

Conversational Past Tense "Partizip 2"

This is used in spoken and written German to express something that happened in the past.

It is composed of a **helping verb** (haben or sein) and a **past participial**.

Examples:

I **have eaten** the bread.

Ich **habe** das Brot **gegessen**.

I **have gone** to school.

Ich **bin** zur Schule **gegangen**.

The helping verb is the only one conjugated:

haben:

ich – habe wir – haben

du – hast ihr – habt

er – hat Sie – haben

sein:

ich – bin wir – sind

du – bist ihr – seid

er – ist Sie – sind

You have to decide which helping verb to use based on these rules:

Sein is used in 3 circumstances:

- a. with sein
- b. movement (that will take you from point A to B)
- c. a change in state (ie: birth, death, awake, asleep)

Haben is used in all other circumstances

Weak Verbs:

- these verbs are ones that follow the normal conjugation rules
- are put into the past tense by adding "ge" in front of the stem and "t" after the stem.

Examples:

machen = gemacht

spielen = gespielt

arbeiten = gearbeitet

Strong Verbs:

- these verbs are ones that break the normal conjugation rules with exceptions such as stem changes
- are put into the past tense by adding “ge” in front of the infinitive verb.

Examples:

lesen = **ge**lesen

fahren = **ge**fahren

sehen = **ge**sehen

“ieren” Verbs

- these verbs are the ones that end with “ieren”.
- are put into the past tense by simply changing the ending to “t”. NO ‘ge’ is added.

Examples:

imitieren = imitiert

spazieren = spaziert

fotografieren = fotografiert

Separable Verbs

- verbs with a separable prefix

The past participial is formed by inserting the “ge” between the separable prefix and the rest of the verb. The ending is determined by the strength of the verb. Weak Verbs: “t”, Strong Verbs: “en”

anrufen = an**ge**rufen

aussehen = aus**ge**sehen

einkaufen = ein**ge**kauft

ausmachen = aus**ge**macht