

Regular Verbs

A regular [verb](#) is one that follows the pattern of taking **-ed** for the [past simple](#) and [past participle](#) (or **-d** if the verb ends in **-e**; smoke smoked).

Learning the simple past tense enables students to communicate events that happened before the present. One of the most difficult part of [teaching](#) English past tense is instructing students on the pronunciation of the past tense form. Although the regular ending for past tense verbs is **-ed**, it can be pronounced as a /t/ a /d/ or an /id/ sound. For example, worked ends in a /t/ sound, saved ends in a /d/ sound, and needed ends in an /id/ sound. Though this can make learning the past tense initially frustrating, a patient and encouraging teacher can make learning easy and even fun.

1 [Teach](#) the students to form the past tense by adding **-ed** to the end of the verbs. Write examples on the chalk board. Instruct them to write "like" as "liked" and "add" as "added."

2 Guide the [students](#) in practice writing words in the past tense. Give students a worksheet with 10 to 20 words for them to practice writing in the past tense. Have them work in small groups so the students that understand can help explain concepts to students that are struggling. Check students' work to make sure they are comfortably writing words in the past tense before moving on to pronunciation.

3 Instruct students to pronounce the words properly by providing them with lots of examples. Introduce the three different pronunciations of the past tense ending: /id/, /t/, and /d/. Write on the blackboard the rules that go with each ending. Begin by instructing them that the /id/ ending is used only when the last sound of the word is a /t/ or /d/ sound, as in "wanted."

4 Teach students about unvoiced sound versus voiced sounds to help them differentiate between the /t/ and the /d/ sound. Tell them that a voiced sound is one that you feel a vibration in your throat when you pronounce, like a "g," and an unvoiced sound doesn't cause the feeling of vibration, like a "k." Then, instruct them that the /t/ ending is used on words that end in an unvoiced sound, as in "walked." Finally, teach them that the /d/ ending is used on words that end in a voiced sound, as in "married."

5 Help the students practice by having them pronounce the words on the worksheet they filled out earlier. Write additional words on the blackboard for them to practice pronouncing. At the end of the lesson, have them use the words in sentences to practice using the past tense words they have learned to form and pron