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# VERBS

## VERBS L1 – WHAT ARE VERBS?

|                                           |     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|
| Definition .....                          | 287 |
| Types of Verbs.....                       | 287 |
| There are three Verb Modes in German..... | 287 |
| Conjugation Basics .....                  | 287 |
| Summary .....                             | 288 |
| Task .....                                | 288 |



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## DEFINITION

A verb is a word that expresses an action, a process, or a state.

| Action / Process |          | State  |          |
|------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| laufen           | to walk  | sein   | to be    |
| fahren           | to drive | haben  | to have  |
| kaufen           | to buy   | stehen | to stand |
| wachsen          | to grow  | sitzen | to sit   |

The verb tells you if something happens in the past, the present, or the future.

**Example:** „Ich komme/kam/werde kommen.“ = I come/came/will come.

## TYPES OF VERBS

Grammatically we distinguish between those six main groups of verbs:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Main Verbs      | 4. Reflexive Verbs |
| 2. Auxiliary Verbs | 5. Compound Verbs  |
| 3. Modal Verbs     | 6. Participles     |

## THERE ARE THREE VERB MODES IN GERMAN

- Indicative (Indikativ)
- Imperative (Imperativ)
- Subjunctive (Konjunktiv)

Furthermore, an action can be passive or active.

## CONJUGATION BASICS

**Verbs need to be conjugated!!**

→ **That means** you have to change the endings according to the person you are talking to/about.

| German    |       | English   |      |
|-----------|-------|-----------|------|
| ich       | gehe  | I         | go   |
| du        | gehst | you       | go   |
| er/sie/es | geht  | he/she/it | goes |
| wir       | gehen | we        | go   |
| ihr       | geht  | you       | go   |
| sie/Sie   | gehen | they      | go   |

**Before you say, I'll never get it... Take a look at this:**

| German    |      | English   |     |
|-----------|------|-----------|-----|
| ich       | bin  | I         | am  |
| du        | bist | you       | are |
| er/sie/es | ist  | he/she/it | is  |
| wir       | sind | we        | are |
| ihr       | seid | you       | are |
| sie/Sie   | sind | they      | are |

With certain verbs, you do the same in English. In German, you just have to do it with all of them.

## SUMMARY

- Verbs express an action, a process, or a state.
- Verbs need to be conjugated.
- Verbs show the tense (future, present, past,...).
- There are different types of verbs.

## TASK



### Native Language Task:

- Check how you use verbs in your own language!
- Do you have to conjugate them?

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