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## Lesson 11. Mastering the verbs 6

### Past tense- Regular verbs

*The regular verbs are only truly mastered when you learn how to pronounce the -ed sound.*

In this lesson, we will take a look at the regular verbs. We'll see the irregular verbs in the next one.

Theoretically, an upper-intermediate student should be completely familiar with the past tense in English, although, in practice, most students have trouble dealing with this tense, especially when trying to pronounce the -ed of the regular verbs and the irregular forms.

To correct these problems, we are going to extensively practise both the regular verbs (this lesson) and the irregular verbs (in the next lesson).

### What are regular verbs?

These are verbs that end in **-ed**. (\*)

### Simple past tense- Structure for regular and irregular verbs

- **Affirmative:** Subject + regular verb+ object . Example: I **talked** to her yesterday.
- **Negative:** Subject + didn't (did not)+ infinitive of the verb without "to"(\*\*) + object. Example: I **didn't** talk to her yesterday.
- **Question:** Did+ subject+ infinitive of the verb without to + object?  
Example: **Did** you talk to her yesterday?
- **Negative questions (\*\*\*):** Did + not + subject + infinitive of the verb without to + object? Example: Didn't you talk to her yesterday?
- **Answers:** Yes, + subject + did- No, +subject didn't. Examples: Yes, I did. No I didn't.

(\*) The ending -ed also appears in adjectives (It's a **closed** subject- adjective "closed") and the past participle of the verbs (He has worked a lot- "**worked**" past participle of the verb "to work").

(\*\*) Remember that when we use did, the main verb always goes in INFINITIVE.

(\*\*\*) When we speak, we always make a contraction in negative questions.

Example: Didn't you go? Not: ~~Did not you go?~~



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## When do we use this tense?

When we want to speak about finished actions that took place in the past.

Examples:

- She **wanted** to buy a car last year. *Ella quería comprar un coche el año pasado.* (“She wanted” is a finished action that took place in the past, “last year”)
- They **considered** hiring him, but now they have problems with the budget. *Consideraron contratarlo, pero ahora tienen problemas con el presupuesto.* (Finished action “They considered”)

## How to pronounce the past tense of the regular verbs

We have already talked about the sounds of the regular verbs in Lesson 3. But now, since you need to master these sounds, we’ll go over them to make sure you understand and can reproduce them correctly.

All the grammar books give several rules about how to pronounce the –ed sound of the regular verbs, but, seeing as how there are so many, they are difficult to remember.

Instead of remembering all these rules, I will ask you to remember just one:

**Do not pronounce the “e” of the –ed ending, just try to say “d” without adding any vowel sound.**

If you do this, you will naturally come up with the right sounds for the past tense of the regular verbs.

## Why is this so?

Because when you try to say a “d” without saying the “e”, you need to put your mouth in certain positions depending on what letter you have before the “e”.

For example: If you need to say “talk”-/tok/ your last letter is a “k”. If you try to pronounce a “d” after the “k” without making any vowel sound, you’ll get a “t”.

Talked □ sounds “to**kT**”

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For all of you who want to have a more detailed explanation of the -ed sounds, we'll go a little bit deeper into the subject.

### **The three different sounds of -ed**

The regular verbs can have three different sounds in the ending:

1. D 2. ID and 3. T

As I said before, they take different sounds depending on the sound that comes before the -ed sound.

Let's see the different sounds.

#### **1. D**

The verbs that end in - l - v - n - m - r - b - v - g - w - y - z - vowel sounds and diphthongs use the "D" sound.

Examples:

advised /advissd/- *aconsejar*  
agreed /agrid/- *acordar*  
allowed /alaud/- *permitir*  
answered /anserd/- *responder*  
appeared/apird/- *aparecer*  
arrived/araivd/- *llegar*  
believed/bilivd/- *creer*  
belonged /bilongd/- *pertenecer*  
burned/bernd/- *quemar*  
called/kold/- *llamar*  
carried/karid/- *transportar*  
changed /cheinchd/- *cambiar*  
cleaned/klind/- *limpiar*  
closed /kloussd/- *cerrar*  
covered/koverd/- *cubrir*  
cried/kraid/- *llorar*  
damaged /damechd/- *dañar*  
described /deskraibd/- *describir*  
died /daid/- *morir*  
dried /draid/- *secar*  
earned /ernd/- *ganar (dinero)*  
encouraged /enkerechd/- *animar*



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enjoyed /enyoid/*-disfrutar*  
entered /enterd/*-entrar*  
explained /ekspleind/*-explicar*  
explored /eksplord/*-explorar*  
filled /fild/*-cumplimentar-llenar*  
followed /foloud/*-seguir*  
happened /hapend/*-ocurrir*  
interviewed /interviud/*-entrevistar*  
imagined /imachind/*-imaginar*  
jailed /cheild/*-encarcelar*  
killed /kild/*-matar*  
listened /listend/*-escuchar*  
lived /livd/*-vivir*  
loved /lovd/*-amar*  
measured /mesherd/*-medir*  
moved /muvd/*-mover*  
opened /opend/*-abrir*  
planned /pland/*-planificar*  
played /pleid/*-jugar*  
performed /performd/*-actuar*  
pulled /puld/*-tirar*  
realised /rialaisd/*-darse cuenta*  
remembered /rimemberd/*-recordar*  
rained /reind/*-llover*  
repaired /riperd/*-arreglar, reparar*  
saved /seivd/*-ahorrar*  
shared /sherd/*-compartir*  
shaved /sheivd/*-afeitar*  
showed /shoud/*-mostrar*  
signed /saignd/*-firmar*  
slammed /slamd/*-dar un golpe fuerte*  
stayed/ssteid/*quedarse, alojarse*  
snowed/ssnoud/*-nevar*  
studied/sstadid/*-estudiar*  
tried/traid/*-intentar*  
travelled/traveld/*-viajar*  
turned/ternd/*-girar*  
used /iusd/*-usar*  
welcomed/wuelkomd/*-dar la bienvenida*  
whispered /wuisperd/*-murmurar*  
worried/wuorid/*-preocupar*  
yawned/iond/*-bostezar*



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## 2. ID

Verbs that end in -t or d use the “ID” sound.

Examples:

afforded /afordid/ - *permitirse*  
attended /atendid/ - *asistir*  
arrested /arestid/ - *arrestar*  
collected /kolektid/ - *recoger*  
contacted /kontaktid/ - *contactar*  
counted /kauntid/ - *contar*  
decided /disaidid/ - *decidir*  
defended /defendid/ - *defender*  
demanded /demandid/ - *pedir*  
divided /divaidid/ - *dividir*  
ended /endid/ - *acabar*  
expanded /ekspandid/ - *expandir*  
expected /ekspektid/ - *esperar*  
exported /eksportid/ - *exportar*  
flooded /flodid/ - *inundado*  
graduated /graduetid/ - *graduarse, licenciar*  
hated /heitid/ - *odiar*  
hunted /hantid/ - *cazar*  
included /inkludid/ - *incluir*  
invited /invaitid/ - *invitar*  
invented /inventid/ - *inventar*  
landed /landid/ - *aterrizar*  
needed /nidid/ - *necesitar*  
painted /peintid/ - *pintar*  
planted /plantid/ - *plantar*  
printed /printid/ - *imprimir*  
presented /presentid/ - *presentar*  
pretended /pretendid/ - *pretender*  
protected /protektid/ - *proteger*  
provided /provaiddid/ - *suministrar, proveer*  
rented /rentid/ - *alquilar*  
repeated /ripitid/ - *repetir*  
reported /riportid/ - *informar*  
respected /respektid/ - *respetar*  
rested /restid/ - *descansar*  
scolded /sskoldid/ - *regañar*  
skated /sskeitid/ - *patinar*

started /sstartid/-empezar  
shouted /shautid/-gritar  
treated /tritid/-tratar  
visited /visitid/-visitar  
waited /wuetid/-esperar  
wanted /wuantid/-querer  
wasted /wuestid/-desperdiciar, malgastar

### 3. T

Verbs that end in – p – k – s – ch – sh – f –gh- x – h –, use the “T” sound.

Examples:

#### Ed as “T”

Asked/akst/-preguntar, pedir  
baked/beikt/- hornear  
brushed /brasht/-cepillar  
cooked/kukt/-cocinar  
cracked/krakt/-agreitarse  
crashed/krasht/-chocar  
danced /danst/-bailar  
dressed/drest/-vestirse  
dropped/dropt/-dejar caer  
escaped /eskeipt/-escapar  
finished /finisht/-terminar  
fixed/fixt/-arreglar  
guessed /guest/-suponer  
helped /helpt/-ayudar  
hoped /houpt/-esperar  
hiked /haikt/-caminar  
Joked /choukt/-bromear  
jumped /champpt/-saltar  
knocked /nokt/-golpear, tocar a la puerta  
kissed /kist/-besar  
laughed /laft/-reir  
locked /lokt/-cerrar con llave  
looked /lukt/-mirar  
missed /mist/-echar de menos  
mixed /mixt/-mezclar  
packed /pakt/-empaquetar  
passed /past/-pasar  
picked /pikt/-recoger

pressed /prest/-presionar  
pushed /pusht/-empujar  
pronounced /pronaunst/-pronunciar  
relaxed /relakst/-relajar  
slipped /sslipt/-resbalar  
smoked /smoukt/-fumar  
stopped /sstopt/-parar  
shopped /shopt/-comprar  
talked/tokt/-hablar  
typed /taipt/-escribir a máquina  
walked /wuokt/-caminar  
washed/wuasht/-lavar  
watched/wuacht/-mirar algo que se mueve  
worked/wuorkt/-trabajar

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Please, go to chapter 8 of your audiobook now and listen to it at least two times then read it.

As you'll see, I have highlighted the regular verbs in grey.

## Chapter 8

### The choice is made

*"I can't bear the idea that my soul is horrible"*

It was later than mid-day when he woke up. His servant rang the little bell and entered the room with a cup of tea and some letters.

"Sir has slept well tonight" he said, smiling.

"What time is it?" Asked Dorian, drowsily.

"A quarter past one, sir."

"How late!" He sat down and after having a few sips of tea, he dealt with his letters. One of the letters was from Lord Henry. It had been delivered by hand that morning. He hesitated for a moment and then put it to one side, without reading it.

He got dressed, entered the library and sat down to have a light breakfast at a small round table near the open window. It was a marvellous day. Suddenly, he saw the

screen in front of the portrait and he jumped.

Was it all true? Had the portrait really changed? It was absurd!

He got up and locked the door. He wanted to be alone to contemplate the mask of his shame. Then he removed the screen and looked himself in the face. It was absolutely true. The portrait had changed, but he thought he could still rectify it. Sibyl Vane could still be his wife.

Suddenly, the doorbell rang and he heard Lord Henry's voice outside.

"I am sorry Dorian" said Lord Henry as he entered. "But you shouldn't think too much about it."

"Are you referring to Sibyl Vane?" Asked the young man.

"Yes, of course" replied Lord Henry. "It's horrible, but it wasn't your fault. Tell me, did you go to see her after the play finished?"

"Yes."

"I was sure."

"I was brutal, Harry, terribly brutal. But now everything is fine. I don't regret anything that happened. It has taught me to know myself better."

"Ah, Dorian, I am pleased that you are dealing with it this way."

"I am happy. I want to be good. I can't bear the idea that my soul is horrible. I will marry Sibyl Vane."

"Marry Sibyl Vane!" Exclaimed Lord Henry, standing up. "Haven't you received my letter?"

"Your letter? Ah, yes. No, I haven't read it yet, Harry."

"So you know nothing?"

"What are you trying to say?"

Lord Henry crossed the room, and sitting next to Dorian Gray, he took his hands and squeezed them tightly.

"Dorian, Sibyl Vane has died."

"Died! Sibyl is dead! It isn't true! It's a horrible lie! How dare you say that?"

"It's completely true, Dorian" said Lord Henry, gravely. "They found her last night in the theatre. It seems that she took something."

"I have killed Sibyl Vane!" Said Dorian Gray, who got up and sat down next to Lord Henry. "She will never come back to life" **murmured** the young man, hiding his face in his hands.

"She will never come back to life. She has played her last role" said Lord Henry. "But it wasn't your fault. "The truth is, that girl has never really lived, and so she has never really died." For you at least, it has always been a dream. Sibyl Vane was less real than Juliet.

"How well you know me!" We are not going to speak any more about the event. I will remember this love as a wonderful experience. That is all."

"Forget all about it, Dorian and come with me and my sister to the opera tonight."

"Yes, I think I will meet you there. I am too tired to eat anything."

"So, see you later. I will see you before nine-thirty."

When he was alone, Dorian went back to uncover the picture. No, there were no more changes in the image. The portrait knew about Sibyl Vane's death before him. The cruelty around the mouth had appeared at the same moment that she died.

He felt that his life choice had already been made: eternal youth, infinite passion, secret pleasures, wild joys and wilder sins; he **wanted** all of those things. The portrait would bear the burden of his shame and he would be saved. That was all.

**Listen and repeat the following sentences aloud.**

Spanish	English	Phonetics	Approximate Pronunciation
Él entró en la habitación	He entered the room	hi ˈentəd ðə ruːm	Hi énterd de rum
Él dudó un momento	He hesitated for a moment	hi ˈhezɪteɪtɪd ˈfər ə ˈmɒmənt	Hi héssiteitit for a móument
Él entró a la biblioteca	He entered the library	hi ˈentəd ðə ˈlaɪbrəri	Hi énterd de láibreri
Él se sobresaltó	He jumped.	hi dʒʌmpt	Hi champt

¿Había cambiado realmente el retrato?	Had the portrait really changed?	həd ðə 'pɔ:trɪt 'rɪəli tʃeɪndʒd	Had de pórtret ríili chénichd
Se levantó y cerró con llave la puerta	He got up and locked the door.	hi 'gɒt ʌp ənd lɒkt ðə dɔ:	Hi gotap and lokt de dor
Quería estar solo para contemplar la máscara de su vergüenza	He wanted to be alone to contemplate the mask of his shame	hi 'wɒntɪd tə bi ə'ləʊn tə 'kɒntəmpleɪt ðə mɑ:sk əv ɪz ʃeɪm 	Hi wuantid tu bi alóun tu kóntempleit de másk of his shéim
Luego apartó el biombo	Then he removed the screen	ðen hi rɪ'mu:vð ðə skri:n	Den hi rímuvd de sskrin
Se miró cara a cara	He looked himself in the face	hi lʊkt hɪm'self ɪn ðə feɪs	Hi lukt him'slef in de feis
No me arrepiento de nada de lo que ocurrió	I don't regret anything that happened	'aɪ dəʊnt rɪ'gret 'eni θɪŋ ðæt 'hæpənd	Ái dount rɪ'gret éning dat hápend
Exclamó Lord Henry, poniéndose en pie	Exclaimed Lord Henry, standing up	ɪk'skleɪmd lɔ:d 'henri   'stændɪŋ ʌp	Ek'skleimɪd lord hénri standing ap
Lord Henry cruzó la habitación	Lord Henry crossed the room,	lɔ:d 'henri krɒst ðə ru:m	Lord hénri krosd de rum
Le tomó las manos y las apretó con fuerza	he took his hands and squeezed them tightly.	hi tʊk ɪz hændz ənd skwi:zd ðəm 'taɪtli	Hi tuk iss handss and skuiissd dem táitli
Ella nunca volverá a la vida, murmuró el muchacho	She will never come back to life murmured the young man,	ʃi wɪl , 'nevə kʌm 'bæk tə laɪf 'mɜ:məd ðə jʌŋ mæn	Shi wuil néve kam bak tu láif mérmerd de iang man
Él quería todas aquellas cosas	he wanted all of those things.	hi 'wɒntɪd ɔ:l əv ðəʊz 'θɪŋz	Hi wántid ol of dóuss zíngs

### To sum up:

The regular verbs end in -ed. This -ed can have three sounds: d- as advised/advaisd/- id as in afforded /afordid/ and -t, as in asked /askt/

Nevertheless, you don't really need to remember all these rules when you speak. Just try NOT to pronounce the "e" when you say the -ed. If you do this, you will naturally come up with the three different sounds I have just mentioned- d, -id and -t.

### Homework

Using what you have learned in this lesson, go back to chapter 6 and 7 of the audiobook and try to spot all the regular verbs. Listen and repeat all the sentences



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that have regular verbs in these two chapters aloud. Remember that you have to master these sounds and you can only do this by repetition.