

Irregular Past Tense Verbs in Sentences

Introduction:

Many children have trouble learning how to use irregular past tense verbs. These are verbs that change entirely when you talk about them in the past tense (instead of just adding an “-ed” at the end). For example, the verb “eat” turns to “ate” when we talk about it in the past tense.

In speech therapy, we have children practice those irregular past tense verbs in simple sentences first (like “she ate dinner”). This sentence activity will allow the child to practice changing a present tense sentence into a past tense sentence using irregular past tense verbs.

Instructions:

Read each sentence to the child. Have the child change the present tense verb into the correct past tense form and repeat the sentence back in the past tense. For example, if the sentence is “He runs away”, the child would say “he ran away”.

1. He is here.
2. I bend it.
3. She begins here.
4. I bite the apple.
5. We blow out the candles.
6. They break it.
7. I bring the food.
8. I build a tower.
9. She buys shoes.
10. I catch a butterfly.
11. I cut the paper.
12. You drink soda.
13. You eat cookies.
14. I forget his name.
15. You hear something.
16. I ride my bike.
17. She says her name.
18. We shake hands.
19. I stand up.
20. You sit down.

Irregular Past Tense Verbs in Story Retelling Activities

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Many children have trouble learning how to use irregular past tense verbs. These are verbs that change entirely when you talk about them in the past tense (instead of just adding an “-ed” at the end). For example, the verb “eat” turns to “ate” when we talk about it in the past tense.

After the child learns how to use irregular past tense verbs in simple sentences, we want him to begin using irregular past tense verbs in more complex communication.

This story-retelling activity will allow the child an opportunity to practice irregular past tense verbs by immediately repeating a story using the past tense.

Instructions:

Read the following stories aloud to the child. Read one sentence at a time and have the child repeat the sentence back to you in the past tense. (For example, if you say “there is a boy named Brad”, he repeats it back as “there WAS a boy named Brad”) Then, read the whole story to the child and have the child retell the story to you using the correct irregular past tense verbs.

Story One:

There **is** a boy named Brad. Brad **is** very hungry. He **finds** a big juicy apple. He **bites** into the apple. In the apple, he **sees** a worm! He **doesn't** like worms so he **eats** a banana instead.

Story Two:

Sara **goes** for a walk outside. She picks a dandelion and **blows** away the petals. Then, she **catches** a butterfly. Suddenly, she **hears** a noise. The noise **comes** from an eagle. The eagle **flies** down from a tree. The eagle **shakes** his wings out and **goes** to sleep. After a few minutes, the eagle **wakes** up and **says** “Good morning”.

Story Three:

It **is** time for Ryan to go to school. Ryan **begins** his trip to school on his bike. He **rides** his bike down the hill. Uh oh! He **forgets** his backpack and **has** to go back to the house. He **runs** over a stick in the road. The stick **breaks** into two pieces. One of the pieces **shoots** up from the ground and **hits** him in the face. The stick **cuts** his cheek. His mom **puts** a Band-Aid on it when he **gets** home.