

Unit 14 - Common Irregular Verbs

Lesson 1 - To be or not to be

Activity

- Conjugate **to look** in English in simple present and past tenses.
- Notice all changes from the infinitive form:
 - 3 sg. present -s
 - all past forms -ed
- This is a regular verb in English. These are the regular inflections.
- Conjugate **to see**.
- The present is regular, but the past is irregular, a completely different word, saw.
- Have students conjugate the verbs **to do** and **to have** on the board in simple present and past tenses.
- In addition to the past being irregular, the present of each is slightly irregular in 3 sg. (although they retain the regular -s inflection).
- But some verbs are very irregular, most of the forms are different words. What do you think is the most irregular English verb?
- Conjugate **to be**.
- None of the simple present or past forms even resemble the infinitive.

Discuss

- The verb **to be** is the most irregular verb in most languages.
 - Why might this be the most common irregular verb? It is the most commonly used verb.
 - Perhaps something like the Whisper-Down-the-Lane theory happened with this verb. Since it is the most used, it is subject to the most change.
 - The verbs **to have** and **to do** are other frequently used verbs and common irregular verbs, although they are not nearly as irregular as **to be**.
 - Have students recap what you have discussed by filling in pages 109-111 there in class.
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Homework

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