



## THE TENSES OF THE VERB.

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<b>Received:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2022 <b>Accepted:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 <b>Published:</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Learn tenses in German lessons and that was quite a while ago. Sometimes it is not so easy to remember all possible uses and their correct formation
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Learning tenses has always been a hot topic in German lessons.

You learn tenses in German lessons and that was quite a while ago. Sometimes it is not so easy to remember all possible uses and their correct formation. It is clear that a distinction is made between present, past and future. For every text you write, you decide on

a narrative time, usually there is not much to think about in the tenses.

But what about a scientific work? On the one hand, such a text reflects what others have written about the topic in the past, on the other hand, one also formulates one's own current thoughts. The following overview explains which tenses, at which point the correct ones are.

There are simple and compound tenses.

In simple tenses, the verb consists of only one word. This is the case with:

**Present tense** (I dance, I walk), **past tense**

(I danced, I walked).

In compound tenses, the verb is composed of several words. This is the case with:

**Perfect** (I danced, I left),

**Plusquamperfekt** (I had danced, I had gone), **Future I** (I will dance, I will go).

**a) Underline all verbs in the text.**

**b) Arrange the verbs with the corresponding personal pronoun in the table.**

### A volleyball tournament

The game started two minutes ago. And then it's all about it. Which team will win? The volleyball ladies from Bochum had lost the first leg by a huge margin. They haven't won a game so far this season. But today they play surprisingly well. After the opposing team from Dortmund was just ahead, the Bochum women now lead 6:4.

Will the opponents catch up?



Simple tenses		Compound tenses		
Present tense	Preterite	Perfect	Pluperfect	Future I
		<i>You have won</i>	<i>They had lost</i>	<i>It will win</i>
<i>It's possible</i>	<i>It began</i>			
<i>You play</i>	<i>It was located</i>			<i>You will catch up</i>
<i>They lead</i>				

Present or perfect? Use the verbs in parentheses in the appropriate tense.

Class 5a spent a week on a school farm.

Some students tell their German teacher about it:

**Irina** : "I liked the fact that we were allowed to milk goats best ."

**Tobias**: "I only learned (learn) how to process milk here."

**Eleni**: "I was surprised (surprised) how big such a field is (be) when you collect potatoes ."

**Kai**: "I have learned (learned) that the profession of farmer is very difficult \_ ."

### Blindenhunde

The idea of using dogs as guide dogs arose by chance during the First World War: the doctor of a German hospital went for a walk with a blind soldier.

When the doctor was suddenly called away, \_ his German shepherd remained  
 Guarding the patient \_\_\_\_\_. (stay)

Because the German Shepherd had done his job so well , the doctor started with  
 Try to train dogs as guides for the blind. (make)

This was heard by a rich American woman, Dorothy Eustis, who at the time was working in the  
 Switzerland trained shepherd dogs for the army and police . (Training)

After the American had familiarized herself with the doctor's test results , she opened the first guide  
 dog center in Switzerland.

### Present tense

#### The present tense

Verbs in the form of the **present tense** can express different things. In most sentences, the present tense stands for the **present**, in some for the **future**, and in some it expresses **timelessness**.

#### The present tense

The present tense here expresses what is happening right now.

*She **is** playing football in the garden.*

#### The future tense

This is where the present tense expresses what will happen in the future.

*Tomorrow she **plays** in the garden with her dog.*



### The Form of the Timeless

The present tense describes something constantly

Recurring, i.e. something that is always so.

*Every day she **plays** in the garden.*

### Present tense

**1. Fill in the gaps with the present tense of the verbs and write in your notebook:**

- a) The child (playing) \_\_\_\_ in the garden.
- b) The teacher (writing) \_\_\_\_
- c) At home (give) \_\_\_\_ it spaghetti for lunch.
- d) My mother (does) \_\_\_\_
- e) A small bird (pecking) \_\_\_\_
- f) All dogs should (attend) a dog school \_\_\_\_.
- g) German lessons \_\_\_\_
- h) My grandma (tell) \_\_\_\_ old stories from the past.

**2. Enter the different present tenses (present, future, timelessness) in the gaps behind the sentences.**

**Then write the conjugated verbs in the present tense in your notebook.**

- a) Tomorrow I want to get to school on time. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- b) Every day I have to do homework. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- c) He just turns to me and smiles at me. (\_\_\_\_\_)
- d) During the summer holidays, as he does every year, he goes to his aunt's house in France.

### The Preterite

#### The Preterite

Verbs in the form of the **past tense** express the simple

In the past, i.e. they say what has already happened.

*I **listened to the** radio yesterday.*

*You **didn't come** to class last lesson.*

*They didn't **comb** their hair.*

The past tense is mostly used in written and everyday language for **stories**.

*"Little Anna **was bored** at school yesterday.*

*That's when she **came up** with the idea of writing down a story.*

*She started and **wrote** ..."*

In the past tense, two types of verbs are distinguished: **weak verbs (regular)** and **strong verbs (irregular)**.



**Weak verbs** can be recognized in the past tense by the ending - **te**.

*There tank**to***

*Es clappert**oo***

**Strong verbs** can be recognized by the fact that they change the vowel of the basic form in the past tense.

***sin**ken – s a **nk** k **om**men – **ka**m*

Weak verbs	Strong verbs
Life – Live	Resolve—Resolution
...	...

- How could the story of the little bear continue? Continue writing the story you started and think about why the headline speaks of "girlfriend".  
Make sure you write in the past tense.
- You have already learned the present and past tense of a verb. Copy the sentences into your notebook and then reshape the sentence into the other form.
  - Today it rains all day.
  - Christina fell asleep badly yesterday.
  - We like to watch TV.
  - He fell from the apple tree.
  - In the pharmacy there are medicines.
  - Cycling is fun.

## Perfect

### The perfect

**Verbs** in the form of the perfect describe past events that have only recently happened and continue to affect the present.

#### Formation of the perfect

The perfect is always formed with a form of **to have** or **be** and the **participle II** of a verb, therefore

it is also called composite past tense.

***I** learned **that...***

*You ran **to school yesterday.***

You usually recognize the participle II at **the beginning**.

***Learning** – **Learn**ed **Running** – **Run**ning*



*Yesterday I ate 10 Easter eggs. (Today I have a stomach ache.)*

The events must be completed, which is why the form is also called **the completed** present or **pre-present**.  
The perfect is usually used in oral narratives.

### Perfect

1. Complete the sentences with the verbs in the perfect. Write about it in your notebook.
  - a) You don't (**do**) homework
  - b) It (**raining**)
  - c) She (plural) in the sun (**lying**)
  - d) I cycle (**ride**)
  - e) We play a **fun game**
  - f) You don't **know** her name
2. Write a journal entry from yesterday with at least ten sentences in your notebook.  
Use the shape of the perfect.  
You could start like this:  
Dear diary, yesterday I went to town with my cousin Lisa. There...
3. *Then, in your entry, underline the compound verb form of the perfect in your notebook. Use different colors. Take green for the form of to have or be and yellow for the participle II.*
4. *Draw a table with two columns in your notebook. Find five verbs that are in the perfect and that you recognize by the syllable. Write them in the left half of the table.  
Now find five more verbs that are in the perfect that are not formed with the syllable. Enter them in the right side of the table. Which half of the table is easier for you to fill?*

give-	No
I'm <b>running</b>	
...	...

### Perfect

1. Read the list of verbs.

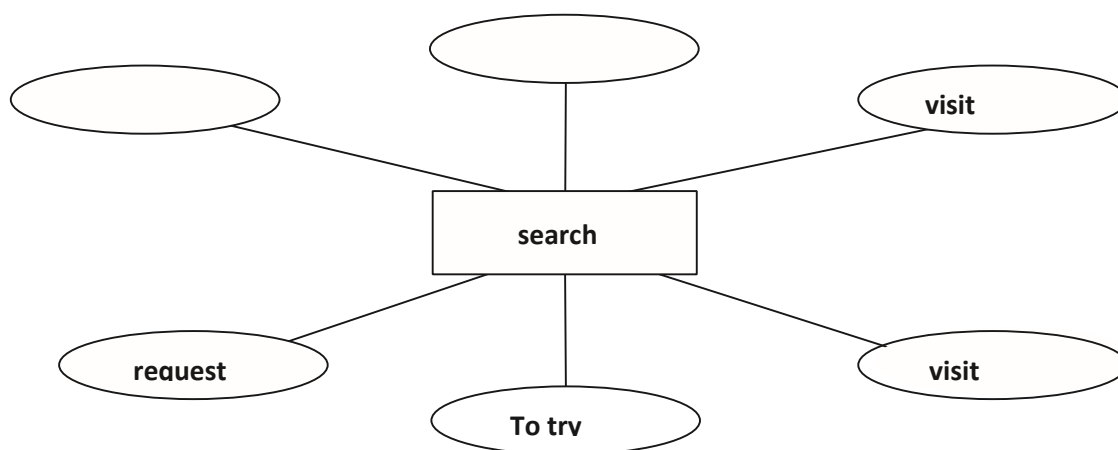
Feel – Search – Play – Know – Share – Look – Laugh – Jump – See – Eat – Live  
– Sit

2. Read these prefixes carefully, too.

Auf- zer- hin- be- an- ver- her- er- um- -



3. Choose three verbs and cluster each one in your notebook. Form all possible combinations that make sense with the prefixes.  
Your cluster might look like this:



4. Write a sentence for nine compound verbs (if possible three from each cluster) in your notebook. Use the verb in the form of the perfect.  
*Yesterday a nice boy visited me at home.*
5. In each sentence, underline the perfect shape in green. What do you notice?



### The Plusquamperfekt

Verbs in the form of the **plusquamperfect** describe past events that go far back into the past and that are completed in the past.

*After we had eaten, I took care of the dishes.*

The events must have already been completed in the past, which is why the form is also called **the pre-past**.

### Formation of the plusquamperfect

The plusquam perfect is always formed with a past tense of **to have** or **be** and the **participle II** of a verb.

*I had played with the ball.*

*You had walked through the city in the rain.*

### Pluperfect

1. Form the plusquamperfect from the perfect shapes. Do you see what's changing? Underline the changed shapes in green.





Perfect	Pluperfect
<i>I ate.</i>	<i>I <u>had</u> eaten.</i>
<i>They walked.</i>	...
<i>We fought.</i>	
<i>You sang.</i>	
<i>She stayed.</i>	
<i>You have ridden.</i>	
<i>I stayed.</i>	
<i>He calculated.</i>	
<i>We won.</i>	
<i>It worked.</i>	

2. Form the personnel forms you are looking for in the Plusquamperfekt and write them in your notebook.

Here is an example:

*running (1st person singular) – I was running*

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>(a)</i>         | <i>(1. Person Plural)</i>   |
| <i>b) Filter</i>   | <i>(3. Person Singular)</i> |
| <i>c) Singing</i>  | <i>(2. Person Singular)</i> |
| <i>d) dancing</i>  | <i>(3. Person Plural)</i>   |
| <i>e) look</i>     | <i>(2. Person Plural)</i>   |
| <i>f) Sweeping</i> | <i>(3. Person Singular)</i> |
| <i>g) Turn</i>     | <i>(1. Person Singular)</i> |
| <i>h) Learning</i> | <i>(3. Person Singular)</i> |



### Pluperfect

1. The plusquamperfect describes events that take place far in the past. Think of a story that Caroline experienced on her 7th birthday. Write the story with at least ten sentences in the plusquamperfect in your notebook.

Your story could start like this:

*It had been raining all day. Caroline had been longing for her birthday so much, but now...*

2. Underline all the plusquamperfect shapes in your notebook.

3. From the underlined shapes, form the appropriate shape in the perfect.

*it had rained (Plusquamperfect) – it rained (Perfect)*

4. Form a sentence in the perfect and one in the plusquamperfect with each of the following verbs.

a) *read*

b) *follow*

c) *request*

d) *To give*

e) *sink*

f) *laugh*

### Perfect:

*I read the daily newspaper this morning.*

### Pluperfect:

*I had read the daily newspaper yesterday.*

### **Future I**

#### Das Future I

You use verbs in the form of **future tense I** to express future events.

*Tomorrow we **will have** physical education.*



The future tense I is also (like the perfect and the plusquamperfect) a composite tense.

The future tense I is formed from a form of **becoming** and the **infinitive of a verb**.

***In March become the snowdrops flourish.***

You see, the future I is formed quite easily. You may always use the verb in its basic form (infinitive).

You just have to bring "become" into the right personnel form:

*I* become 1st person singular *you* **become** 2nd person singular  
*he/she/it* **becomes** 3rd person singular  
*we* *become* 1st person plural *you* *become* 2nd  
person plural *they* **become** 3rd person plural. Person  
Plural

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