

# Changing Verbs to the Past Tense



# What Is Past Tense?

The past tense tells us what has already happened.

Look at the two sentences below;  
one is in the past tense and one in the present.

I am walking down my road.

I walked down my road.

# Adding 'ed' to Make a Past Tense Verb

The difference between the present and past tense statements was the verb 'walk'. In the past tense, an 'ed' was added to make the past tense verb.

walking → walked

Making a past tense verb is not always as simple as adding an 'ed' to the verb. Sometimes, the past tense can change the spelling of the original (root) word too.

# Adding 'ed'

If a regular verb already ends with an 'e', make sure it ends in 'ed'.

Here are some examples:

bake → baked

hope → hoped

whine → whined

# Changing 'y' to 'i'

If the present tense verb ends in a consonant and a 'y',  
the 'y' becomes an 'i'.

Here are some examples:

hurry → hurried

worry → worried

Don't change the 'y' if the word ends in a vowel and a 'y'. For example:

stay → stayed



# Doubling the Consonant

If a regular verb with one syllable ends with one vowel and a consonant, double the consonant before adding 'ed'.

Here are some examples:

wrap → wrapped

beg → begged

step → stepped

# Doubling the Consonant in Longer Words

If a regular verb with more than one syllable ends with a vowel and a consonant and the last syllable is stressed, double the consonant before adding 'ed'.

Here are some examples (the stress is in green):

prefer → preferred

admit → admitted

regret → regretted

# Adding a 'k'

If the regular verb ends with 'c', add a 'k' before you add 'ed'.

Here are some examples:

panic



panick**ed**

traffic



traffick**ed**



