

Unit 14: VERB FORMS

English verbs have very few forms. Most verbs are **REGULAR** and have four forms. It is easy to make these forms because they all change in the same way. But some important verbs are **IRREGULAR**, and we make their forms in different ways. Only the verb **be** (Unit 16) has more than five forms.

1 Base form

This is the form you can find in a dictionary.

EXAMPLES: work / hurry / do / live / have / cut

2 -s form

HOW TO FORM IT: Add **s**

PROBLEMS: Verbs ending in **ch / sh / o / s / y / z** change spelling (Appendix 5).

EXAMPLES: works / lives / cuts / hurries / has / does

3 -ing form

HOW TO FORM IT: Add **ing**

PROBLEMS: Verbs ending in **e** or **1 vowel + 1 consonant** change spelling (Appendix 6).

EXAMPLES: working / living / cutting / hurrying / having / doing

4 Past form

HOW TO FORM IT: Add **ed**

PROBLEMS: Verbs ending in **e** or **y** change spelling (Appendix 7).
Irregular verb forms are different (Appendix 10).

EXAMPLES: worked / lived/ hurried
cut / had / did

5 Past participle

HOW TO FORM IT (REGULAR VERBS): With regular verbs, use the same as the past form (**ed**).

EXAMPLES: worked / lived/ hurried

HOW TO FORM IT (IRREGULAR VERBS): Irregular verb forms are sometimes the same as their past forms and sometimes different (Appendix 10).

EXAMPLES: cut / had / done