

GRAMMATIK-KANON

(verbindlicher Minimallehrinhalt bis einschließlich Klasse 10)

1. Survey of verb forms (tense and aspect)

	<u>active</u>		<u>passive</u>	
	<u>simple</u>	<u>progressive</u>	<u>simple</u>	<u>progressive</u>
present	I ask	I am asking	I am asked	I am being asked
present perfect	I have asked	I have been asking	I have been asked	
past	I asked	I was asking	I was asked	I was being asked
past perfect	I had asked	I had been asking	I had been asked	
future I	I will ask	I will be asking	I will be asked	
future II	I will have asked	I will have been asking	I will have been asked	
conditional I (future I in the past)	I would ask	I would be asking	I would be asked	
conditional II (future II in the past)	I would have asked	I would have been asking	I would have been asked	

2. Irregular verbs (selection of problem verbs)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. beat - beat - beaten 2. break - broke - broken 3. build - built - built 4. buy - bought - bought 5. catch - caught - caught 6. choose - chose - chosen 7. drink - drank - drunk 8. drive - drove - driven 9. eat - ate - eaten 10. fall - fell - fallen | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. fight - fought - fought 12. hide - hid - hidden 13. hold - held - held 14. lie - lay - lain 15. lay - laid - laid 16. leave - left - left 17. lose - lost - lost 18. pay - paid - paid 19. run - ran - run 20. shoot - shot - shot |
|---|---|

3. The present perfect tense and the past tense

The present perfect

The past tense

expresses that, from the standpoint of the speaker,

an action (state) that took place or began in the past has a relation to the present time.

an action (state) that took place and was completed in the past has no relation to the present time.

Ex.: Ich kenne ihn seit drei Jahren.
I have known him for three years.

Ex.: Ich habe ihn gestern gesehen.
I saw him yesterday.

Note: If there is an *adverbial of the past* (e.g. 'last year') in the sentence, you must not use the present perfect.

4.1 The sequence of tenses in conditional clauses

(Conditional conjunctions: if, in case, on condition that, provided that, suppose/supposing, unless)

The three basic types of conditional clauses:

Type 1: The condition refers to the present or future time. It can be realized or not. The speaker does not know.

tenses: If-clause: *present* main clause: *future I*

Ex.: If it *rains* tomorrow, I'll *stay* at home.
Wenn es morgen regnet, *bleibe* ich zuhause.

Type 2 a: The condition refers to the present and future time. It cannot be realized because it is contrary to fact.

tenses: If-clause: *past tense* main clause: *conditional I*

Ex.: If it *didn't rain*, I *would go* out now.
Wenn es nicht *regnete* (!), *würde* ich jetzt ausgehen.

Type 2 b: The condition refers to the present and future time. It might be realized, but the speaker doubts it.

tenses: If-clause: *past tense* main clause: *conditional I*

Ex.: If he *worked* harder, he *would be* more successful.
Wenn er härter *arbeitete* (!), *wäre* er erfolgreicher.

Type 3: The condition refers to the past time. It was not realized in the past and can no longer be realized now.

tenses: If-clause: *past perfect* main clause: *conditional II*

Ex.: If you *had come*, you *would have seen* her.
Wenn du *gekommen wärest*, *hättest* du sie gesehen.

4.2 The sequence of tenses in reported speech

① When the introductory verb (say, tell, remark) is in the present tense, the tense in the reported speech is the same as in the direct speech.

Ex.: He says, "It's cold today." → He says that it is cold today.

② When the introductory verb is in the past tense, the tense of the direct speech changes as follows:

<u>direct speech</u>		<u>reported speech</u>
present	becomes	past
present perfect	"	past perfect
past	"	past perfect
future I	"	future in the past (= conditional I)

Ex.: He said, "I know him well." → He said that he knew him well. Er sagte, er kenne ihn gut.

She asked me, "Did he arrive early?" → She asked me if he had arrived early.

Sie fragte mich, ob er früh angekommen sei.

5. ing-Forms / Infinitive

5.1 I want (expect) him to come at once. Ich möchte (erwarte), daß er sofort kommt.

5.2 Stop drinking! Hör auf zu trinken!

5.3 This book is worth reading. Dieses Buch ist lesenswert (es wert, gelesen zu werden).

5.4 The ing-form is always used after the following verbs:

to avoid, to deny, to enjoy, to finish, to give up, to go on

6. The position of adverbials

Adverbials of manner (quickly, carefully) and adverbials of indefinite time and degree (usually, seldom, perhaps) usually stand

- before the verb if there is no auxiliary
Ex.: He often visits me. Er besucht mich oft.
He slowly opened the door. Er öffnete langsam die Tür.
- after the first auxiliary
Ex.: I have never seen him. Ich habe ihn nie gesehen.
That man must surely have been his father. Der Mann muß bestimmt sein Vater gewesen sein.
- emphatic position: front and end
Ex.: He comes here every morning. Er kommt jeden Morgen hierher.

Note: The adverbial must not come between the verb and its direct object!

7. The article

7.1 The definite article is not used with

- abstract nouns used in a general sense.
Ex.: Life is short. Das Leben ist kurz.
You must not give up hope. Du darfst die Hoffnung nicht aufgeben.
- words like *school, class, church, prison, hospital*, when we think of the use made of the building.
Ex.: They sent him to prison. Er kam ins Gefängnis.

7.2 The indefinite article is used with nouns showing *profession, nationality, religion*.

Ex.: He wanted to become a doctor. Er wollte Arzt werden.

8. Adjectives and adverbs

The adjective qualifies a noun or a pronoun:

A beautiful girl. The girl is beautiful. She is beautiful.

The adverb qualifies a verb, an adjective, another adverb, or a whole sentence.

She sings beautifully. She is remarkably pretty. She sings extremely well. Unfortunately I did not see her.

There are two kinds of adverbs: those of one syllable, which have no special ending, e.g. here, there, now, always, and those derived from adjectives, e.g. quickly, beautifully.

Note: The adverb is not used after be, become, seem, remain, smell, look, sound, taste (adjective as part of the predicate).

Ex.: That seemed strange. It smelt bad.

She looked good. **But:** I looked at her carefully.

9. Comparison

The comparison with *more* and *most* is used with

- adjectives of three and more syllables
difficult - more difficult - most difficult
- adverbs ending in -ly
slowly - more slowly - most slowly
- participles
tiring - more tiring - most tiring

Irregular comparison:

good/well - better - best

bad/badly - worse - worst
little - less - least
much/many - more - most

10. Relatives

10.1 non-defining relative clauses (in commas)

who for persons / which for things

Ex.: Aunt Mary, who is 84, enjoys parties tremendously.

The Declaration of Independence, which was signed on July 4th, 1776, was a proclamation of the rights of man.

10.2 defining relative clauses (no comma)

who (that) for persons / that or which for things or animals

Ex.: The lady who came first was Aunt Mary.

The house that stands over there is my uncle's.

11. Number of nouns

11.1 The following nouns are only used in the singular. You can't have an indefinite article before them.

Information Woher hast du diese Informationen?

Where did you get this information?

News Sie hören Nachrichten.

This is the news.

Progress Sie machten gute Fortschritte.

They made good progress.

Advice Das ist ein guter Ratschlag.

That's a good piece of advice.

11.2 The plural form is used of nouns denoting parts of the body and articles of clothing (also: life, mind, temper), if the words they depend on are also in the plural.

Sie verloren das Leben. They lost their lives.

Wir nahmen den Hut ab. We took off our hats.

Sie steckten den Kopf aus dem Fenster. They put their heads out of the window.

12. Reflexive and reciprocal pronouns

reflexive:

Er fand sich in einer schwierigen Situation. He found himself in a difficult situation.

(Plural forms: ourselves, yourselves, themselves)

reciprocal:

Nach 3 Jahren sahen sie sich wieder. After 3 years they saw each other again. (one another)

13. Miscellaneous

13.1 next and nearest

The next street to the right is the nearest way to the station.

13.2 older and elder

My elder brother is five years older than I (am).

13.3 like and as

You are behaving like children. I can't do it like you.

You are behaving as children do. I can't do it as you do. (I can't do it the same way as you)

13.4 most and the most

Most children hate the most diligent classmate.

13.5 during and while (dt.: während)

It began to rain during the picnic. (*preposition*)

It began to rain while we were having a picnic. (*conjunction*)

13.6 much and many

- How much wine do we need? And how many wine-glasses?
- 13.7 hard and hardly
His wife works hard, but he hardly works.
- 13.8 since and for (dt.: seit)
We have been working since nine o'clock. (*point of time*)
We have been working for two hours. (*period of time*)
- 13.9 ago and before (dt.: vor)
He came here 3 months ago.
He said he had seen her three months before.
- 13.10 this and these
You can have these (*plural*) English stamps, but not this (*singular*) German one.
- 13.11 's and s'
This boy's (*singular*) clothes look much different from other boys' (*plural*) clothes.

14. Lexical items

- 14.1 attend and visit (dt.: besuchen)
Do you attend this school? No, I'm just visiting.
- 14.2 borrow and lend (dt.: sich ausleihen, verleihen)
I wanted to borrow a dictionary from the lending-library. But they don't lend out reference books.
- 14.3 bring and take (dt.: bringen)
Please, take this letter to the post-office and bring some stamps along.
- 14.4 carry and wear (dt.: tragen)
Why do you carry your trousers over your arm? Why don't you wear them?
- 14.5 do and make (dt.: [meistens] machen)
I make a fire, I did the kitchen, I did a lot of shopping, I did my homework, I can't do any more work today. (make = herstellen)
- 14.6 drive and go (dt.: fahren)
We went to Berlin last week. My mother drove our new car.
- 14.7 look and see / look at and watch / listen and hear
We looked, but saw nothing; we listened, but heard nothing. Is watching TV really more than looking at the screen?
- 14.8 remember and remind (dt.: sich erinnern / jdn. erinnern)
Remember to remind me of the 10 dollars I owe you.
- 14.9 say and tell (dt.: sagen)
What did he say? Tell me!
- 14.10 search and search for (dt.: durchsuchen / suchen)
We were all searched by the police because they were searching for a gun.
- 14.11 look for and look after (dt.: suchen / sich kümmern um)
We're looking for a girl to look after our children.