English grammar help for English learners.

English irregular verbs (exercise 1)

Use one verb in the list of infinitives to fill in the gaps. You may need to change the verb to a past simple or past participle form. Use each verb only once.

bring | build | choose | beat | blow | drink | catch | drive | do |
bite | cost | become

1) John won the photography competition. He ________ many good professional photographers.

2) I’ve ________ a pizza home this evening. I don’t have time to cook a meal.

3) The policeman stopped my car and told me to ________ into a tube. Fortunately the alcohol test was negative.

4) John will be arriving soon. He’s just phoned to say he’s ________ a taxi.

5) You ________ a terrible day to come to the beach. It’s rained all day!

6) The dinner ________ me a small fortune. We had nearly fifty guests!

7) I’ve ________ very lazy recently. I just watch television and read the newspaper.

8) Have you ________ the housework? Yes? Well, let’s go then!

9) It was a very hot day and I was very thirsty. I ________ two litres of water.

10) I haven’t ________ for ages. Sitting down hurts my back and I hate the traffic.

11) I told you not to ________ our guest. Now sit down in your basket!

12) The block of flats fell down last year. They never ________ a new one.
Teacher’s notes.

**English irregular verbs (exercise 1)**

*(Time for activity: 25 mins approx.  
Level: elementary to lower intermediate.)*

This exercise may be done with students who have studied the past simple but haven’t formerly studied the present perfect. Usually, by the time students get to the post past simple stage, they will have encountered the form of the present perfect even though they can’t use it accurately at all times. All students have to do here is to select the correct form of the verb: infinitive, past simple or past participle.

They don’t even need to choose between past simple and present perfect because the “have” auxiliary is already in place. Students just need to know that after the “have” auxiliary the past participle (third column verb forms) should be inserted. The objective of the exercise is to focus on meaning and awareness of sentence structure with these two tenses and the use of the infinitive.

**Answers to cloze test:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. beat</th>
<th>7. become</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. brought</td>
<td>8. done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. blow</td>
<td>9. drank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. caught</td>
<td>10. drank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. chose</td>
<td>11. bite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. cost</td>
<td>12. built</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Follow up:**  
After the written exercise, you may like to use the material orally. Write the verbs “beat” and “win” on the board. Ask the class if anyone has been in a race or competition. Ask them who they beat, what did they win? Get them to use the verbs in context in the past etc.

Now write up on the board:  
- “When did you last bring fast food home?” (nº 2)  
- “When did you last invite people to a meal or drinks in a restaurant or bar?” (nº 6)  
- “Do you always drive everywhere? Why? Why not?” (nº 10)

Divide into groups and get each group to choose a subject and discuss it among themselves in the same way. This should bring out other irregular verbs they know too.