

-ed Suffix Rules

Regular verbs are verbs in Germanic languages whose simple past tense and past participle are identical in form. Regular verbs are also referred to as weak verbs.

Spelling

To form the simple past and past participle of most regular verbs in English, add the -ed suffix to the base form of the verb. The base form of a verb is defined as the infinitive without the 'to' infinitive marker.

count-counted
listen-listened
wash-washed

For verbs that are spelled with a "silent" e on the end of the word, remove the "silent" e and then add the --ed suffix.

bake-baked
realize-realized
use-used

For verbs that are spelled with a y on the end of the word, change the y to an i and then add the --ed suffix.

copy-copied
party-partied
worry-worried

For one-syllable verbs spelled with a single vowel followed by a consonant other than w, x, and y, double the last consonant and then add the --ed suffix.

pet-petted
nap-napped
wag-wagged

For two-syllable verbs spelled with a single vowel followed by a consonant in which the second syllable is stressed, double the last consonant and then add the --ed suffix.

admit-admitted
prefer-preferred
regret-regretted



For the few verbs spelled with a letter c at the end of the word, add a k after the c and then add the -ed suffix.

frolic-frolicked
mimic-mimicked
picnic-picnicked

Pronunciation

The -ed suffix is an allomorph. An allomorph is a variant form of a morpheme. A morpheme is the smallest grammatical unit in a language. An allomorph means that a unit of meaning varies in sound without changing the meaning.

For verbs that end in a [t] (t, tt, te) or [d] (d, de) sound, then the simple past suffix is pronounced as [əd] (ed).

complete-completed
decide-decided
need-needed
want-wanted

For verbs that end in a voiceless [p] (p, pe), [t] (t, tt, te), [k] (k, ck, ke), [f] (f, gh), [θ] (th), [h] (h), or [j] (y) sound, then the simple past suffix is pronounced as [s] (s).

ask-asked
kiss-kissed
laugh-laughed
smash-smashed

For verbs that end in a voiced [m] (m, me), [n] (n, ne), [ŋ] (ng), [b] (b, be), [d] (d), [g] (g, ge), [v] (v, ve), [ð] (th), [w] (w), [r] (r, re), or [l] (l, ll, le) sound or any vowel sound, then the simple past suffix is pronounced as [z] (z).

describe-described
follow-followed
perform-performed
watch-watched

For more information, see <https://parentingpatch.com/simple-past-tense-regular-english-verbs/> and <https://parentingpatch.com/past-participles-regular-english-verbs/>

