

Wir lernen das Perfekt

Time 00:13

Instructor: so guten Tag. Wir haben, wir haben letztes Mal am Donnerstag, am Donnerstag letzte Woche, am Donnerstag letzte Woche hatten wir, hatten wir die letzte Stunde, hatten wir die letzte Stunde... why are you poised with a pen like that? I mean this is almost like you know, have you seen Western movies, where you have a duel and they're all poised with their hands like this to draw and shoot? Put the pens down.

Letzte Woche am Donnerstag hatten wir die letzte Stunde, hatten wir, "hatten"? Yeah hatten wir, I think past tense of "sein" and "haben" you have done right?

Ich war, ich bin, ich bin hier in Chennai heute. Gestern war ich in Pondicherry. Ok, war.

So, "war" and "hatte", "hatte" is had, and "war" is was.

So, letzte Woche, letzte Woche am Donnerstag, hatten wir die letzte stunde, da haben wir, da haben wir, den Dativ gelernt. Da haben wir den Dativ gelernt.

Letzte Woche am Donnerstag hatten wir die letzte Stunde, da haben wir den Dativ gelernt. Verstehen Sie? Ist klar was ich sage? Verstehen Sie was ich sage? Ja, ok. Ja oder nein? Do you, if I speak at this pace do you understand or not understand? Yes or no? No you don't have to come under pressure and say yes, noch einmal.

Letzte Woche am Donnerstag hatten wir die letzte Stunde, "Stunde"? Hour, in this context? Class, Deutsch Stunde. "Deutsch Stunde" by the way is also very important novella in German literature called "DeutschStunde" maybe you could google it and find out what it says, what it is about. It's a very important phase in German history also, ok so.

Wir hatten letzte Woche am Donnerstag die letzte Stunde, da haben wir den Dativ gelernt. Da haben wir den Dativ gelernt. Yeah, und ich moechte, ich moechte Sie fragen, ich möchte Sie fragen ist das jetzt klar? Ist das jetzt klar?

Wir haben, gut, wir haben, wir haben drei Fälle, "der Fall" "die Fälle", "der Fall" "die Fälle" is the case, ok, case. "Der Fall", "die Faelle". Wir haben drei Fälle Nominativ, Akkusativ und Dativ, und ist das klar?

Nominativ ist Subjekt, akkusativ ist direktes Objekt, und Dativ ist indirektes Objekt. Ok, und das sind die Formen. Das sind die Formen von dem Nominativ, dem Akkusativ und dem Dativ.

Time 03:50

Instructor: Yeah, ok. Wir haben auch, ok, wir haben den Dativ gelernt, wir haben auch mehrere Beispiele gemacht. Und ist das, alles klar jetzt? Ok, heute wollen wir aber, heute wollen wir unser, heute wollen wir unser nächstes Thema. Heute wollen wir unser nächstes Thema, unser nächstes grammatisches Thema aufgreifen, aufgreifen, oder anfangen. Anfangen? Anfangen? To begin. Beginnen, wir möchten heute mit dem nächsten Thema, Grammatik Thema beginnen. Und das ist das Perfekt. Das ist das Perfekt.

Ich habe schon, ich habe, ich habe schon das Perfekt im Unterricht erwähnt. Yeah, ich habe schon das Perfekt im Unterricht erwähnt. Erwähnen, to mention. To mention, to refer to, to mention, ok, erwähnen.

Also ich habe schon Perfekt als Thema erwähnt. Ok, I have already mentioned it in class. Perfect as a ... and what did I say about perfect? In class, anybody remembers?

[student: the perfect tense is used similar to the way the simple past is used in English. {the perfect is?} used, the perfect tense in German is used similar to how the simple past is used in English.]

Instructor: yeah as frequently as, yeah, as frequently as the simple past is used in English and in fact in spoken when you're talking about something that you've just done, maybe the previous day or you know just in the last class, or, it is, it is a matter of linguistic convention that in English we more often use the simple past in German we more often use the perfect tense. Ok.

So the second question I have is what do you understand by the perfect tense? What do you understand by the perfect tense? **[it signifies that the action has just been completed and I don't know what else, I don't know what else]** yeah so it, it means that it signifies that the action is completed, it is -- the action -- is in the past. The action is no longer being done, the action is, has been completed.

What else can we say, see when we're talking about the, the anything, we can talk about what it means, it's structure we can talk about it's surface so what else happens when you, when you renders sentences from let's say the simple present tense or the simple past tense into the perfect tense, what happens?

[student: the change in the structure would be you either add have if it is in the present tense or had if it is past tense plus you add the past participle]

Time 07:29

Instructor: perfect. I mean it's not the perfect tense that I mean, that's perfectly correct ok. In that sense I mean perfect.

Yeah so we, we require has or any form of have in the present tense if it is present perfect, and we require had, and any form of, there's only one form of have in the past tense which is had, if it is past perfect tense and we require the past participle of the main verb ok, the main verb is still the verb that is describing the action.

So suppose "I have written a letter", if you take the sentence "I have written an email" -- we're no longer writing letters, "I have written an email", then the main verb is still "to write". Ok, it is still the main verb, that action is still being described by that verb, ok, "to write". But it is in it's participle form. And the active verb which we are conjugating, is have -- "I have written an email", "my friend has not responded", ok for example -- "has", "my friend "has" not responded". So "have" is the one we're conjugating where as the participle is, well inert, dormant, ok, that's that's that's correct.

Second, last question is, so you get this point -- the action is completed that means the action is in the past and secondly we require an additional verb which is "to have", and we render the main verb into its participle form. What about the position of these... different parts or different elements of a sentence?

Give us an example, wie, wie heisst du?

[student: ich bin ... an example in English? "I have eaten the cake".]

Instructor: good, now since you have eaten the cake already, you have to tell us now the structure of the sentence.

[student: it's like subject, followed by "have" or "had" or "has" and then the participle, past participle]

Instructor: and then the predicate, yeah whatever so, so the point is, "have" or "had", it's an additional verb right? It's an additional verb we're bringing into the sentence because we need it so, the term for it is "auxiliary verb"-- auxiliary verb is "to have". And then the participle, and in English usually the auxiliary verb, that is "to have" and the participle they remain together.

Time 09:59

Instructor: Like “she has eaten the cake” ok, “has eaten” will normally, it is not going to be “she has the cake eaten”, ok, I might “have the work done”, but that’s a different meaning ok, I have the done, I have the work done by somebody else, it’s a different meaning ok, so.

These three factors are ok? Perfect tense means action has been completed. Perfect tense means we require “to have” as an auxiliary verb and the participle, past participle not present, past participle, and we see that these two remain together.

Now there is a point number one in German is the same -- the action is completed, it’s in the past, it’s used more often than in English in day-to-day language, that is our first point.

Second point we have two auxiliary verbs in German one is “to have” and the other is “to be”. What is the verb “to be” in German? Yeah, the infinitive? Sein, sein is the infinitive. Haben oder sein. And these two words we will call Hilfsverben.

Hilfe? Helping verbs, Hilfsverben. Also, wenn wir, auf Deutsch das Perfekt auf Deutsch ist schon fertig, also, die, der Akt oder die Handlung, ist schon fertig, finished, zweitens wir brauchen, brauchen? Wir brauchen ein Hilfsverb, ein Hilfsverb, Hilfsverb -- haben oder sein. Auf Deutsch sind zwei Hilfsverben möglich. Moeglich? Possible. Two helping verbs are possible -- haben oder sein.

Und wir brauchen das Partizip. Was Partizip? Das Partizip. Ok, participle. So it’s the same thing except for the fact that there are possibly two auxiliary verbs and the second part is of course of that is here you can tell me what it is.

Was hast du gestern gemacht? Was hast du gestern gemacht? Ich habe Deutsch gelernt. Was hast du gestern gemacht? Ich habe Deutsch gelernt.

We will contrast it with what, with the discussion we just had, on the perfect tense in English so I just wanted to, want to do this very simple example as a contrast to that. **[the action has already been completed]** the action is completed, yes, is it the same case here? What is being asked? **[was hast du gestern gemacht?]** what is the meaning of gestern? Yesterday. So that’s first.

Second... point was? **[second point was auxiliary verb]** yeah we need an auxiliary verb. **[haben]** habe, and we will be conjugating haben yes. So haben is coming in. **[Hilfsverb, Hilfsverben]** yeah that’s haben then?

Time 13:40

[student: then there's no certain position, it's just that the auxiliary verb should be in the second position and then, it should be in the, the other verb should be in the last position, that's all] {the other verb is the participle} [yeah, participle] {yeah that is gemacht, und gelernt}

Instructor: yeah they are in the Satzende. Partizip zwei am Satzende. [end of sentence] end of sentence. Ok, so, and just observe "gemacht" and "gelernt". Gemacht and gelernt, gemacht would be the, das ist die Partizip zwei Form, von welchem Verb? Machen, machen. Und gelernt? Lernen.

Was haben wir gemacht? Was haben wir gemacht? Wir haben lernen, "en" weg, "lern", "ge-lern-t". "T" yeah.

Wir haben ein "g-e" an Anfang, dann kommt die Wurzel, des Verbs, das ist "lern" the root of the verb, "lern", und dann ein "t". Gelernt, gemacht.

Yeah, this is the simplest type of participle formation in German. Ok, so which means there are more, which means there are, but this is the regular one. This is the most regular one and... yeah.

[student: only when "n" is there at end of the participle, that word, "t" should be added, right?]

Instructor: no, no... one second, I will...

was hast du gestern gemacht?

Wir lernen das Perfekt

Partizip II von „lernen“

Ich Deutsch gelernt.

haben (Hilfsverb)

Ich habe Deutsch gelernt.

Hilfsverb auf Position 2

Partizip II am SatzENDE.

Watch later Share

15:23 / 37:59

YouTube

Time 15:38

Instructor: also wir haben, wir haben das Verb "lernen" ja? Wir haben das Verb "lernen". "Lernen" wie konjugieren das Verb "lernen"? [student's name] bitte konjugieren Sie das Verb "lernen". Ich ... ich "lern", "lerne". Du, "lern-st"-- "lernst". sie , er ,es "lern-t", ja.

So what you have effectively is "lern", is the root of the verb, and then you have "en" which signifies the infinitive form in German, and then when you conjugate the verb you take the root - "lern" -- and then you give it the appropriate ending.

Correct? So, when we...

Wenn wir das Partizip bilden, von, von, regelmäßigen Verben, regelmäßig? Regular verbs. Dann nehmen wir noch einmal die Wurzel "lern", "ge-lern-t". Ok, dann haben wir auch "machen", nehmen wir "mach", "ge-mach-t". Yeah?

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player with the title "Wir lernen das Perfekt". The video content displays handwritten German text on a lined background. On the left, the word "lernen" is written in red cursive. Two red arrows point downwards from the "l" and "n" in "lernen" to the word "ge-lern-t" below it. On the right, a conjugation table is written in red cursive: "ich lerne", "du lernst", and "sie/er/es lernt". The video player interface at the bottom shows a progress bar at 17:14 / 37:59, a volume icon, and the YouTube logo.

Was ist das Verb? Hoeren, hoeren. Yeah, Partizip?

Gelernt, gemacht, gehört etc, etc, ok. Is that, yeah? Yeah. Just, pass the mic back.

Time 18:16

[student: sir, regularly I mean verbs are conjugated based on the subject right? {little louder} like ich, verbs are conjugated for the subject right, like “ich lerne”, “du lernst”, “Sie lernen”, so in the past tense when you add that “ge”, {it’s the perfect tense} yeah I mean perfect tense so “ich gelernt”, is this “gelernt” is it conjugated, is it always written like this?]

Instructor: hallo, look what I’m underlining. [**haben**] yeah, [**oh, ok, so that changes but the verb is the same**] that’s what, that was the point that I, that we also underlined, that when we have the helping verb and the participle in the perfect tense, the participle is inert, is dormant, it doesn’t change, it is the same, “I have written/ you have written/ he, she, it has written/ we have written”, “written” will not change. What will change is “have”, so the conjugated verb is the helping verb so it will change according to the subject.

In English of course there are only two or three inflexions at all, but in German “ich habe gelernt”. “Du hast Deutsch gelernt”. “Mein Freund hat Französisch gelernt”. “Wir haben Mathe gelernt”. “Mathe”? Mathematik, wir haben Mathe gelernt.

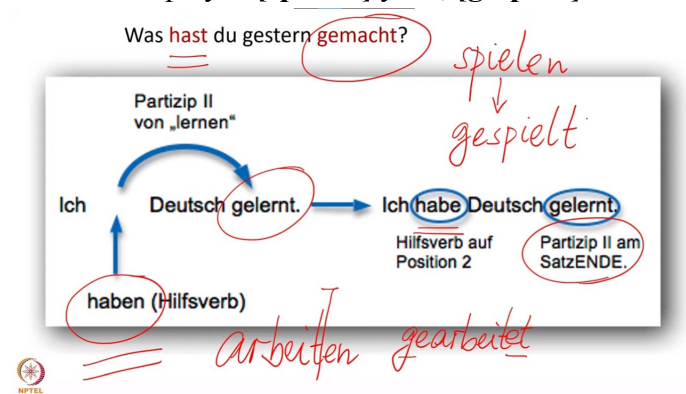
Was habt Ihr gemacht über das Wochenende? Am Wochenende was habt Ihr gemacht? Do you understand what I’m trying to say? Am Wochenende was haben Sie gemacht?

Ok, so this is the basic, first basic of the perfect tense. Mic, mic, mic...

[student: if the verb has “t” as an ending like “arbeiten” then would it become “gearbeitet” or something?]

Instructor: yeah das ist eine gute Frage. “Arbeiten” yeah, “ge-arbeit” “tt” is not very easy to say that, ok, simple as that. “Gearbeitet”. “E-t”, gearbeitet.

What is “to play”? [**spielen**] yeah, [**gespielt**]



Time 21:37

Instructor: er hat ein interessantes Buch gekauft, zum Beispiel yeah. Kaufen, gekauft. Yeah.

Yeah wir haben hier eins, zwei, drei, vier, fünf, sechs, sieben, acht Beispiele, wir haben hier acht Beispiele von Sätzen, von Sätzen im Perfekt. Wir haben acht Beispiele.

Sehen, wir haben einen schönen Film gesehen. Verstehen Sie? Am Wochenende, am Samstag, am Samstag, habe ich ein schönes, einen schönen Film gesehen. Gesehen, verstehen Sie oder nicht? My question is whether you understand the sentence or not. Yeah, wir haben einen schönen Film gesehen.

Sie hat ein interessantes Buch gelesen. Ist klar? Yeah, we'll come back to the doubts you have in a minute. Sie hat ein interessantes Buch gelesen.

Wir haben mit unseren Freunden gesprochen. Sprechen -- wir haben mit unseren Freunden gesprochen.

Besuchen -- ich habe meine Freunde besucht. **[to visit]** yeah, ich habe meine Freunde besucht.

Telefonieren -- er hat mit seiner Familie telefoniert. Er hat mit seiner Familie telefoniert. Understandable, not understandable. Sentence is clear? What does it mean? "He" it means? **[he had a telephone call with his family]** yeah "he had a telephone call with his family", "he spoke to his family on the phone", etc.

Dann gehen -- ich bin den Park gegangen.

Fahren -- er ist zum Büro gefahren.

Kommen -- wir sind zum Unterricht gekommen.

Is there any sentence that you don't understand, what it's meaning? Anybody in class, any sentence is not clear? Gesehen? Sehen what is sehen? Sehen, "to see". Gesehen, "have seen". Lesen, what is the meaning of "lesen"? **[to read]** sprechen **[to speak]** besuchen, telefonieren, gehen **[to go]** or, to walk, fahren **[to drive]** or, to travel, kommen? Gesprochen is the participle form of sprechen. See "I speak to you", "I have spoken to you". "Speak" becomes "spoken". "Sprechen" becomes "gesprochen". Ok that is the ...

So all the verbs' meanings are clear? Now we'll come to the irregularities in the participle forms.

Time 24:52

Instructor: yeah who has the mic? No no, I mean just keep the mic ready who ever wants to speak. Yeah come one, obviously you see I've just explained to you one way of making the participle and the perfect tense and you see something else, so what it is that you see? **[gehen is different and...]** I start with "sehen" **[yeah sehen, everything is different]** what is, what is the difference in the participle of sehen? **[it's not the way that we conjugated it before]** so, so what is the difference is? **[there's no "t" at the end]** there's no "t" at the end, instead? **[there's just "en"]** "en". So you've taken "sehen" as it is and just added a "ge" -- "gesehen".

What are the other examples of that? **[same with lesen]** lesen, gelesen yeah. **[sprochen there's an "o" there]** that's not the same.

Let's, let's take that example, sehen gesehen, lesen gelesen, kommen gekommen, fahren gefahren. Four verbs we have where we just take the infinitive as it is and just add a "ge". So you have the second way of making a participle ok.

These are, all these are irregular. Not all these, most of them are irregular, what you see over here are irregular verbs. Ok so, sehen...

Can somebody conjugate lesen for me? Lesen. Anybody? No, no, no, mic. Wie heisst du?

[student: ich lese, du liest {du liest} liest {what has happened?} "l-i-e" {so what has happened? The vowel has changed.} changed {ich lese, du liest} er {er liest, er liest} er liest]

Instructor: wir lesen, ihr lest, Sie lesen.

Ok so, you will see that "sehen" also is irregular, "lesen" is irregular, so is "fahren", "kommen" not in the present tense but in the perfect tense and in the past tense "kommen" is irregular.

Ok, so that is the first thing, then, what has happened with "sprechen"? **[changed "o" the vowel has changed]** the vowel has changed, yes, and the ending? **[There is no "t"]** "e-n", "e-n" is the ending.

So again "sprechen" is an irregular verb. Ich spreche, du sprichst, with an "i" and er spricht ok. So there again we have a change of vowel, in the perfect tense also the vowel has changed and there is an "e-n" ending. Then next one?

Time 27:50

[besuchen]

Instructor: besuchen, what has happened there? **[there is no “g-e”]** there is no “g-e”, yeah. Why do you think that is? But “t” is there. Besuchen, is it regular or irregular? It’s regular, what is, what is the root verb from where it’s... “suchen” what is suchen? Have you done the verb “suchen”? To, yeah somebody said it... **[to search]** [student’s name] to search. Yeah suchen, is it visit, sorry besuchen is to visit. It’s regular, so but, but what has not happened in besucht? No? No “g-e”. Yeah, can we reason it out?

Why is there no “g-e” for besuchen yeah? **[we’ve already changed the root verb by adding “b” and “e”?]** yes, so we already have a, an inseparable prefix in besuchen, “be”, “b-e”. Das ist, das ist eine untrennbare Vorsilbe. Or Praefix, “b-e” in der deutschen Sprache, “b-e”, ist eine untrennbare Praefix. That is an inseparable prefix and it’s already there. So no “g-e” so you have a third way. Or third, well I don’t want to use the word rule but yeah “rule” -- that is if there is already an inseparable prefix then you don’t add a “g-e”. Ok, besucht.

Then, telefoniert? This is a typical German quirk, yeah, “telefoniert” what has happened here? No subject, “telefoniert” is a verb. There is ... yeah what has happened [TA’s name] ?

[TA: “ieren” endung]

Instructor: yeah for some reason the German language says that all the verbs that end with “ieren”, “i-e-r-e-n”, will no have a “g-e” ok. I don’t know why that is, but I’m sure that probably apart from German linguists nobody else knows why that is. But ... so you have telefonieren, it’s a regular verb, telefoniert. With a “t”

So very simple, how would you say, sometime in the future I hope, “I studied at IIT Madras”?

Ich habe am IIT Madras studiert. No “g-e” ok, ich habe studiert. No, “g-e”, studieren, “ieren”, yeah telefoniert.

Then gehen, that’s a fair change, “gegangen”. That’s not only is the vowel changing but even the consonants are changing, ok, gehen gegangen. Then you have of course gefahren and gekommen.

Time 30:52

Instructor: So point is very simple, there is a basic list of verbs in German which we have to learn, which we have to learn by heart, not you have to learn. I have also done it that way and I think [TA] would have also done the same thing. Every German textbook worth its salt will have at the end of the book a list of verbs with their participles.

This list we have to learn, it's not much I mean if, can you learn five verbs a day? It's possible to learn five verbs and their participles a day? Then you'll cover the list in 8 or 10 days max.

Ok so you, once we have that list covered, once we know the participles by heart, we don't need to think too much about how to make the participle, ok.

So that is all these things, I mean we have for example, I learnt German -- began learning German -- from a wonderful book called "Deutsche Sprachlehre für Ausländer Grundstufe in einem Band" von Heinz Griesbach und Dora Schulz. It's called the "Schulz Griesbach", it's a classic of German grammar teaching, and at the end of the book, there is a list of verbs which has the verb, infinitive, in brackets its third person singular -- for example for "fahren" we have to know "er faehrt" there's an umlaut ok, fahren. So, and then you have the past tense and the participle.

So I learnt for example, "gehen" -- gehen, geht, ging is the past tense, ist gegangen. This is almost like reciting a verse, or a shloka or whatever you want to call it ok.

"Gehen, geht, ging, ist gegangen", "fahren, fährt, fuhr, ist hat gefahren", "lesen, lesen, liest, las, hat gelesen". This is something that you just learn by heart and as I said if you can learn five verbs, we are not doing past tense right now, so we have to learn only the perfect tense, and if you can learn five words in a day, you'll be done with the list in 8 days.

Last point is because we have here a different helping verb. What is the helping verb here? Sein is the helping verb. As I said there are two possibilities in German "sein" and "haben", and can you, can you guess any commonality in these three sentences which we might...

Ok fine, we'll, we'll forgo that now, denotes movement. Yes denotes movement, "gehen" is "to go", "fahren" is "to travel" or... "to travel" primarily, and "kommen" is "to come", so denotes movement and when you have a verb that denotes movement then you take the helping verb is "sein", ok. And now that I've said it, of course there are exceptions to this. Which also we have to learn, ok so...

For you maybe not that beautiful, but the beautiful irony of the German language is that the rule is exactly what you said, is that if there is, if the sentence signifies movement from point A to point B then your Hilfsverb will be “sein”.

What is the first exception to this rule? Bleiben. What is the meaning of “bleiben”? To stay, to remain in one place, that’s the first exception to this rule ok.

So as I said yes, ich bin gegangen, not habe, ich bin or er ist zum büro gefahren, not habe, and wir sind zum Unterricht gekommen, not wir haben, ok. Bin, ist and sind, forms of sein because there is movement. Because, gehen, fahren and kommen signify movement.

And the last exception before you go to lunch is, take the verb “fahren”, what are the two meanings of fahren? To travel, to drive. What’s the difference -- to travel and to drive? **[drive means you are doing that activity, and travelling means somebody is doing it, you’re sitting along]**

Ok, simple what is the difference between “I drive the new car” and “we drive to Mahabalipuram”? Yeah, you’re on the right track. **[there’s a clear object in the sentence?]** even otherwise there’s a clear object we’re going to Mahabalipuram, but there’s a clear grammatical object in the sentence. Which is “I drive the new car”. I’m driving what? The new car. It’s a transitive use of the verb to drive. Right, anybody doesn’t who doesn’t know the word “transitive”? It’s opposite is “intransitive” what does it mean? Very simple, transitive means the verb can take an object, intransitive means it cannot take an object.

Ok so for example, “I... I go for a walk”, “I go”, “I go” what? I don’t know. “I go” where? I don’t know. I go for some purpose, I go for a walk. Ok, so here the verb “go” doesn’t have an object. Ok, so that is intransitive. Or, “I sit in the class”, “I sleep in the class”, perfect intransitive verb. Ok, “I sleep in the class”. “I sleep” what? I don’t know. “I sleep” where I know but that’s fine. But no object. Ok, that is intransitive and “I drive the new car” is transitive, because I’m driving what? The car, is an object.

Ok so it’s transitive. So fahren can be used in both ways transitive and intransitive. That’s clear to you? That is why fahren can have, there are some verbs which can have both hilfsverben. But we’ll come to that later on ok. I will take a one minute pause before I say “Auf Wiedersehen” if there are... just let it go through your head once what we’ve done, and we will try and finish this topic in tomorrow’s class.

KEY WORDS: grammar, German grammar, tenses, perfect tense, Perfekt, past perfect, verbs, helping verbs, Hilfsverben, participle, Partizip, conjugation, haben, sein, root verb, infinitive form