

### Active

Formed when the **subject** of the sentence is **clearly identified as the one performing the action**.

**Example** Der Lehrer The teacher  
erklärt die explains the  
Regel. rule.

**Example** Ich trinke I drink water.  
Wasser.

Active voice sentences follow a straightforward subject-verb-object pattern, making it easy to understand who is doing what.

### Passive

Formed by using the auxiliary verb "**werden**" with the **past participle** of the main verb.

werden/ become/became  
wurden

**Example** Shakespeare Shakespeare  
**wurde** in was born in  
England England.  
**geboren**.

**Example** Die Lizenzen The licensing  
für D&D for D&D  
**wurden** zu became too  
teuer. expensive.

**Example** Ich **wurde** A guy called  
gestern von so me last night.  
einem Typen  
**angerufen**.

The passive voice is used when you want to focus on what happened instead of who did it. It makes the thing that was acted on the subject of the sentence. People use it when it doesn't matter who did the action, when they don't know who did it, or when they want to highlight the result of the action. Also used in formal writing.

### Past Perfect (Plusquamperfekt)

The past perfect is formed by using the past tense of the auxiliary verb "**haben**" or "**sein**" followed by the past participle of the main verb.

haben/- to have/had  
hatte

sein/waren to be/was

**Example** Ich **hatte** I had eaten  
gegessen, before I  
bevor ich zur went to  
Arbeit ging. work.

**Example** Er **war** schon He had  
gegangen, als already left  
ich ankam. when I  
arrived.

The past perfect tense is used to talk about something that happened before another event in the past. When talking about two past events, use the past perfect to specify that one event happened before the other with words like "**nachdem**" (after), "**bevor**" (before). These words often signal the need for the past perfect tense to clarify the timeline

### Past Simple Tense (Präteritum/Imperfekt)

Use the imperfect when telling stories, writing formally, or talking about repeated actions in the past. For regular verbs, add **-te** to the stem. For irregular verbs, the stem changes.

**Example** spielen (to er **spielte** (he  
(Regular) play) → played).

**Example** gehen (to er **ging** (he  
(Irregular) go) → went).

The past simple tense is used to talk about something that happened in the past, without comparing it to another event.



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