

The Conversational Past

- ☺ This is also called the past perfect (Perfekt)
- ☺ This is the same as saying, "I have done my homework."
- ☺ When you use the conversational past, you must use a form of *haben* or *sein* as the conjugated verb and the past participle at the end of the sentence.
- ☺ In German, there are two types of regular verbs, they are strong verbs and weak verbs.

Strong Verbs

- ☺ Strong verbs are verbs that are strong enough to change. This means that they have a stem change.
- ☺ Sometimes the stem change does not appear until the past tense, but it usually is first in the present tense.
- ☺ When you are forming the past tense of strong verbs, you first, take the stem of the verb and add a *ge-* to the front of the stem. Then you add a *-en* to the end of the stem.
- ☺ Sometimes the stem change is continued in the past tense.

Zum Beispiel:

lesen:	ge + les + en
sehen:	ge + seh + en
◆nehmen:	ge + nomm + en

Weak Verbs

- ☺ A weak verb has no stem change either in the past or in the present.
- ☺ A good way to remember this is that it is too weak to change.
- ☺ It is also too weak to carry a lot of letters on the end so it only gets a -t on the end.
- ☺ It also gets the **ge-** at the front of the verb stem.

Zum Beispiel:

machen:	ge+ mach +t
basteln:	ge+ bastel +t
hören:	ge+ hör +t
abräumen:	ab+ ge+ räum+t

The Auxiliary Verb

Once you have the past participle, you must now decide on the auxiliary verb. This will be either a form of haben or sein.

- ☺ The majority of verbs take haben.
- ☺ In order for the verb to take a form of sein, you must answer yes to either or both of the following two questions:

☺ Is there a change in condition? Have you physically changed who you are?

Zum Beispiel:

Ich **wachse** auf.

Ich **bin** aufgewachsen.

☺ Have you gone from point A to point B? Is there a change in location?

Zum Beispiel:

Er **geht** nach Hause.

Er **ist** nach Hause **gegangen**.

☺ The past participle goes at the end of the sentence and the auxiliary verb goes in the second spot.