

# Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

## Episode 017 – Grammar

### 1. The simple past tense of "sein" and "haben"

The simple past tense, or preterite, is a verb tense that describes the past. In German it is more frequently used in the written form than in spoken language. For example, you'll see it used often in newspaper articles and novels.

The past tense of "sein" and "haben", however, are used for speaking. They are irregular verbs and you should get to know their forms.

		<i>sein</i>		<i>haben</i>	
		Present	Simple past	Present	Simple past
Singular	<i>ich</i>	<i>bin</i>	<b><i>war</i></b>	<i>habe</i>	<b><i>hatte</i></b>
	<i>du</i>	<i>bist</i>	<b><i>warst</i></b>	<i>hast</i>	<b><i>hattest</i></b>
	<i>er/sie/es</i>	<i>ist</i>	<b><i>war</i></b>	<i>hat</i>	<b><i>hatte</i></b>
Plural	<i>wir</i>	<i>sind</i>	<b><i>waren</i></b>	<i>haben</i>	<b><i>hatten</i></b>
	<i>ihr</i>	<i>seid</i>	<b><i>wart</i></b>	<i>habt</i>	<b><i>hattet</i></b>
	<i>sie</i>	<i>sind</i>	<b><i>waren</i></b>	<i>haben</i>	<b><i>hatten</i></b>

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## 2. The present perfect and past participles

The present perfect is a verb tense that can be used to express the past. Unlike the simple past tense, the perfect tense is often used in spoken German.

The present perfect is formed using the helping verbs "sein" or "haben" and the past participle. The helping verbs are conjugated in the present tense while the past participle remains unchanged.

Examples:

*Ich **habe getanzt**.*

*Was **haben** Sie mit Julia **gemacht**?*

*Toll, sie **hat es gemacht**!*

### Past participles

The past participle is part of a verb form used to create compound tenses. The past participles of regular verbs always end with "t". Most of them also begin with the prefix "ge". So,

**ge-** + verb stem + **-t**

Verb	Past participle
<b>machen</b>	<b>gemacht</b>
<b>tanzen</b>	<b>getanzt</b>
<b>lernen</b>	<b>gelernt</b>

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## Sentence structure for the perfect

In German, the perfect tense combines two parts - the conjugated form of the helping verbs "sein" or "haben" and the past participle. In a main clause, the helping verb is placed in the second position and the past participle comes at the end of the sentence:

Example:

*Ich **habe** zuerst einen Kaffee **gemacht**.*