

In English, verbs have different forms that change based on **tense**, **person**, and **number**. While there are many ways to categorize these forms, the most common and helpful breakdown identifies five core forms for most verbs. These forms are the building blocks for all the tenses and moods in English.

The Five Core Verb Forms

1. Base Form (or Root Form):

- This is the simplest form of the verb, as you would find it in a dictionary. It is also known as the infinitive without "to."
- **Usage:** Used in the simple present tense (with most subjects), with modal verbs (like *can*, *should*), and in commands.
- **Examples:** *walk, eat, write, go, sing*
- **Sentence:** "I **walk** to school every day."

2. Third-Person Singular Present:

- This form is used for the simple present tense when the subject is a third-person singular pronoun (*he, she, it*) or a singular noun. It is typically formed by adding -s or -es to the base form.
- **Usage:** Simple present tense with a third-person singular subject.
- **Examples:** *walks, eats, writes, goes, sings*
- **Sentence:** "She **walks** to school every day."

3. Simple Past:

- This form indicates an action that happened at a specific time in the past.
- **Usage:** Simple past tense.
- **Regular Verbs:** Add -ed to the base form (e.g., *walked, loved, started*).
- **Irregular Verbs:** Have unique and unpredictable forms (e.g., *ate, wrote, went, sang*).
- **Sentence:** "He **walked** home yesterday."

4. Present Participle (or -ing Form):

- This form is created by adding -ing to the base form.
- **Usage:** Used in all continuous (or progressive) tenses with a form of the verb "to be" (*am, is, are, was, were, will be*). It can also function as a gerund (a verb acting as a noun) or as an adjective.
- **Examples:** *walking, eating, writing, going, singing*
- **Sentence:** "I **am walking** to the store right now."

5. Past Participle:

- This form is used in all perfect tenses with a form of the auxiliary verb "to have" (*have, has, had*). It is also used to form the passive voice with a form of the verb "to be."
- **Usage:** Perfect tenses and passive voice.
- **Regular Verbs:** The past participle is the same as the simple past form (e.g., *walked, loved, started*).
- **Irregular Verbs:** Often have a unique form, different from the simple past (e.g., *eaten, written, gone, sung*).
- **Sentence:** "They **have walked** ten miles."

Regular vs. Irregular Verbs

A verb is either **regular** or **irregular**, and this determines how its forms are created.

- **Regular Verbs:** Follow a predictable pattern, with the simple past and past participle forms both ending in *-ed*.
 - *walk* → *walked* → *walked*
- **Irregular Verbs:** Do not follow a predictable pattern. Their forms must often be memorized.
 - *go* → *went* → *gone*
 - *eat* → *ate* → *eaten*
 - *put* → *put* → *put*