

*The etymology
of irregular
verbs in English*

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List one

Those verbs which entered into English prior to 900:

to arise

to be

to bear

to beat

to become

to break

to burn

can

to cling

to come

to creep

to deal

to do

to draw

to drink

to drive

to drop

to eat

to fall

to feel

to fly

forbear

to forego

to forget

to forgive

to give

to go

to grow

to hang

to have

to hear

to hide

to hold

to know

to lead

to lean

to leap

to learn

to leave

lend

to let

to lie

to light

to lose

to make

may

to mean

to meet

to read

to ride

to ring

to say

to see

to seek

to sell

to send

to set

to sew

to shake

to shear

to shine

to shoot

to show

shrink

to sing

to sit

to slay

to sleep

to sow

to speak

to spin

to spring

to stand

to steal

to string

to swear

to swell

to swim

to swing

to teach

to tear

to tell

to think

to tread

to understand

to wake

to wear

to weave

to weep

to win

to wind

to wring

to write

List two

Those verbs which entered into English prior to 1150:

to awake

to back

to backbite

to begin

to bend

to bind

to bite

to bleed

to blow

to breed

to bring

to build

to burst

to buy

to choose

to feed

to feel

to fight

to forbid

to grind

to hit

to keep

to kneel

to prove

to put

to rise

to run

to shed

to sink

to slide

to slink

to smell

to spend

to spill

to stick

to sting

to stink

to stride

to strike

to take

to throw

List three

Those verbs which entered into English after 1175:

to backslide (entered into English between 1575 to 1585)

to bet (1585-95)

to browbeat (1575-85/ brow (before 1000))

to catch (from Latin and Norman French/ 1175-1275)

to cost (entered English between 1200 to 1275/ Anglo-French)

to cut (entered English between 1175 to 1225 from Old English 'cyttan'
akin to Old Swedish 'kotta' and Old Norse 'kuti')

to dig (entered English between 1275 to 1375/ derived from Old English
'dic' (ditch) which entered into the language before 900)

to fling (entered English between 1275-1300)

to foretell (entered English between 1250-1300)

to get (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old Norse 'geta'
(to obtain, to beget)

to hurt (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old French
'heuter' and Old Norse 'hrutr')

to lay (entered English between 1300-1350 derived from Middle French)

to pay (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Middle French 'payen' which had been derived from Old French paier)

to quit (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from Old French 'quite)

to rid (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old English 'ryddan' (to trash) which was derived for ryhja (to clear)

to sling (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from Old Norse 'slyngva' (to sling) Old English slingan (to wind or twist)

to slit (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from the Germanic 'schlitzen (to split or slit) Old English 'slite' (a slit), Anglo-Saxon 'slitan' (to tear or break through) Danish 'slide'

to sneak (entered English between 1590-1600 derived from Middle English 'sniken' Old English 'snican'

to spell (entered English between 1250-1300 derived from Old French 'espeller' Old English 'spellian' (to announce) Old High German - spellon Old Norse spjalla

to split (entered English between 1570-1580 derived from Middle English 'splitten' Dutch 'splitten' which is akin to Middle High German 'splizen' German 'spleissen'

to spoil (entered English between 1300-1350 derived from Middle English spoilen Old French espoillier Latin spoliare)

to spread (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old English sprædan Middle English spreden)

to strive (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from Middle English 'striven' (to quarrel, to strive) Old French 'estriver' Dutch

strijven German 'streben' (to strive)

to sweep (entered English between 1125-1275 derived from Middle English 'swepen' Old English 'gesepa' German 'schweifen')

to thrive (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Middle English thriven Old Norse 'thrifast' (to thrive)

to thrust (entered English between 1125-1275 derived from Middle English 'thrusten' Old Norse 'thrysta' (to force or press)

to try (entered English between 1250-1300 derived from Middle English 'trien' (to try a legal case) Anglo-French and Old French 'trier' Late Latin tritare (to separate the corn from the stalk) Latin 'trilus' (to thresh corn)