1.1 *Regular verbs*

If a verb is regular, the past simple and past participle end in **-ed**. For example:

infinitive	clean	finish	use	paint	stop	carry
past simple } *past participle* }	cleaned	finished	used	painted	stopped	carried

For spelling rules, see Appendix 6.

For the *past simple* (I **cleaned** / they **finished** / she **carried** etc.), see Unit 5.

We use the *past participle* to make the perfect tenses and all the passive forms.
Perfect tenses (**have/has/had** cleaned):
- ○ I **have cleaned** the windows. (*present perfect* – see Units 7–8)
- ○ They were still working. They **had**n't **finished**. (*past perfect* – see Unit 15)

Passive (**is** clean**ed** / **was** clean**ed** etc.):
- ○ He **was carried** out of the room. (*past simple passive*) } see Units 42–44
- ○ This gate **has** just **been painted**. (*present perfect passive*) }

1.2 *Irregular verbs*

When the past simple and past participle do *not* end in **-ed** (for example, **I saw / I have seen**), the verb is *irregular*.

With some irregular verbs, all three forms (*infinitive*, *past simple* and *past participle*) are the same. For example, **hit**:
- ○ Don't **hit** me. (*infinitive*)
- ○ Somebody **hit** me as I came into the room. (*past simple*)
- ○ I've never **hit** anybody in my life. (*past participle – present perfect*)
- ○ George was **hit** on the head by a stone. (*past participle – passive*)

With other irregular verbs, the past simple is the same as the past participle (but different from the infinitive). For example, **tell → told**:
- ○ Can you **tell** me what to do? (*infinitive*)
- ○ She **told** me to come back the next day. (*past simple*)
- ○ Have you **told** anybody about your new job? (*past participle – present perfect*)
- ○ I was **told** to come back the next day. (*past participle – passive*)

With other irregular verbs, all three forms are different. For example, **wake → woke/woken**:
- ○ I'll **wake** you up. (*infinitive*)
- ○ I **woke** up in the middle of the night. (*past simple*)
- ○ The baby has **woken** up. (*past participle – present perfect*)
- ○ I was **woken** up by a loud noise. (*past participle – passive*)

1.3 The following verbs can be regular or irregular:

burn	→ burn**ed**	*or* burn**t**	**smell**	→ smell**ed**	*or* smel**t**
dream	→ dream**ed**	*or* dreamt [dremt]*	**spell**	→ spell**ed**	*or* spel**t**
lean	→ lean**ed**	*or* leant [lent]*	**spill**	→ spill**ed**	*or* spil**t**
learn	→ learn**ed**	*or* learn**t**	**spoil**	→ spoil**ed**	*or* spoil**t**

* *pronunciation*

So you can say:
- ○ I **leant** out of the window. *or* I **leaned** out of the window.
- ○ The dinner has been **spoiled**. *or* The dinner has been **spoilt**.

In British English the irregular form (**burnt/learnt** etc.) is more usual. For American English, see Appendix 7.