

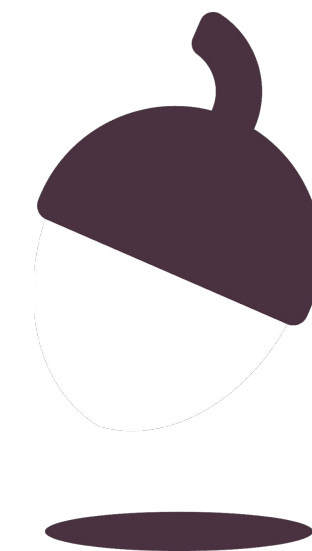
German

Comparing what you do now with what you used to do (Part 1/2)

- Using the perfect tense and comparing with the present

Downloadable Resource

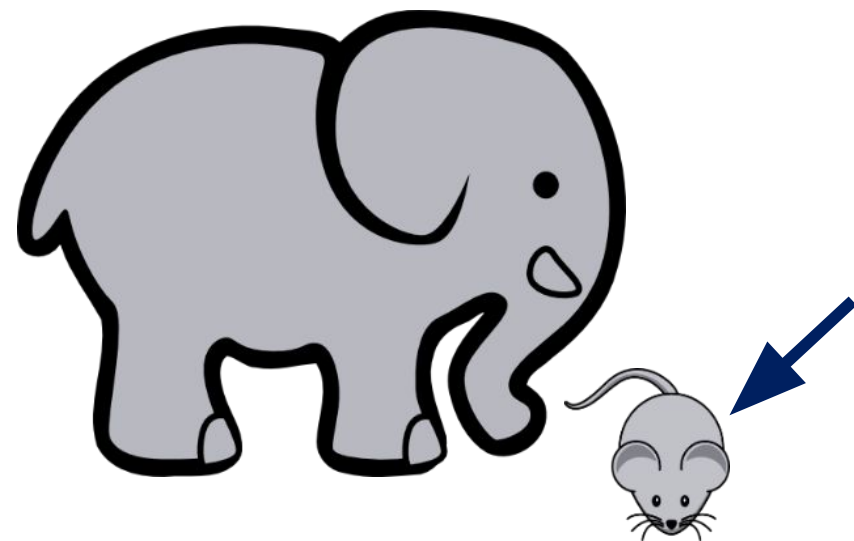
Herr Scales



OAK
NATIONAL
ACADEMY

leider
[unfortunately]

klein



ei



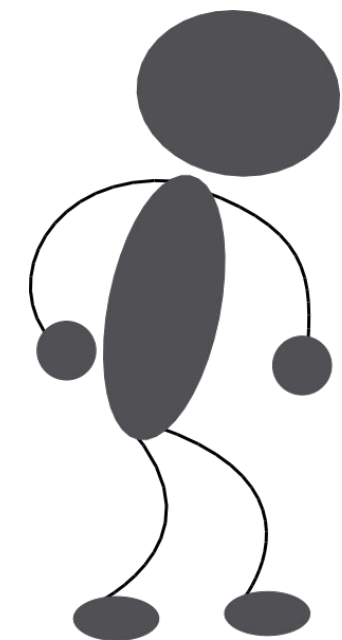
frei

sein
[to be]

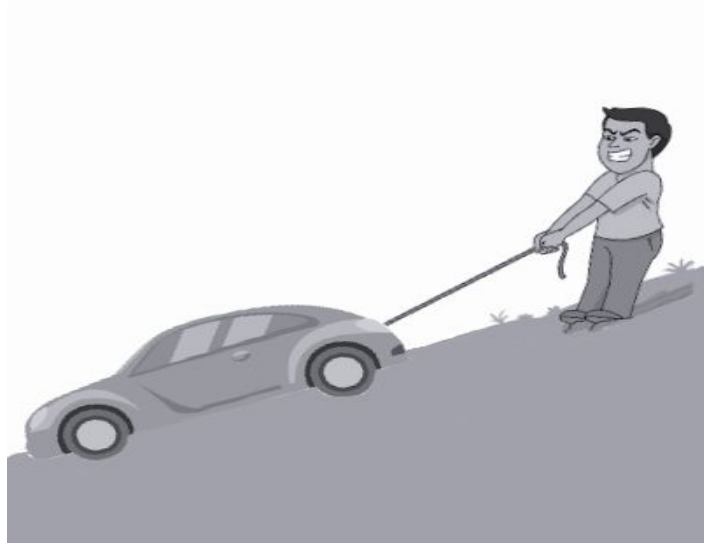
ein

1/a

allein

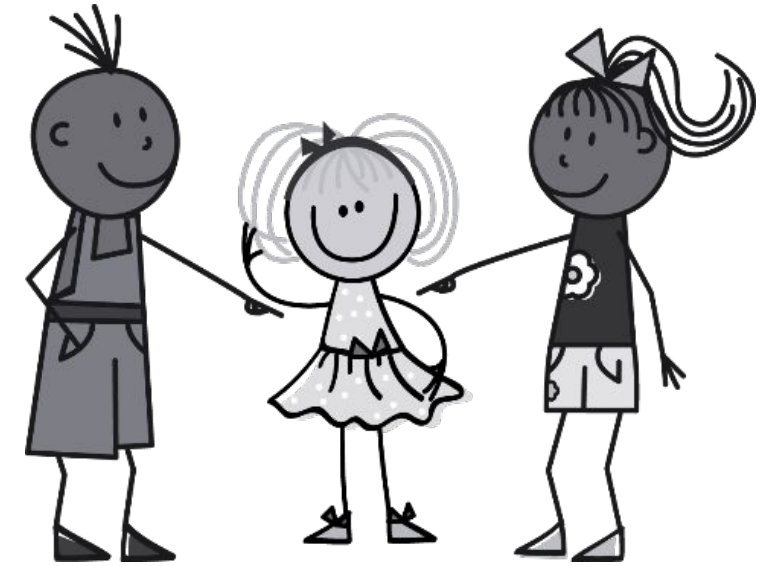


ziehen

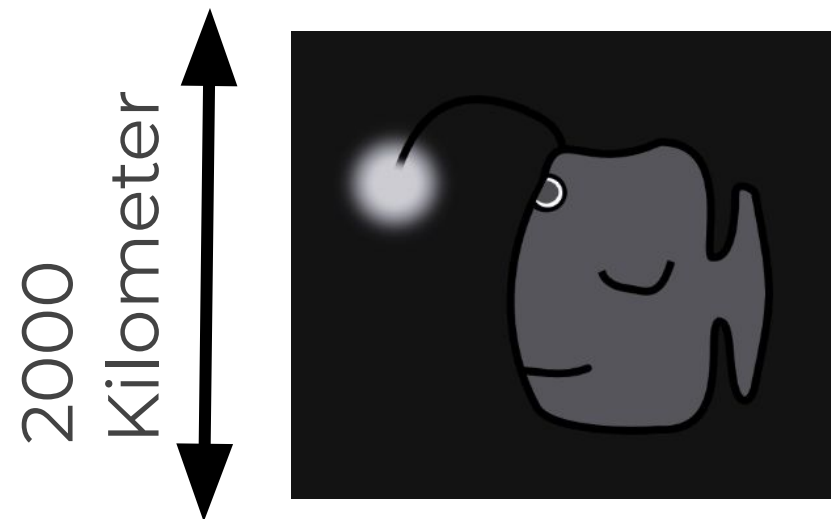


ie

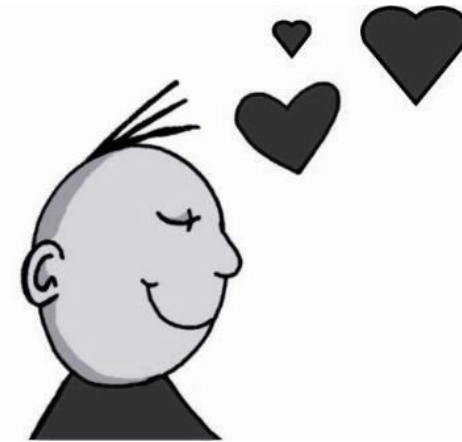
sie



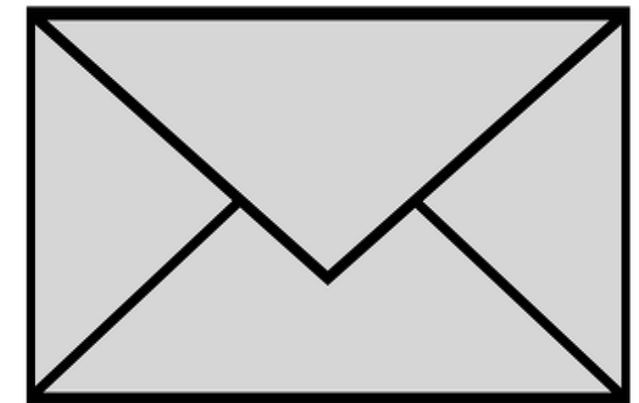
tief



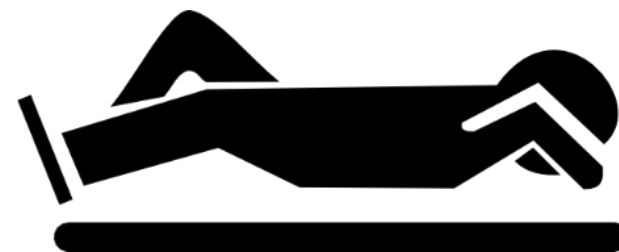
Liebe



Brief



liegen



[ei] [ie]

Bein	dein	Wein
<i>leg</i>	<i>your</i>	<i>wine</i>

Biene	Dienstag	Wien
<i>bee</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Vienna</i>



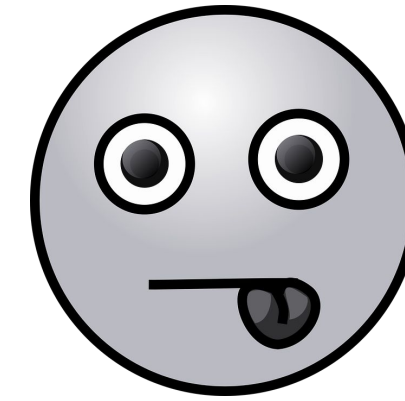
[ei] [ie]

bleiben	schreiben	leihen
<i>to stay</i>	<i>to write</i>	<i>to lend</i>

geblieben	geschrieben	geliehen
<i>stayed</i>	<i>wrote</i>	<i>lent</i>



Ein Zungenbrecher!



Wiener Weiber wollen
Weißwein aus Wien!



erklären	<i>to explain</i>
erlauben	<i>to allow</i>
erzählen	<i>to tell (stories)</i>
sich sonnen	<i>to sunbathe</i>
helfen	<i>to help</i>
tragen	<i>to wear/carry</i>
schreiben	<i>to write</i>
schicken	<i>to send</i>
draußen	<i>outside</i>
drinnen	<i>inside</i>



For most verbs, it is best to use the perfect tense when putting them into the past tense

Remember, the perfect tense has two parts; the auxiliary verb(haben or sein) plus the past participle, which goes to the end of the clause

To form the past participle of a regular verb, you take the infinitive, take off the -en and add ge to the front and t to the end

schicken(to send) → schick → geschickt

spielen (to play) → spiel → gespielt



For reflexive verbs, don't forget to change the reflexive pronoun

In this lesson we have sich sonnen = to sunbathe

Present tense: Ich sonne mich = I sunbathe

Perfect tense: Ich habe mich gesonnt = I sunbathed

And some verbs have separable prefixes eg. aufwachen= to wake up

These verbs have a sandwich style past participle with ge in the middle

Ich bin um 7 Uhr aufgewacht = I woke up at 7 am



However, not all verbs follow this pattern

For example, verbs with infinitives that begin be, er, ent, emp, ver, zer, miss do not add ge to the front. In this lesson, we have some verbs with infinitives beginning with er

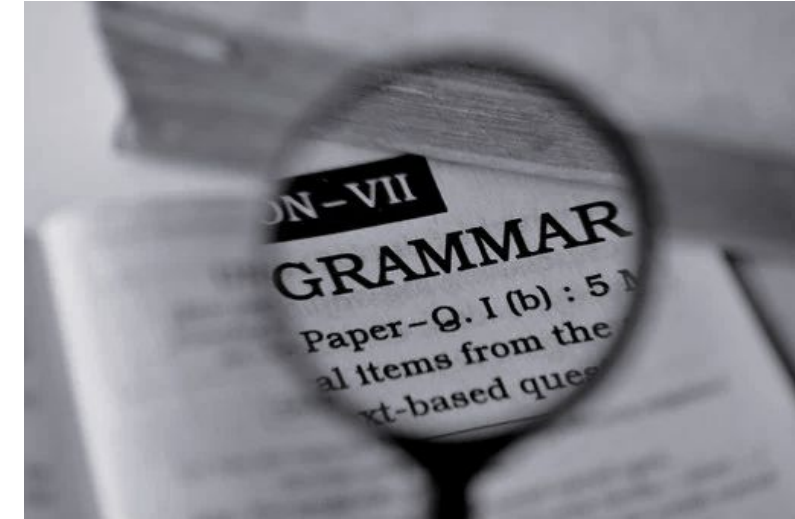
To form the past participle of these verbs, you take the infinitive, take off the -en, but do not add ge to the front. Just add t to the end

erklären (to explain) → erklär → erklärt

erzählen (to tell) → erzähl → erzählt



And some verbs, known as strong verbs, are completely irregular!



In this lesson we have bleiben = to stay, gehen = to go, fahren = to travel, sehen = to see, kommen = to come, essen = to eat, trinken = to drink lesen = to read helfen = to help tragen = to wear schreiben = to write

There are unfortunately no shortcuts, these verbs need to be learnt by heart...😓 Check your textbook or a grammar reference book. The past participles for the strong verbs used in this lesson are as follows:



bleiben	<i>geblieben*</i>
schreiben	<i>geschrieben</i>
helfen	<i>geholffen</i>
essen	<i>gegessen</i>
trinken	<i>getrunken</i>
tragen	<i>getragen</i>
lesen	<i>gelesen</i>
sehen	<i>gesehen</i>
fahren	<i>gefahren*</i>
gehen	<i>gegangen*</i>



Takes **sein as auxiliary verb!*



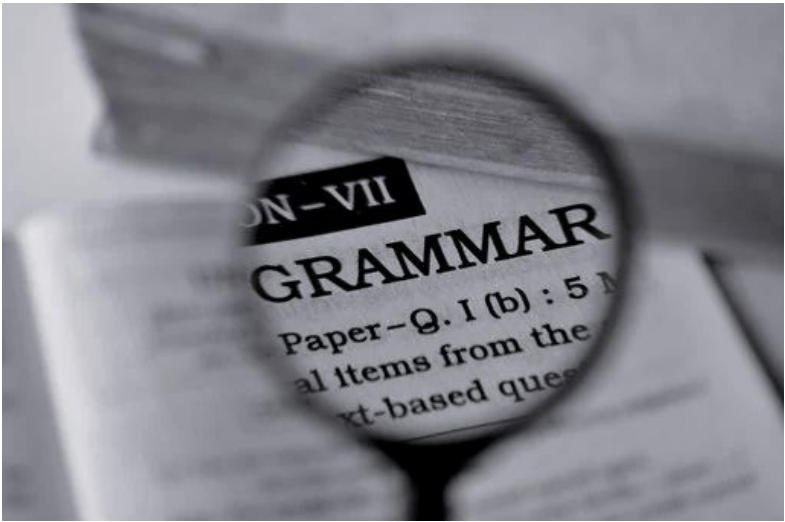
So, as you have seen, a number of verbs take "sein" as their auxiliary verb, instead of "haben". Most verbs showing movement from one place to another do this, but the safest thing is to learn by heart 🥲 which verbs will take sein!

ich (I)	bin
du (you)	bist
er/sie/es/man(he/she/it/one)	ist

The wir(*we*), sie(*they*) and Sie(*you*) forms are identical

wir (we)	sind
sie (they)	sind
Sie (you)	sind

z.B. Ich **bin** nach London gefahren = I travelled to London
Wir **sind** nach London gefahren = We travelled to London



Here is a quick reminder of the present tense of "haben"

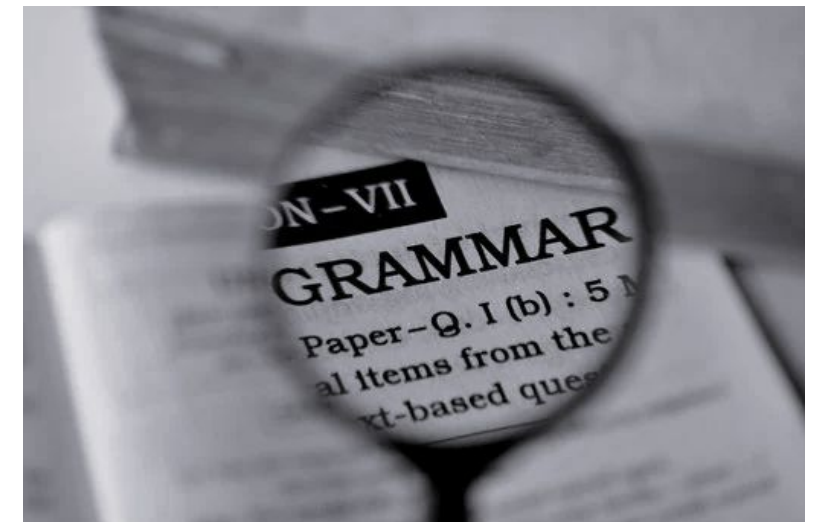
ich (I)	habe
du (you)	hast
er/sie/es/man(he/she/it/one)	hat

The wir(*we*), sie(*they*) and Sie(*you*) forms are identical!

wir (we)	haben
sie (they)	haben
Sie (you)	haben

z.B. Ich **habe** Bücher gelesen = I read books

Wir **haben** Bücher gelesen = We read books



Adverbs of time and manner can be added to sentences in the perfect tense as follows:

Ich habe **früher** Tennis gespielt.

subject

auxiliary
verb

adverb

object

past
participle

I have played **previously** tennis.

subject

auxiliary
verb

past
participle

verb
particle

adverb

object

= I used to play tennis



Just as with the present tense, you can start with the adverb

Früher habe ich Tennis gespielt.

adverb

auxiliary
verb

subject

object

past
participle



Previously have I played tennis.

adverb

auxiliary
verb

subject

verb
particle

past
participle

object

= I used to play tennis



Summary of learning

In German, perfect tense is normally formed using using the auxiliary verb (sein or haben) plus the past participle. The past participle goes to the end

Verbs with infinitives beginning with be, er, ent, emp, ver, zer, miss *do not add ge to the front* eg. erklären → erklärt

Most verbs showing movement from one place to another take sein as their auxiliary verb. But this is also true of some verbs which do not show movement eg. bleiben to stay

Strong verbs are irregular and have to be learnt by heart

