

LESSON PLAN GUIDE

PictureBook English Reading Series — Grammar Fluency

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Category	Fluency in Key Grammar	Title	Grammar Book 8 – Everything Went Wrong!: Irregular Past Verbs
Ages	6–9	Theme	Irregular Simple Past Tense — 30 High-Frequency Rule-Breakers

INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

Oh no — everything is going wrong! In this hilarious story, a little boy has a truly terrible day — he misses the bus, runs out of toilet paper, and stumbles from one disaster to the next. But for children learning English, every mishap is a golden opportunity: this book tackles irregular past tense verbs, one of the most challenging — and most important — areas of English grammar.

Building directly on Book 7 (regular -ed past tense), this book teaches children that not every verb plays by the rules. The 30 high-frequency irregular verbs in this story — woke, went, took, ran, and more — are among the most commonly used words in English. Children who master these verbs will sound natural and fluent in almost any conversation about past events.

30 IRREGULAR PAST VERBS IN THIS BOOK

Base form	Past	Base form	Past	Base form	Past	Base form	Past	Base form	Past
wake	woke	leave	left	tell	told	sleep	slept	do	did
grab	grabbed*	run	ran	feel	felt	have	had	get	got
see	saw	sit	sat	begin	began	can	could	find	found
make	made	forget	forgot	come	came	hit	hit	hurt	hurt
hold	held	drink	drank	think	thought	burst	burst	take	took
eat	ate	let	let	say	said	read	read	go	went

* *grabbed* follows the regular -ed rule and is included for comparison with the irregular verbs.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will be able to:

- Recognise and use 30 high-frequency irregular past tense verbs
- Find and compare present and past forms of irregular verbs within a story
- Create contrast sentences — 'I usually wake up at 7, but this morning I woke up at 8'
- Use sequence words — First, Next, Then, Finally — to tell a past narrative
- Use negative past tense — 'I did not have my umbrella' — correctly

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. Find all the irregular past verbs

As you read together, make it a game: 'How many irregular past verbs can you find?' There are 30 in the story. Each time your child spots one, write it down and find its base form together. Use the reference table above to check. The hunt format turns what could be tedious grammar drilling into an engaging treasure hunt through the story.

2. Play the Speed Game

Use the 30 irregular verb pairs for a Speed Game — say the base form and your child says the past form as fast as possible, or vice versa. Time each round and try to beat the record. In practice, children love racing against the clock and will ask to play again and again — which is exactly the repetition needed to make these verbs automatic. The faster they can produce them, the more fluent they will sound in real conversation.

3. Practise with tense comparison sentences

For each irregular verb, ask your child to make a comparison sentence using both tenses. Model the format first: 'I usually wake up at 7:00, but this morning I woke up at 8:00.' Then try others together: 'I usually go to school by bus, but yesterday I ran all the way!' This comparison format is particularly effective because it activates both the present and past form in a single meaningful sentence.

4. Tell a Bad Day story

After reading, ask your child to tell a funny story about a time something went wrong for them — real or invented. Encourage them to use sequence words from the book: First, Next, Then, and Finally. Also practise the negative past tense: 'I did not have my umbrella' or 'I could not find my shoes.' The funnier the story, the better — humour makes grammar memorable!

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Play a Terrible Day chain story. Sit in a circle (or take turns as a pair) and build a story one sentence at a time, each sentence describing the next disaster in the terrible day — using a different irregular past verb each time. For example: 'First, I woke up late. Then I ran to the bus stop. Next, I forgot my lunch. Then it began to rain...' See how long you can make the chain before running out of irregular verbs! This creative game builds narrative fluency, vocabulary, and irregular verb automaticity all at once.

Try the fun online learning activities for this book on our website!

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TEACHER'S NOTES AND TIPS

Irregular past tense verbs are genuinely one of the hardest aspects of English for learners of all ages — there is simply no rule that covers all cases, and memorisation through meaningful repetition is the only reliable path to automaticity. The humorous disaster story format is brilliantly chosen: children remember vocabulary and grammar structures far better when they are emotionally engaged, and laughter is one of the most powerful memory anchors available. The Speed Game is not just fun — it is a research-backed fluency technique. Rapid retrieval practice under mild time pressure builds the kind of automatic recall that leads to genuinely fluent speech. For classroom settings, the chain story activity works wonderfully as a whole-class game, building collective narrative skills alongside individual grammar mastery.