – grew – grown)
28. threw (throw – threw – thrown)
29. blew (blow – blew – blown)
30. drawn (draw – drew – drawn)
31. flew (fly – flew – flown)
32. known (know – knew – known)
33. sang (sing – sang – sung)
34. swum (swim – swam – swum)
35. begun (begin – began – begun)
36. rang (ring – rang – rung)
37. drunk (drink – drank – drunk)
38. sank (sink – sank – sunk)
39. shrunk (shrink – shrank – shrunk)
40. swam (swim – swam – swum)
41. taken (take – took – taken)
42. wrote (write – wrote – written)
43. spoken (speak – spoke – spoken)
44. broke (break – broke – broken)
45. chosen (choose – chose – chosen)
46. drove (drive – drove – driven)
47. forgotten (forget – forgot – forgotten)
48. fallen (fall – fell – fallen)
49. been (be – was/were – been)

- 50. went (go – went – gone)
- 51. risen (rise – rose – risen)
- 52. lay (lie – lay – lain)
- 53. laid (lay – laid – laid)
- 54. struck (strike – struck – struck)
- 55. arose (arise – arose – arisen)
- 56. held (hold – held – held)