

UNIT 14

Common Irregular Verbs

2 Days

Lesson 1 - To be or not to be - 1 Day

Lesson 2 - Checking irregular verbs - 1 Day

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.
-

Homework

pages 112

Unit 14 - Common Irregular Verbs

Lesson 2 - Checking irregular verbs

Activity

- Students are in groups of three with lists of infinitives from last night's homework - three blank pieces of paper for each group
- Have them label the papers as follows:

One piece of paper says REGULAR VERBS at the top

One piece of paper says IRREGULAR VERBS at the top

The third says REGULAR VERB TEST

and has the following written on the paper for them to plug in a verb to see if it fits this pattern.

I ___ I ___ed
 you ___ you ___ed
 he ___s he ___ed
 we ___ we ___ed
 you ___ you ___ed
 they ___ they ___ed

- One verb is chosen from their homework lists and plugged aloud into the verb test.
- If it passes the test as a regular verb, it is listed on the sheet of regular verbs; if not, with the irregular verbs.
- Each group should go through all of their verbs individually and end up with a substantial list of regular and irregular verbs from their group.
- As the groups finish, have them cover the board with irregular verb infinitives.
- A regular verb is one that follows this given pattern for the simple present and simple past tenses.

Discuss

- An irregular verb is one that does not follow this common pattern.
- It is amazing how many verbs in the English language are irregular.
- Most verbs are irregular just in the simple past tense, but are perfectly regular in the present tense.
- **to do, to have, to be** are perhaps the most irregular verbs.
- Share lists and save for use in later exercises.

Homework
 pages 113