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Tenses I

The Past Perfect

1 Participles

- **Def.** Let Xen be a regular German verb. Then Xend is called *Partizip Präsens Aktiv* (PPA) and ge$X$t is called *Partizip Perfekt Passiv* (PPP) of Xen.
- Examples:

Infinitiv	PPA	PPP
sagen	sagend	gesagt
hören	hörend	gehört
lachen	lachend	gelacht
lieben	liebend	geliebt
feiern	feiernd	gefeiert
arbeiten	arbeitend	gearbeitet

- PPA and PPP roughly correspond to the English -ing and -ed forms.
- Partizip forms can be used as adjectives, they are declinated accordingly.
- Examples:

Das gesagte Wort
Das lachende Kind
Das gesagte Wort des lachenden Kindes

- Problem: Many verbs are not regular. Many irregular PPP forms end in -en instead of -t or the ge- is omitted. Many also change the root (Ablaut), and some are entirely out of rule.
- Examples:

Infinitiv	PPP
kommen	gekommen
sehen	gesehen
lesen	gelesen
gehen	ge**gang**en
schreiben	geschr**ie**ben
nehmen	gen**o**mmen
sein	ge**wes**en
beginnen	beg**o**nnen
vergessen	vergessen

- In a splitting verb like *an|kommen* (arrive), the PPP's ge- is put between the prefix and the root: *angekommen.*

Exercise

- What is the PPP to *teilnehmen* (participate)?
- Guess the infinitives of the following irregular PPPs

  gegessen, getrunken, gegangen, angefangen, gewußt

- In the table of the irregular PPPs above, the PPA forms are missing which are regular. Add them. (Note that there is no PPA to *sein.*)

Infinitiv	PPA
kommen	
sehen	
gehen	
schreiben	
nehmen	
beginnen	
vergessen	

Past Perfect

- One way to express that something happened in the past is to use Perfekt.
- Perfekt is composed of a form of *sein* or *haben* as the conjugated part, and of the PPP form which goes to the end.
- Examples

  Gestern habe ich ein Buch über kommutative Algebra gelesen.
  Ich bin gestern mit dem Bus nach Linz gefahren.

  das Buch – book

- In a subclause, the conjugated part of the verb goes to the end, as usual. The participle stands in front of it.
- Example:

  Nachdem ich am SFB-Seminar teilgenommen habe, fahre ich nach Hagenberg zurück.

  nachdem – after
  zurück – back

- Whether a perfect is build with *sein* or *haben* depends on the verb. Here is a table:

with *sein*	with *haben*
sein	haben
kommen	nehmen
gehen	wissen
...	lesen
	...

- As a rule of thumb, *sein* is used with verbs that don't carry objects.

Exercise

- Transform the following sentences from present tense to past tense

  Bruno schreibt Bücher über Gröbnerbasen.
  Ich vergesse das nicht.
  Kommst Du nach Strobl mit?
  Sag mir, wann Du nach Hause gehst![1]

- Make a collection of verb which you know and guess if their Perfekt is build with *sein* or *haben*.

[1] Only convert the subclause.