

Conjugating Irregular Verbs (Example: *To Write*)

1. THE PRESENT TENSE				
	SIMPLE	CONTINUOUS	PERFECT	PERFECT CONTINUOUS
PURPOSE	Describes an action that occurs regularly or right now.	Describes an action that is in progress.	Describes an action during a time that has not finished/ a past action directly related to the present.	Describes an incomplete action that began in the past but is ongoing in the present.
SENTENCE STRUCTURE	Subject (Noun) + Verb Infinitive.	Subject (Noun) + To Be (Present) + Present Participle.	Subject (Noun) + To Have (Present) + Past Participle.	Subject (Noun) + To Have (Present) + To Be (Past Participle) + Present Participle.
EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I write. ▪ You (s.) write. ▪ He/she writes. ▪ It writes. ▪ We write. ▪ You (pl.) write. ▪ They write. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I am writing. ▪ You (s.) are writing. ▪ He/she is writing. ▪ It is writing. ▪ We are writing. ▪ You (pl.) are writing. ▪ They are writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I have written. ▪ You (s.) have written. ▪ He/she has written. ▪ It has written. ▪ We have written. ▪ You (pl.) have written. ▪ They have written. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I have been writing. ▪ You (s.) have been writing. ▪ He/she has been writing. ▪ It has been writing. ▪ We have been writing. ▪ You (pl.) have been writing. ▪ They have been writing.

NOTE: For further clarity, please see the UCD Writing Centre's handouts on *Introduction to Verbs and Tenses* and *Regular Verbs vs. Irregular Verbs*.

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2. THE PAST TENSE				
	SIMPLE	CONTINUOUS	PERFECT	PERFECT CONTINUOUS
PURPOSE	Describes an action that happened in the past.	Describes an action that was ongoing in the past.	Describes an action that was completed in the past (often before another action).	Describes an action that was ongoing during a specific time in the past, but which has now ceased.
SENTENCE STRUCTURE	Subject (Noun) + Verb (Past).	Subject (Noun) + To Be (Past) + Present Participle.	Subject (Noun) + To Have (Past) + Past Participle.	Subject (Noun) + To Have (Past) + To Be (Past Participle) + Present Participle.
EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I wrote. ▪ You (s.) wrote. ▪ He/she wrote. ▪ It wrote. ▪ We wrote. ▪ You (pl.) wrote. ▪ They wrote. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I was writing. ▪ You (s.) were writing. ▪ He/she was writing. ▪ It was writing. ▪ We were writing. ▪ You (pl.) were writing. ▪ They were writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I had written. ▪ You (s.) had written. ▪ He/she had written. ▪ It had written. ▪ We had written. ▪ You (pl.) had written. ▪ They had written. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I had been writing. ▪ You (s.) had been writing. ▪ He/she had been writing. ▪ It had been writing. ▪ We had been writing. ▪ You (pl.) had been writing. ▪ They had been writing.

NOTE: For further clarity, please see the UCD Writing Centre's handouts on *Introduction to Verbs and Tenses* and *Regular Verbs vs. Irregular Verbs*.

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3. THE FUTURE TENSE				
	SIMPLE	CONTINUOUS	PERFECT	PERFECT CONTINUOUS
PURPOSE	Describes an action that will occur in the future.	Describes an action that will be ongoing in the future.	Describes an action that will be completed in the future (often before a specific point).	Describes an action that will be ongoing until a specific time in the future.
SENTENCE STRUCTURE	Subject (Noun) + To Will (Modal Verb) + Verb Infinitive.	Subject (Noun) + To Be (Future) + Present Participle.	Subject (Noun) + To Have (Future) + Past Participle.	Subject (Noun) + To Have (Future) + To Be (Past Participle) + Present Participle.
POSITIVE EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I will write. ▪ You (s.) will write. ▪ He/she will write. ▪ It will write. ▪ We will write. ▪ You (pl.) will write. ▪ They will write. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I will be writing. ▪ You (s.) will be writing. ▪ He/she will be writing. ▪ It will be writing. ▪ We will be writing. ▪ You (pl.) will be writing. ▪ They will be writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I will have written. ▪ You (s.) will have written. ▪ He/she will have written. ▪ It will have written. ▪ We will have written. ▪ You (pl.) will have written. ▪ They will have written. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I will have been writing. ▪ You (s.) will have been writing. ▪ He/she will have been writing. ▪ It will have been writing. ▪ We will have been writing. ▪ You (pl.) will have been writing. ▪ They will have been writing.

NOTE: For further clarity, please see the UCD Writing Centre's handouts on *Introduction to Verbs and Tenses* and *Regular Verbs vs. Irregular Verbs*.