

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

Episode 092 – Grammar

The past perfect

The past perfect is a grammatical tense to express the "pre-past". It is used to denote an occurrence that took place even further in the past than another event that also happened in the past.

Pre-past

Du **hattest** keine Ausbildung **gemacht**,

(= Anna's mother gave Anna up for adoption because she hadn't completed any vocational training previously.)



Past

und deswegen **hast** du mich zur Adoption **freigegeben**.

Past

Als der Pfleger ins Zimmer **kam**,

(= Harry had made the bed before the caregiver came into the room.)



Pre-past

hatte Harry schon das Bett **gemacht**.

The past perfect is formed like the present perfect with the helping verbs "haben" or "sein" and a past participle. But for the past perfect, the helping verbs are conjugated in the simple past tense. The past participle remains unchanged. In a typical declarative sentence, the conjugated verb takes the second position and the past participle goes to the end of the sentence.

Examples:

Harry **hatte** auf Anna **gewartet**.

Harry **war** mit Anna ins Seniorenheim **gefahren**.

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Overview of the past tenses:

Simple past

Harry **wartete**.

Harry **hatte** Glück.

Harry **ging** weg.

Present perfect

Harry **hat** gewartet.

Harry **hat** Glück **gehabt**.

Harry **ist** weggegangen.

Past perfect

Harry **hatte** gewartet.

Harry **hatte** Glück **gehabt**.

Harry **war** weggegangen.