

Irregular Verbs Ending in -y

The past tense of a regular verb is made by adding *-ed* to the end of the verb.

I *play* with my friends. I *played* with my friends yesterday, too.

play + ed = played

Irregular verbs do not follow this rule. Some irregular verbs have a spelling that does not follow any rule. The spelling of these words must be memorized.

dive → dove fly → flew build → built

Some irregular verbs that end in the letter *-y* follow a spelling pattern. To figure out if a verb that ends in *-y* is irregular, look at the letter before the *-y*. If that letter is a vowel, then it is a regular verb. Simply add *-ed* to the end to create past tense.

stay + ed = stayed

If the letter before the *-y* is a consonant, then *-y* is changed to *-i* before *-ed* is added. Look at the word below. The letter before *-y* is *r*, and *r* is a consonant. So the *-y* is taken away, and *-ied* is added.

worry

worry - y = worry + ied = worried

Try it!

hurry - y = _____ + ied = _____

**Vowels are
the letters a, e, i,
o, and u.**

Practice

Fill in the blanks to show the past tense of each verb.

bury buried marry _____

delay delayed pry _____

**Remember: If the letter that
comes before the -y is a vowel,
then the verb is regular.**

1. We _____ (**copy**) the words written on the board and then put away our notebooks.
2. My sister _____ (**fry**) eggs for us to eat for breakfast.
3. Benji _____ (**spray**) the plants in our garden with water from the hose.

Active and Passive Voice

In sentences written in the active voice, the subject of the sentence performs the action. This places emphasis on the subject. In sentences written in the passive voice, the subject receives the action.

Active: *My cat chased the butterfly through the garden.*

Passive: *The butterfly was chased through the garden by my cat.*

There are times when passive voice is the better choice. If the subject performing the action is unknown or unimportant, then passive voice can be used. Passive voice is also used to emphasize the action rather than the actor.

Books were stacked on tables and chairs across the room.

The new restrictions were established in response to complaints from citizens.

Passive voice can be revised to active voice by moving the noun performing the action to the beginning of the sentence and changing the verb as needed.

The ball was kicked by the girl wearing a green jersey.

The girl wearing a green jersey kicked the ball.

Try it! Identify whether each sentence is written in the passive or active voice.

The football game was cancelled due to bad weather. passive

The French Club sells pastries in the cafeteria during lunch. _____

Auditions for the play are held in the auditorium. _____

Practice

Revise each sentence written in passive voice to active voice. If a sentence is already written in active voice, then write "active voice" on the line.

1. The children took a long nap after their trip to the lake.

2. The birds were scared away by the fireworks.

3. The pizzas were baked by the owner of the restaurant.
