Worksheet 1: The Less Common Forms

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Beyond the Core 60

At B2, the focus shifts from learning forms to using them precisely. These verbs appear in authentic texts but are often wrongly regularised by learners.

Infinitive	Past simple	Past participle	Register / Notes
abide	**abided / abode**	**abided / abode**	*abode* archaic; *abide by* = follow rules
befall	**befell**	**befallen**	formal/literary; = happen to
beget	**begat / begot**	**begotten**	biblical/archaic; *ill-gotten gains*
cleave	**cleft / cleaved / clove**	**cleft / cleaved / cloven**	three variant forms in use
creep	**crept**	**crept**	
forsake	**forsook**	**forsaken**	formal/literary; = abandon
kneel	**knelt / kneeled**	**knelt / kneeled**	*knelt* more common in BrE
leap	**leapt / leaped**	**leapt / leaped**	*leapt* in BrE; *leaped* in AmE
shed	**shed**	**shed**	no-change; *shed light on, shed tears*
shine	**shone / shined**	**shone / shined**	*shined* when transitive: *shined his shoes*
shrink	**shrank**	**shrunk**	*shrunken* only as attributive adj
slay	**slew**	**slain**	formal/literary; = kill
sow	**sowed**	**sown / sowed**	*sow the seeds of*
stink	**stank / stunk**	**stunk**	both past simples accepted
strive	**strove / strived**	**striven / strived**	*strove/striven* more formal
swear	**swore**	**sworn**	*sworn statement*
sweep	**swept**	**swept**	
thrive	**thrived / throve**	**thrived / thriven**	*thrived* now dominant

weave	**wove / weaved**	**woven / weaved**	*wove/woven* for fabric; *weaved* for movement
weep	**wept**	**wept**	literary/formal; = cry

Exercise: Use in Context

> **Complete each sentence with the most appropriate form of a verb from the table above.**

1. Doubt had slowly _____ into her confidence over the months. *(creep)*
2. The fabric was _____ from silk and cotton. *(weave)*
3. The politician _____ to tell the truth and nothing but the truth. *(swear)*
4. The company has _____ in a difficult economic climate. *(thrive)*
5. She _____ for joy when she heard the news. *(weep)*
6. The shirt has _____ in the wash. *(shrink)*
7. He _____ before the altar in silence. *(kneel)*
8. A disaster _____ the village in the winter of 1963. *(befall)*

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 2: British, American and Archaic Variation

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: The Same Verb, Different Forms

Many irregular verbs have two or more accepted forms. Variation typically follows three patterns:

Type of variation	Rule of thumb	Examples
BrE -t vs AmE -ed	Verbs ending in *-l, -n, -p, -m* + d/t: British prefers -t, American prefers -ed	burnt/burned; dreamt/dreamed; learnt/learned; leapt/leaped; smelt/smelled; spelt/spelled; spilt/spilled; spoilt/spoiled
Irregular + regular doublets	Both forms accepted; sometimes the regular form shifts meaning	shone (intransitive) / shined (transitive shoes); wove (fabric) / weaved (movement); hanged (execution) / hung (objects)
Archaic or literary forms	Older strong forms survive in set phrases or high literary register	spake (spoke), writ (written), clad (clothed/dressed), wrought (worked — as in *wrought iron*), sped (sped), bade (bid — farewell)

Part A – BrE or AmE?

Each sentence uses a specific regional form. Mark BrE or AmE and give the alternative.

#	Sentence	BrE / AmE	Alternative form
1	She dreamed of becoming a pilot.		
2	He learnt to play chess at the age of six.		
3	The milk smelled strange.		
4	The soup was spoilt by too much salt.		
5	She spelled the word correctly.		

Part B – Meaning Shifts with Dual Forms

Explain the difference in meaning between the two forms in each pair.

1. **a.** The sun *shone* all day. **b.** He *shined* his shoes before the interview.

   _____

2. **a.** She *wove* the threads into a pattern. **b.** The cyclist *weaved* through the traffic.

   _____

3. **a.** The picture was *hung* in the gallery. **b.** The prisoner was *hanged* at dawn.

   _____

Part C – Archaic and Set-Phrase Forms

> **Identify the archaic/literary verb form (in bold) and give its modern equivalent.**

#	Sentence	Modern form	Verb
1	"He **bade** farewell to his companions."		
2	"The iron was **wrought** by a master craftsman."		
3	"She was **clad** in a long grey coat."		
4	"'It is **writ** in the contract,' he insisted."		
5	"The messenger **sped** towards the city."		

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Tricky Participles in Context

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Participles as Adjectives

Past participles frequently function as **adjectives**. Some of these are now so fixed as adjectives that speakers may not recognise them as verb forms. These must be irregular to match the verb, not regularised.

Participle adjective	Verb origin
a **broken** home; **broken** English	break → broke → **broken**
a **chosen** career; the **chosen** few	choose → chose → **chosen**
a **forbidden** topic; **forbidden** fruit	forbid → forbade → **forbidden**
a **forsaken** village; God-**forsaken**	forsake → forsook → **forsaken**
ill-gotten gains; **begotten**	get → got → **gotten** (AmE) / beget → begot → **begotten**
a **shrunken** head; a **shrunken** market	shrink → shrank → **shrunk** (**shrunken** only attributive)
a **swollen** ankle; a **swollen** river	swell → swelled → **swollen**
a **woven** basket; **hand-woven**	weave → wove → **woven**

Part A – Adjective or Verb Form?

> **The participle in bold has two possible readings. State whether it is functioning as a (a) verb and (b) adjective, or only one. Explain.**

1. The window was **broken**.

   _____

2. She has **chosen** a different path.

   _____

3. He has a **swollen** knee.

   _____

4. The rule was **forbidden**.

   _____

Part B – Choose the Right Participle

> **Fill each gap with the correct participial adjective. Do not use the past simple form.**

1. The team found a _____ door at the back of the building. *(freeze / froze / frozen)*
2. This is a _____ topic in many workplaces. *(forbid)*
3. She has a _____ reputation in the industry. *(steal → stolen? OR sterling — think carefully)*

4. The _____ market has forced companies to cut costs. *(shrink)*

5. He spoke in a _____ voice, as if something had frightened him. *(break)*

6. The team chose a _____ path through the mountains. *(tread → trod → trodden)*

Part C – Register and Formality

> **Rewrite each informal sentence using a formal participial adjective from the table above or your own knowledge.**

1. The village looked like nobody had been there for years.

   _____

2. Her ankle was really big and painful after the fall.

   _____

3. These are money that was got in an illegal way.

   _____

4. A basket that was made by hand.

   _____

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Analysis and Extended Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Part A – Passage Analysis

For generations, the river had been the lifeblood of the valley. Farmers had sown their fields along its banks; fishermen had woven nets by hand and cast them at dawn. The community had thrived — until the winter of 1962, when a dam burst upstream and floodwaters swept through the valley. Houses were swept away; crops that had been sown only weeks earlier were lost; livestock that had drunk from the river for decades were driven to higher ground.

Much has been rebuilt since then, but the community that arose from the disaster was not the same one that had been struck down. Those who had striven to rebuild spoke of a wound that had never fully healed. "We were forsaken," one elderly resident told a journalist decades later, "and we have never forgotten it."

1. List every irregular verb form in the passage. For each, give the infinitive, state whether it is past simple or past participle, and identify the tense structure it appears in.

2. Find two participle adjectives (not part of a tense structure). State which ones.

3. The writer uses *striven* rather than *strived*. What does this choice signal about register?

4. Find one verb that has both an irregular and a regular participle form. Which form is used here, and why might the writer have preferred it?

Part B – Extended Writing

Write **160–190 words** — either a descriptive passage set in the past, or a formal report about a past event. Requirements: (1) at least four B2-level irregular verbs from Worksheets 1–2 (underline them); (2) at least two different passive tenses; (3) at least one participial adjective from Worksheet 3; (4) consistent register — either literary or formal throughout.

Word count: _____ B2 verbs: _____ / 4 Passives: _____ / 2 Participial adj: _____ / 1

Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — B2 Level, Irregular Verbs

Worksheet 1 – Use in Context

1 crept · 2 woven · 3 swore · 4 thrived · 5 wept · 6 shrunk · 7 knelt · 8 befell

> *Accept kneeled for 7 and throve for 4 — both are standard. Item 6: shrunk is the past participle; shrunken would require an attributive noun position.*

Worksheet 2 – Part A

#	BrE / AmE	Alternative
1	**AmE**	**dreamt**
2	**BrE**	**learned**
3	**AmE**	**smelt**
4	**BrE**	**spoiled**
5	**AmE**	**spelt**

> *Both forms are acceptable in both varieties to varying degrees — the BrE/AmE label is a tendency, not a rule. The key point is awareness of variation.*

Worksheet 2 – Part B

1 *shone*: intransitive — the sun emitted light. *shined*: transitive — he polished them.
2 *wove*: creating fabric by interlacing threads (literal weaving). *weaved*: moved in a winding path (figurative).
3 *hung*: displayed on a hook or nail. *hanged*: put to death by hanging — restricted to this meaning.

Worksheet 2 – Part C

#	Modern form	Verb
1	**bid / said**	**bid (farewell)**
2	**worked / made**	**work**
3	**dressed / clothed**	**clothe**
4	**written**	**write**
5	**sped / hurried**	**speed**

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 Ambiguous: passive (= someone broke it) OR predicative adjective (= in a broken state). Context usually disambiguates.
2 Verb form only — part of present perfect 'has chosen'.

3 Adjective only — attributive, modifying 'knee'.
4 Ambiguous: passive (= someone forbade it) OR adjective (= it was a forbidden thing).

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 frozen · 2 forbidden · 3 sterling ***(not an irregular verb form at all — trap item)*** **· 4 shrunken · 5 broken · 6 trodden**

> *Item 3 is a deliberate trap: sterling is an adjective in its own right, not a participle. Students who write stolen have misread the clue — address this explicitly.*

Worksheet 3 – Part C (model answers)

1 The village had a forsaken / God-forsaken appearance. **2** She had a swollen ankle. **3** These are ill-gotten gains. **4** A hand-woven basket.

Worksheet 4 – Part A

Form	Infinitive	PS or PP	Tense structure
had sown	sow	PP	past perfect
had woven	weave	PP	past perfect
had thrived	thrive	PP	past perfect
burst	burst	PS	past simple
swept	sweep	PS	past simple
were swept	sweep	PP	past simple passive
had been sown	sow	PP	past perfect passive
had drunk	drink	PP	past perfect
were driven	drive	PP	past simple passive
has been rebuilt	rebuild	PP	present perfect passive
arose	arise	PS	past simple
had been struck	strike	PP	past perfect passive
had striven	strive	PP	past perfect
told	tell	PS	past simple
forgotten	forget	PP	present perfect

2 Participial adjectives: *forsaken* (predicative, after 'were'); arguably *struck down* (but this is passive verb).

3 *Striven* is the literary/formal past participle; *strived* is acceptable but less elevated. The choice sustains the high literary register of the passage.

4 *sow*: past participle *sown* used here. *sowed* is also a standard participle; the writer prefers *sown* for its literary resonance in an agricultural context.

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
B2 verb range	Four or more B2 irregular verbs correctly used and underlined	0–5
Passive accuracy	Two or more passive tenses, with correct irregular participles	0–4
Participial adjective	One or more used naturally, not forced	0–3
Register consistency	Either literary or formal; no code-switching	0–3
Task & length	160–190 words; content coherent and purposeful	0–3