2. Halbjahr 2026
English Intensive Week A2 Refresher
262-40691, Mo-Fr, 08.45 – 14.00 Uhr

vhs Volkshochschule Rhein-Sieg

Which 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.
Future tense II	We **will have eaten** dinner by the time you arrive.

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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 the main verb (= the sentence's **predicate**)

In a listing of irregular verbs, the **past participle** is always the **third form** displayed:
to go - went - **gone (gegangen),** to be - was - **been (gewesen)**

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

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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)

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.

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?*

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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 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!

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What tenses do you know?

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

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What tenses do you know?

Past tense

a) is used to describe actions or states that happened and were finished in the past:

We had a barbecue yesterday. (The barbecue is over.)

They went to the beach last week. (They are no longer at the beach.)

b) is used to describe past habits, repeated actions or states or conditions that existed in the past:

When we were in Italy, we always had tea for breakfast.

He used to play the piano every day after school.

Our first car was a VW.

c) is used in reported speech:

She said: "I like icecream".
*She said that she **liked** icecream.*

He said: "I drive a BMW".
*He said that he **drove** a BMW.*

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The past tense

Complete with the correct form of the verb in the past tense:

Yesterday, I (to eat) pizza for dinner.

Yesterday, I ate pizza for dinner.

When we (to live) in Cologne, we (can) hear the Cathedral's bells ring.

When we lived in Cologne, we could hear the Cathedral's bells ring

Put into reported speech:

She said: "I am interested in music."

She said that she was interested in music.

John said: "I don't have a car."

John said that he didn't have a car.

The tour guide asked: "Are you ready?"

The tour guide asked if we/they were ready.

Translate:

Er hatte einen Unfall auf dem Nachhauseweg.

He had an accident on his way home.

Erst ist er gestern in's Kino gegangen,
dann hat er seinen Autoschlüssel verloren

Yesterday, he first went to the movies, then he lost his car key.

Er fragte den Kellner, wo die Toilette sei.

He asked the waiter where the toilet/restroom was..