



# The Perfect Tense(2)

In *Einheit 5.2*, we already discussed the regular form of the perfect tense and some of the irregular forms. There are two more types of verbs that follow different rules to form the perfect tense.

Remember that the perfect tense consists of two parts:

a conjugated form of either ***haben*** or ***sein*** in the present tense

+

a **past participle**

- **Verbs that end in *-ieren*** do not add a **ge-** at the front, but they all add a **-t** after the stem:

*anprobieren* → *anprobiert* (to try on)

*diskutieren* → *diskutiert* (to discuss)

*fotografieren* → *fotografiert* (to photograph, to take a picture)

*funktionieren* → *funktioniert* (to function)

*korrigieren* → *korrigiert* (to correct)

*reparieren* → *repariert* (to repair)

*studieren* → *studiert* (to study)

*telefonieren* → *telefoniert* (to call on the phone)

**\*Achtung\*** All verbs that end in ***-ieren*** form the perfect tense with *haben*, except for the verb *passieren* (to happen) which takes *sein*: *Was ist passiert?* (What happened?)

- **Inseparable prefix verbs:** In *Einheit 5.2*, you saw how some of the separable prefix verbs form the perfect tense. Remember that a separable prefix is a word that can stand alone (e.g., *auf*, *aus*, *mit*, *zu*, etc.).

*Ich bin am Freitagabend **ausgegangen**.*

*Luca hat frische Brötchen und Nutella **mitgebracht**.*

In contrast, inseparable prefixes are words that might look similar, but they are not whole words, as they cannot stand alone. They are simply syllables: **be-**, **ent-**, **er-**, **ge-**, **ver-**, and **zer-**. These inseparable prefixes are always unstressed.

Here are some common inseparable prefix verbs and their past participles:

*begrüßen* → *begrüßt* (to greet)  
*bekommen* → *bekommen* (to get)  
*besuchen* → *besucht* (to visit)  
*bezahlen* → *bezahlt* (to pay)  
*entdecken* → *entdeckt* (to discover)  
*erfinden* → *erfunden* (to invent)  
*erzählen* → *erzählt* (to tell)  
*vergessen* → *vergessen* (to forget)  
*verlieren* → *verloren* (to lose)  
*verstehen* → *verstanden* (to understand)

**\*Achtung\*** These verbs listed have the auxiliary verb “*haben*”, however not all inseparable prefix verbs have “*haben*” as their auxiliary. As you encounter other inseparable prefix verbs, make sure to learn the auxiliary verb with it.