
TEIL 7,9 Was ist passiert? Es ist kalt geworden. Wir sind gestern abend ausgegangen. Ich bin aber zu Hause geblieben.

present perfect: intransitive verbs

Chapter 4 showed that transitive verbs can be followed by direct objects and the accusative case. Intransitive verbs cannot command a direct object because they do not report manipulation by the subject of a person or thing. Thus far in this chapter you have worked exclusively with transitive verbs, all of which use **haben** as a helping verb in the present perfect.

sein as helping verb

Certain German intransitive verbs use a form of **sein** instead of a form of **haben** to form the present perfect tense. This may seem odd at first glance, but English once used the helping verb *to be* in just the same way. The following sentences are in the Bible.

- A plague *is come* upon the enemies of Israel. (i.e., *has come*)
- A Child *is born* to us this day. (i.e., *has been born*)
- The Lord *is come*. (i.e., *has come*)
- The Lord *is risen* from the dead. (i.e., *has risen*)

Here are some sentences with a Shakespearean ring:

- Sire, *I am returned* alive and unscathed. (i.e., *have returned*)
- I am wounded*. (i.e., *have been wounded*)
- The bandits *are killed*. (i.e., *have been killed*)
- The King *is gone* to do battle with his foe. (i.e., *has gone*)

Any native speaker of English understands these sentences immediately and recognizes them to be past tenses, even if they do sound a bit quaint. English used to employ the verb *to be* as the helping verb for the present perfect tense with intransitive verbs that involve a change of condition or a change of position. German still uses **sein** for these conditions. The verb **sein** is used as a helping verb to form the present perfect tense for intransitive verbs that denote a *change* of condition or a *change* of position. (By change of position, we mean movement from one place to another, from point A to point B.)

change of condition

The following verbs are intransitive and denote a change of condition. They therefore require **sein** as a helping verb in the present perfect.

werden (wird), **ist geworden** *to become*
geschehen (ie), **ist geschehen** *to happen*
passieren, **ist passiert** *to happen*
ein-schlafen (ä), **ist eingeschlafen** *to fall asleep*
auf-wachen, **ist aufgewacht** *to wake up*
sterben (i), **ist gestorben** *to die*

Ich bin gestern krank geworden.
Was ist denn heute geschehen?
Warum ist das passiert?
Peter ist um elf eingeschlafen.
Ich bin um halb sechs aufgewacht.
Mein Onkel ist gestern gestorben.

Note: In keeping with standard convention, when listing verbs that require **sein** as a helping verb, the form **ist** is shown before the past participle.

frieren, ist / hat gefroren to freeze Es hat gestern nacht gefroren.
Das Wasser ist gefroren.

The verb **frieren, gefroren** (to freeze) requires a separate, rather technical comment. If a substance undergoes a change of condition when it freezes, the helping verb **sein** is used with **frieren**. Example: **Das Wasser ist gefroren**. Obviously, when water freezes, it changes from a liquid to a solid. But if a substance does not change condition when it freezes, the auxiliary verb **haben** is employed with **frieren**. Example: **Es hat gestern nacht gefroren**. In this case the temperature went below freezing, but there was no change of state or condition. The air, a gas, did not change its state. It remained a gas.

change of position

The following are the more common intransitive verbs that convey a change in position, i.e., movement from one place to another. They require **sein** as the helping verb in the present perfect tense.

laufen (äu), **ist gelaufen**
kommen, **ist gekommen**
gehen, **ist gegangen**
bummeln, **ist gebummelt**
wandern, **ist gewandert**
fahren (ä), **ist gefahren**
reisen, **ist gereist**
fliegen, **ist geflogen**
segeln, **ist gesegelt**

Das Mädchen ist nach Hause gelaufen.
Ist sie schon nach Hause gekommen?
Warum ist er durch den Park gegangen?
Wir sind durch Hamburg gebummelt.
Die Freunde sind durch den Wald gewandert.
Sind Ute und Petra schon nach Frankfurt gefahren?
Mein Vater ist viel in Europa gereist.
Ich bin letzten Monat nach Vancouver geflogen.
Letzten Sonntag sind wir gesegelt.

spazieren-gehen, **ist spaziergegangen**
aufstehen, **ist aufgestanden**
mitkommen, **ist mitgekommen**
weggehen, **ist weggegangen**
ausgehen, **ist ausgegangen**
schwimmen, **ist geschwommen**

Wir sind im Park spaziergegangen.
Wann sind Sie heute morgen aufgestanden?
Warum sind die Kinder nicht mitgekommen?
Sind die Jungen schon weggegangen?
Luise ist nicht zu Hause. Sie ist schon ausgegangen.
Ich bin heute 500 Meter geschwommen.

Note: When the verb **fahren** means *to travel*, it is an intransitive verb and requires **sein** as its helping verb: **Ich bin nach Düsseldorf gefahren**. But when **fahren** means *to drive*, and the vehicle being driven, or the person being transported, is explicitly mentioned, **fahren** is then transitive and requires **haben**:

Ich **habe** mein Auto nach Hause gefahren. Ich **habe** Karola nach Hause gefahren.

bleiben

The verb **bleiben** is an intransitive verb that takes **sein** as its helping verb. Since it does not convey a change in position or condition, its use of **sein** must be viewed as an exception.

bleiben, **ist geblieben** Wir **sind** gestern abend zu Hause **geblieben**.
Warum **ist** sie so lange da **geblieben**?
Ich **bin** eine Woche in Augsburg **geblieben**.

Listen to the Teil 7,9 recording of the verb forms in this section and pay particular attention to the pronunciation of the past participles.

Übungen

A. Concept Check.

1. A verb that can govern a direct object is said to be _____.
2. All such verbs use _____ as the helping verb to form the past perfect.
3. A verb that cannot accommodate a direct object is known as an _____ verb.
4. If such a verb denotes a change of position or change of condition, it forms the past perfect with the helping verb _____.
5. The following verbs all use **sein** when constructing the past perfect. All are intransitive. Indicate whether the verb denotes a change of condition (write C) or position (write P):
 - a. werden _____
 - b. gehen _____
 - c. wandern _____
 - d. reisen _____
 - e. mitkommen _____
 - f. ausgehen _____
 - g. sterben _____
 - h. laufen _____
 - i. frieren _____
 - j. fahren _____
 - k. aufstehen _____
 - l. weggehen _____
 - m. spaziergehen _____
 - n. kommen _____
 - o. bummeln _____
 - p. geschehen _____
 - q. schwimmen _____
 - r. passieren _____
 - s. fliegen _____

6. To form the past perfect of **bleiben**, use the helping verb _____.

B. Practice. Write the correct form of *sein* in the blanks:

1. Peter _____ schon nach Hause gegangen.
2. Wann _____ Sie gekommen?
3. Es _____ wirklich kalt geworden.
4. Ich _____ von Heidelberg nach Hamburg gefahren.
5. Meine Eltern _____ nach Amerika gereist.
6. Tina und ich _____ im spaziergegangen.

7. Warum _____ wir so früh nach Hause gegangen?

8. Was _____ denn passiert?

9. Ich _____ mit Renate ausgegangen.

10. Das Wasser _____ schon gefroren.

C. Guided Communication. Write sentences as directed.

1. It was 28° Celsius today. Indicate it got pretty warm this afternoon.

2. You don't see my friends. Ask me if my friends have gone away.

3. I went to bed before you came home. Mention that you came home late last night.

4. You heard a loud noise on the next street. Ask a neighbor what happened over there.

5. You weren't home when I called yesterday. Say that you went window shopping with Käthe.

6. You just walked slit-eyed into the classroom. Tell the teacher you got up late this morning.

7. I didn't see your sister at home last night. Say that she went out last evening.

8. You know that my family was in the Black Forest recently. Ask me if we hiked through the woods.

9. The party we were at was really boring. I left early, and you stayed. Find out why I did not stay there long.

10. Your parents have always admired the cathedral in Cologne (Köln). Find out if they drove there last weekend.

11.

12

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11. I'm visiting you in the Alps on your vacation, and I'd like to see your parents. Say that your family went for a hike through the mountains and around the lake.

12. I just came in the room, and you and your friend have guilty looks on your faces. I'm suspicious. Say that nothing happened.

13. I put some water in the ice cube tray an hour ago. Ask me if the water has frozen.

14. You just came out of the water exhausted. Say that you swam a hundred meters.

15. You were told I left work early last Friday. Find out if I got sick.

16. I expected to see you at the park today, as usual. Say that you stayed home today.

17. I was under the impression that Professor Huebel was leaving for Europe this month. Tell me that he flew to Europe last month.

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D. Free Communication. Complete FCE 7,9 on the end-of-chapter answer sheet.

TEIL 7,10 Es hat gedonnert, geblitzt und geregnet.

intransitive verbs: no change of condition or position

haben

Intransitive verbs that do not involve a change of position or change of condition form the present perfect with **haben**, not **sein**.

wohnen, gewohnt	Ich wohne jetzt in Leer, aber ich habe früher in Aurich gewohnt.
stehen, gestanden	Haben Sie die ganze Zeit hier gestanden?
sitzen, gesessen	Die Studenten haben die ganze Zeit gesessen.
warten, gewartet	Ich habe schon lange hier gewartet.

dauern, **gedauert**
 arbeiten, **gearbeitet**
 schlafen (ä), **geschlafen**
 regnen, **geregnet**
 schneien, **geschneit**
 hageln, **gehagelt**
 donnern, **gedonnert**
 blitzen, **geblitzt**
 frieren, **gefroren**

Die Sendung hat eine Stunde gedauert.
 Er hat gestern abend zu Hause gearbeitet.
 Ich habe nicht gut geschlafen.
 Es hat die ganze Nacht geregnet.
 Es hat letzten Winter gar nicht geschneit.
 Es hat zehn Minuten lang gehagelt.
 Es hat gestern nachmittag ganz laut gedonnert.
 Es hat heute abend oft ganz hell geblitzt.
 Es hat gestern nacht gefroren.

Listen to the **Teil 7,10** recording of these verb forms and pay particular attention to the pronunciation of the past participles. Also read the **Kulturnotiz** on the semester system at German universities, page 229 in your class textbook.

Übungen

A. Concept Check.

1. Intransitive verbs that involve a change of condition or position use _____ as the helping verb to form the present perfect.
2. Intransitive verbs that do not involve a change of condition or position use _____ as the helping verb to form the present perfect.

B. Practice. Write the past participles for the following verbs.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. blitzen _____ | 7. donnern _____ |
| 2. hageln _____ | 8. schneien _____ |
| 3. regnen _____ | 9. schlafen _____ |
| 4. arbeiten _____ | 10. dauern _____ |
| 5. warten _____ | 11. sitzen _____ |
| 6. stehen _____ | 12. wohnen _____ |

C. Guided Communication. Write sentences as directed.

1. You just moved into my neighborhood. Say that you lived in Frankfurt for many years.

2. We had a bad storm last night. Say that there was a lot of lightning. Ask me if I saw it.

3. Say that it thundered very loudly and hailed this morning. Ask me if I heard it.

4. I was supposed to meet you at the station. Say that you stood there for a while, but then left.

5. Tell me you waited for twenty minutes.

6. I went to a meeting that you could not attend. Ask me where I sat. Ask me if I saw Mrs. Springer. Ask me if she talked a lot, and find out what she said.

7. Klara looks awful today. Ask her if she slept well last night. Find out when she got in last night.

8. I am a student at the university in Graz. You are an American exchange student. Say that it snowed a lot last winter in Ohio and ask me if it snows a lot in Austria.

9. We all work at a fast food restaurant. Ask us if we worked last Saturday. Tell us you stayed home because you were sick.

10. I wanted to go to the movies with you but didn't. Tell me how the film was and how long it lasted.

11. I just bumped into you on the street in New York. Tell me you flew to New York last week.

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