50 Irregular Past Tense Verbs

1. say said
   “Nancy said she would be here by 6:00.”

2. make made
   “I hope she gets here soon, I made reservations for 6:30 at the restaurant.”

3. go went
   “Maybe she went to the bank after work?”

4. take took
   “If she took the local streets she will be late. The roads are always crowded around this time.”

5. come came
   “Last week she came here after work and the traffic was fine.”

6. see saw
   “I just saw her pull into the driveway.”

7. know knew
   “I knew Nancy would be here on time!”

8. get got
   “I got an email from Peter this morning, he’s back from his vacation.”

9. give gave
   “Yes, he gave me a call from the airport last night when he arrived. I went there to pick him up.”

10. find found
    “The airport was so busy! I finally found him after 15 minutes of searching.”

11. think thought
    “I thought Peter would be on vacation for 3 weeks.”

12. tell told
    “He told me that he would only stay for 12 days.”

13. become became
    “He just became a division manager so he can’t be away from the office for too long.”

14. show showed
    “On the drive home from the airport, he showed some photos from his trip.”
*Show is an irregular verb because the past participle is shown not showed. Other regular verbs whose past tense is _ed use the same form for the past participle.

15. leave **left**
   “Hawaii is so beautiful, You must have been sad when you **left**.”

16. feel **felt**
   “I **felt** sad every time I left the beach! Relaxing on the beach is my favorite thing to do.”

17. put **put**
   “Peter had to buy an extra duffel bag for all the souvenirs he bought for his staff. First, he **put** them in his suitcase, but then his clothes wouldn’t fit!”

18. bring **brought**
   “He is so kind! He **brought** back a lot of treats for his co-workers.”

19. begin **began**
   “After working for 6 hours without a break, Lisa **began** to get very hungry.”

20. keep **kept**
   “We **kept** telling her to relax a little, but Lisa really wants to finish this project.”

21. hold **held**
   “Our boss **held** a meeting to explain how important this project is to the company.”

22. write **wrote**
   “As the project manager, Lisa **wrote** a 3-page memo detailing everyone’s tasks.”

23. stand **stood**
   “At the meeting, Lisa **stood** behind our boss taking notes.”

24. hear **heard**
   “She **heard** everything he said very clearly.”

25. let **let**
   “She works hard, so this morning I **let** her have the last donut in the staff break room.”

26. mean **meant**
   “Sorry, I **meant** to say danish, not donut.”

27. meet **met**
   “After the meeting, the team **met** at a local restaurant to have dinner together.”

28. set **set**
   “The whole project team was at the restaurant, the staff **set** the table for 18 people. It was a big table!”

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29. run ran
“IT was a big dinner so I ran home to burn some calories.”

30. pay paid
“It was a great dinner, and our company paid for everything!”

31. sit sat
“Eric was very quiet during dinner. He sat in the corner and didn't say anything.”

32. speak spoke
“Almost every member of the team spoke about their contribution to the project.”

33. lie lay
“3 nights ago I lay in bed thinking about what I would say at the meeting.”

34. lead led
“It was my first time in Tokyo, so I was happy to have a guide. He led the way during my trip.”

35. read read
“I read 6 books about Tokyo before my trip.”
*Be careful, the spelling for the past tense is the same as the present tense but they are pronounced differently.
Present tense – read ~ REED
Past tense – read ~ RED

36. grow grew
“No one took care of my garden while I was away and weeds grew everywhere.”

37. lose lost
“My favorite team lost an important game last night. I'm sad today.”

38. fall fell
“I was so nervous watching the game I fell off my chair!”

39. send sent
“My friend sent me a message right after the game to tease me. (He likes the other team!)”

40. build built
“I wish my local team had more support from the community. They built a new arena last summer but not enough people are coming to live games.”

41. understand understood
“I tried to explain to my friends that it's important to support the team, but I don't think they understood why.”

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42. draw drew
“I drew a picture for my student to help explain the meaning of the new word.”

43. break broke
“I pressed the pencil so hard that I broke it!”

44. spend spent
“I spent the next 5 minutes trying to find a new pencil.”

45. cut cut
“I reached into my desk looking for a pencil and I cut my finger on a utility knife.”

46. rise rose
“I shouted ‘ouch!’ and my student rose from her desk to see what was wrong.”

47. drive drove
“I didn’t have any bandages so we drove to the pharmacy to buy some.”

48. buy bought
“I bought a big box of band-aids.”

49. wear wore
“It was raining so I wore a rain jacket to the pharmacy.”

50. choose chose
“I chose a family-size box, it has 50 band-aids in 4 different shapes.”