# 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

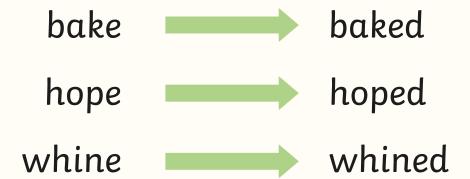
walked

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:



## 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 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:



#### 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 panicked traffic trafficked



