



Tikrit University/ College of Education for women

English Department

English for special sciences

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Biology students/ Chemistry/ Psychology

First year students/ second/ third/ fourth

Book: Headway

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Regular Verbs

Regular verbs:

A regular verb is any verb whose conjugation follows the typical pattern, or one of the typical patterns, of the language to which it belongs.

A verb whose conjugation follows a different pattern is called an irregular verb. This is one instance of the distinction between regular and irregular inflection, which can also apply to other word classes, such as nouns and adjectives.

In English, for example, verbs such as play, enter, and like are regular since they form their inflected parts by adding the typical endings -s, -ing and -ed to give forms such as plays, entering, and liked.

On the other hand, verbs such as drink, hit and have are irregular since some of their parts are not made according to the typical pattern:

drank and drunk (not "drinked");

hit (as past tense and past participle, not "hitted")

and has and had (not "haves" and "haved").

The classification of verbs as regular or irregular is to some extent a subjective matter.

If some conjugational paradigm in a language is followed by a limited number of verbs, or if it requires the specification of more than one principal part (as with the German strong verbs)

Views may differ as to whether the verbs in question should be considered irregular.

Most inflectional irregularities arise as a result of series of fairly uniform historical changes so forms that appear to be irregular from

A synchronic (contemporary) point of view may be seen as following more regular patterns when the verbs are analyzed from a diachronic (historical linguistic) viewpoint

When a given word class is subject to inflection in a particular language, there are generally one or more standard patterns of inflection

(the *paradigms* described below) that words in that class may follow.

Words which follow such a standard pattern are said to be **regular**; those that inflect differently are called **irregular**.

For instance, many languages that feature verb inflection have both regular verbs and irregular verbs.

In English, regular verbs form their past tense and past participle with the ending -*[e]d*. Therefore, verbs like *play*, *arrive* and *enter* are regular, while verbs like *sing*, *keep* and *go* are irregular.

Irregular verbs often preserve patterns that were regular in past forms of the language, but which have now become anomalous; in rare cases, there are regular verbs that were irregular in past forms of the language.

In language learning, the principal parts of a verb are those forms that a student must memorize in order to be able to conjugate the verb through all its forms. T

The concept originates in the humanist Latin schools, where students learned verbs by chanting them in the four key forms from which all other forms can be deduced.

Not all languages have to be taught in this way. In French, for example, regular verbs can be deduced from a single form, the infinitive, and irregular verbs are too random to be systematized under fixed parts.

But the concept can be carried over to many languages in which the verbs have some kind of "regular irregularity", i.e. irregularity always occurs at the same place in an otherwise regular system.

Although the term 'principal part' is usually applied to verbs, the same phenomenon can be found in some languages in nouns and other word types.

It is normally restricted to regular verbs, nouns, etc., and applies to languages where the regular paradigm is based on more than one underlying form. It does not cover random irregularities.

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