

› 3.2 Using regular and irregular verbs

Language detective

When we talk about things that happened in the past, we change the ending of the verb. Some verbs are regular:

jump – jumped

Some are irregular:

buy – bought, think – thought, swim – swam

Many of the most common verbs are irregular. Make a list and learn them.

Focus

- 1 Match the present and past form of these irregular verbs.

One has been done for you.

Present

write

swim

see

feel

say

think

come

read

Past

felt

thought

came

read

saw

wrote

said

swam



- 2 Read the paragraph from the story. Complete the sentences using the verb form in the past.

The two boys (*walk*) ¹_____ on.

Soon they (*come*) ²_____ to a cool green oasis with trees, birds and a waterhole.

Ibrahim (*jump*) ³_____ in the water to

cool off. Hassan (*rest*) ⁴_____ on the shore. Suddenly Hassan (*see*)

⁵_____ that his friend (*is*) ⁶_____ in trouble. 'Oh no,' thought

Hassan. 'Ibrahim is in deep water and he can't swim!' Hassan shouted, 'Keep calm,

Ibrahim! I'm coming to help you.' Hassan (*swim*) ⁷_____ quickly to Ibrahim.

He (*help*) ⁸_____ Ibrahim get back to the shore.

Get it right! 

Remember, you need to change the verb if you are talking about the past.

I eat ~~ate~~ an ice cream yesterday.