

What tenses do you know?

Present tense

The weather **is** nice.

Present perfect

I **have finished** my homework.

Past tense

Barack Obama **was** the 44th president of the United States.

Past perfect

I **had watched** the news before I went to bed.

Future tense I

I **will** stay home tomorrow.

I **am going to** spend my holidays in Italy.

We **are meeting** tomorrow an 12 a.m..

Future tense II

We **will have eaten** dinner by the time you arrive.

What tenses do you know?

Present tense

The weather **is** nice.

What tenses do you know?

Present perfect

I **have finished** my homework.

What elements are used
to build the present
perfect?

The form of the auxiliary (Hilfsverb) **to have** corresponding to the **subject** of the sentence + the **past participle** of the sentence's main verb (= the sentence's **predicate**)

Note: In English, like in German, **to have** can appear as both an auxiliary and a full verb:
He **has** a car.

He **has** (auxiliary) **had** (full verb in the past participle) a car since he was 20 years old.
In the latter case, both variants are used to build the present perfect.

2. Halbjahr 2026
English Club am Vormittag B1
261-40656A, Do, 09.00 – 10.30 Uhr

What tenses do you know?

Present perfect

a) is used to express actions or states that began in the past but have not been completed yet/are still ongoing:

I have always lived in Germany. (I still live in Germany.)

I have never been to Africa. (from the past until the present time)

I have been waiting for twenty minutes. (I am still waiting.)

b) is used to express actions or states that happened in the past but have a connection or relevance to the present:

I have finished my homework. (It is still finished)

She has lost her keys. (...and still has not found them)

Note: Other than in the German language, the present perfect and the past tense are **not** interchangeable in English.

German: Ich **war** gestern in Bonn. - Ich **bin** gestern in Bonn **gewesen**.

English: I **was** in Bonn yesterday. (But: I **have been** in/to Bonn since yesterday.)

Adverbs of frequency that indicate the use of either the present tense or the present perfect include: **always, never, often, usually** (present tense), **ever** (present perfect).

*I **always/usually** eat lunch at noon. I have **always** liked icecream.*

*We **never** have coffee for breakfast. He has **never** been to Paris.*

*We **often** have lunch together. He has **often** travelled to Paris.*

*Have you **ever** been to Australia?*

The present perfect

Translate:
(using the present
perfect)

Sie war schon immer sehr schüchtern.

She has always been very shy.

Ich war noch niemals in New York.

I have never been to New York.

Warst du schon mal in Australien?

Have you (ever) been to Australia?

Ich warte hier schon zwei Stunden.

I have already been waiting here for two hours.

Ich wohne seit dem letzten Jahr in Siegburg

I have lived in Siegburg since last year.

Ich habe John in der letzten Zeit häufiger getroffen.

I have met John quite often recently.

Die Brille, die ich letzte Woche verlegt habe, habe ich noch nicht gefunden.

I still have not found the glasses that I misplaced last week.

Note: Even if the present or past tense are used in colloquial German, the present perfect may be the only option acceptable in English!