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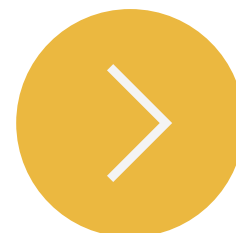
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TENSES

TENSES L1 – The Präsens (Simple Present Tense)

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Video Lesson:

<https://easy-deutsch.com/yt/tensesL1/>

This lesson is about the German present tense, the "Präsens" in general, focusing on regular verbs. However, if you are looking for a detailed explanation about strong verbs (the ones with vowel changes), check the lesson "Verbs L 4 - Strong Verbs."

POSSIBLE GERMAN VERB ENDINGS

All German verbs end in "-n" or "-en" in the infinitive form (basic form), all the irregular verbs as well. No exceptions!

- kaufenen
- rennenen
- gehenen
- habenen
- seinen
- essenen



... NO EXCEPTIONS ...

PRESENT TENSE – CONJUGATION ENDINGS

Person	Ending	Example	English
1st Person Singular (ich)	-e	ich spiele <u>e</u>	I play
2nd Person Singular (du)	-st	du spiel <u>st</u>	you play
3rd Person Singular (er/sie/es)	-t	er spiel <u>t</u>	he plays
1st Person Plural (wir)	-en	wir spiel <u>en</u>	we play
2nd Person Plural (ihr)	-t	ihr spiel <u>t</u>	you play
3rd Person Plural / Formal (sie/Sie)	-en	sie spiel <u>en</u>	they play

CONJUGATION OF "STRONG" VERBS IN PRESENT TENSE

What are "strong" verbs? We call a verb "strong" if there is a vowel change (a,e,i,o,u) when it's conjugated. Verbs without vowel changes (= the 100% regular ones) are called "weak" verbs.

When talking about "irregular verbs", I (and most teachers) do NOT include strong verbs because the endings are REGULAR. **The only irregularity is the vowel change.**

The vowel change only occurs in the 2nd and 3rd person singular and follows clear rules. All other forms are 100% regular.

The vowel change is always from "e" to "ie" or "i" OR from "a" to "ä".

The vowels "i", "o" and "u" will never change. Only "e" and "a" can change.

e → ei	e → i	a → ä
sehen	helfen	fahren
ich sehe	ich helfe	ich fahre
du siehst	du hilfst	du fährst
er/sie/es sieht	er/sie/es hilft	er/sie/es fährt
wir sehen	wir helfen	wir fahren
ihr seht	ihr helft	ihr fahrt
sie/Sie sehen	sie/Sie helfen	sie/Sie fahren

CONJUGATION: IRREGULAR / SPECIAL VERBS

Unfortunately, some verbs do not adhere to any rule. But these verbs are rare in German.

For example: except "sein" (= to be), the plural of ALL verbs is 100% regular.

Three examples of irregular verbs:

sein	haben	werden
ich bin	ich habe	ich werde
du bist	du hast	du wirst
er/sie/es ist	er/sie/es hat	er/sie/es wird
wir sind	wir haben	wir werden
ihr seid	ihr habt	ihr werdet
sie/Sie sind	sie/Sie haben	sie/Sie werden

SPECIAL FEATURES

Verb Stems Ending In "-d" or "-t"

If the verb stem ends in "-d" or "-t", place an "e" before the endings "-st" and "-t".

arbeiten: "du arbeitest", "er arbeitet", "ihr arbeitet"

streiten: "du streitest", "er streitet", "ihr streitet"

Exception: vowel change (seldom)

- laden: "du lädst", "er lädt", "ihr ladet"
- halten: "du hältst", "er hält", "ihr haltet"

Verb Stems Ending In "s", "ß", "x", or "z"

If the verb stem ends in "-s", "-ß", "-x" or "-z" omit the "s" from the ending in the 2nd person Singular.

heißen: "du heißt" (wrong: du heißst)

tanzen: "du tanzt" (wrong: du tanzst)

Verbs Ending In "-eln/-ern"

For the (rare) verbs that end in "-eln/-ern", ONLY the "n" is the ending, and therefore only the "n" must be omitted.

→ In the 1st and the 3rd person plural, we add only an "-n".

For verbs that end in "-eln", the "e" in front of the "l" is omitted in the 1st person singular.

Person	"-eln" - Ending	"-ern" - Ending
ich	samm <u>le</u>	wand <u>ere</u>
du	samm <u>elst</u>	wand <u>erst</u>
er/sie/es	samm <u>elt</u>	wand <u>ert</u>
wir	samm <u>eln</u>	wand <u>ern</u>
ihr	samm <u>elt</u>	wand <u>ert</u>
sie/Sie	samm <u>eln</u>	wand <u>ern</u>

GENERAL EXAMPLES

- „Ich gehe nach Hause.“
- „Du rennst sehr schnell.“

- „Er schreib**t** einen Brief.“
- „Sie komm**t** später.“
- „Es ste**h**t im Garten.“
- „Wir seh**en** dich morgen.“
- „Ihr streit**e**t immer.“
- „Sie red**en** viel.“

SUMMARY

- All German verbs end in "-n" or "-en".
- We have to use the ending that corresponds to the person we are talking to/about.
- Some verb stems require an extra "e".
- We omit the "s" of "st" if the stem ends in "s", "ß", "x", or "z".
- If a verb ends in "-eln" or "-ern", the ending is only the "-n".

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