SCHOLASTIC

What You Need to Know About

Irregular Verbs

Focus on building mastery of expressive English

SAMPLE

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About the Writer

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160 Irregular Verbs

A

arise /əˈraɪz/

arises, arising, arose /əˈroʊz/**, arisen** /əˈrɪzn/

1 If something **arises**, it comes into existence:

- *We can upgrade your computer if the need **arises**.*
- *We are available 24 hours a day and can be contacted outside office hours if difficulties **arise**.*
- *The World Wide Web is growing so fast that problems are **arising** which no-one seems to notice.*
- *Scientists believe that life **arose** on Earth about 4 billion years ago.*
- *Suddenly a storm **arose** and the ship sank.*
- *A similar situation **arose** recently in Ohio.*
- *An opportunity has **arisen** for students to get experience of life in the army.*

If a question **arises**, someone has thought of it or is asking it:

- *Some of the questions **arising** from this morning's discussion will be dealt with this afternoon.*
- *Questions have **arisen** about her suitability for the job.*

Language Help

If one thing is caused by another, then it **arises from** it or **out of** it:

- *We must discuss the problems **arising from** the sale of this land.*
- *There are a number of issues that **arise out of** the decision to close the factory.*

2 In rather old-fashioned language, ***arise*** means 'stand up'. It is often used in this way in stories about things that happened long ago:

- *'**Arise**, Sir Baldwin,' said the King. 'It is you who must lead my knights into battle.'*

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awake /əˈweɪk/

awakes, awaking, awoke /əˈwoʊk/**, awoken** /əˈwoʊkən/

In formal or literary language, when you **awake**, you wake up from sleep:

- *Every morning, when I **awake**, I give thanks for being alive.*
- *Christine was just **awaking** from her afternoon nap.*
- *After a restless night, I **awoke** about five o'clock.*
- *He had **awoken** to the sound of someone knocking on his door.*

If something **awakes** you, it wakes you up:

- *Even the alarm ringing did not **awake** him.*
- *My alarm clock went off at seven o'clock, **awaking** me from a deep sleep.*
- *Whiskers, a Siamese cat, **awoke** her owner in the middle of the night to alert her to a fire in the kitchen.*
- *She was **awoken** by the sound of a child crying.*

Language Help

There is also a verb ***awaken***, with the same meaning. ***Awaken*** is a regular verb:

- *He was glad to find that he felt completely refreshed when he **awakened**.*
- *Lately her sleep had been filled with nightmares, and she had **awakened** each morning with feelings of anxiety.*
- *My wife was annoyed that I had **awakened** her.*

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B

be /biː/

I am /am/**, he, she, it is** /ɪz/**, we, you, they are** /ɑː/

being /ˈbiːɪŋ/

I, he, she, it was /wɒz/**, we, you, they were** /wɜː/

been /biːn/

1 ***Be*** is used when you are describing someone or something, or when you are saying or asking something about them:

- *I don't need to **be** rich in order to **be** happy.*
- *Take no notice of her. She's just **being** silly.*
- *'You're **being** very rude,' she exclaimed.*
- *I **am** really tired this evening.*

Do-It-Yourself Exercises

Exercise 1

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the verbs in brackets with the equivalent forms of the simple past tense and the past perfect tense.

Example

Question: *The bird (**fly**) away.*

Answer: *The bird **flew** away.*
*The bird **had flown** away.*

1. The little girl (***draw***) a picture of a castle.
2. We (***eat***) too much at the party.
3. It (***begin***) to rain.
4. John (***hurt***) his hand.
5. Anne (***find***) a ten-dollar note lying in the street.
6. He (***fall***) off his bike.
7. The mouse (***creep***) back into its hole.
8. They (***sell***) their car.
9. My brother (***lend***) me the money.
10. Someone (***break***) the window.
11. Sarah (***write***) to her parents.
12. The cats (***make***) a terrible mess in the kitchen.
13. Howard (***meet***) his aunt in town.
14. Terry (***swim***) across the lake.
15. We (***sleep***) soundly all night.

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Answers to the Do-It-Yourself Exercises

Exercise 1

1. drew; had drawn
2. ate; had eaten
3. began; had begun
4. hurt; had hurt
5. found; had found
6. fell; had fallen
7. crept; had crept
8. sold; had sold
9. lent; had lent
10. broke; had broken
11. wrote; had written
12. made; had made
13. met; had met
14. swam; had swum
15. slept; had slept

Exercise 2

drove; were; saw; cost; bought; wasn't; brought; got; went; laid; chose; dug; put; knelt; trod; fell; broke; upset; tore; upset; forgave

Exercise 3

1. spent
2. gave
3. stung
4. lost
5. paid
6. showed
7. sang
8. drank
9. said
10. bled
11. taught
12. took
13. caught
14. won
15. bent

Exercise 4

1. coming
2. eating
3. sitting; cutting; spreading
4. beginning; shining; flying
5. kneeling; smelling
6. winning
7. meaning
8. driving
9. lying
10. fleeing
11. saying; getting; forgetting; swimming; wearing
12. buying

Exercise 5

been; learned *OR* learnt; spoken; been; told; seen; spilt *OR* spilled; spread; spun; hit; made; flung; left; run; struck; swung; hit; burst; come; taken; hurt

Exercise 6

1. brought
2. hung. found; gave; threw
3. fell
4. flew
5. threw; caught; went
6. wore
7. said
8. made; blew
9. brought
10. swept
11. leaned *OR* leant
12. bit
13. spilled *OR* spilt
14. cut
15. stood

Exercise 7

1. won
2. burnt
3. done
4. forgiven
5. stung
6. fought
7. rose
8. proven
9. held
10. swollen
11. cut
12. dealt
13. caught
14. Forbidden

Exercise 8

was; had; grew; came
left; went; gave; told; became; set
strode; met; said; saw; learned *OR* learnt
led; brought; saw; told; ran; went
heard; hid; found; dealt; sank; took; shut
became; saw; knew; told; thought; bade; went; did; put; strode
came; was; crept; put; hid; came; sat; sprang; cut; set

Exercise 9

1. sent; sent
2. awoke; awoken
3. shrank; shrunk
4. felt; felt
5. drank; drunk
6. spelt *OR* spelled; spelt *OR* spelled
7. wove; woven
8. misled; misled
9. dreamed *OR* dreamt; dreamed *OR* dreamt
10. stole; stolen
11. forgot; forgotten
12. gave; given
13. swore; sworn
14. hid; hidden
15. read; read

Exercise 10

1. spun; wove; made

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