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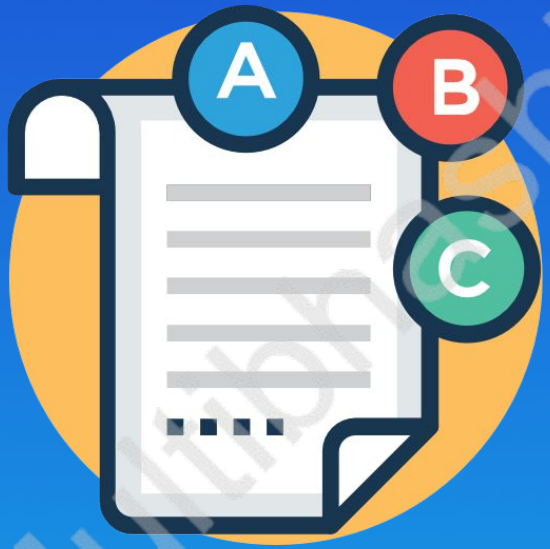

Perfect Tense

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Class Objective

I will be able to use perfect tense appropriately.

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Concept A : Introduction

The perfect tense, also called present perfect (*perfekt), is a past tense. We use it to speak about actions completed in the recent past. In spoken German, the* present perfect tense is often used instead of the past tense. We can translate the perfect tense using the English simple past tense.

Example:

- Gestern hat Michael sein Büro aufgeräumt.
  (Yesterday Michael cleaned his office)

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Concept B - Usage

We use the German perfect tense to express:

- A completed action in the past with the focus on the result of the action.

Example
Gestern *hat* Michael sein Büro aufgeräumt.
result: the office is clean now

- An action that will be completed by a certain point in the future.

Example

- Bis nächste Woche hat er das bestimmt wieder vergessen.
  (He will have forgotten about that by next week.)

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Concept C: Conjugation of German Verbs in Perfect Tense:

To conjugate verbs in the perfect tense we need the present tense form of sein/haben and the past participle (Partizip II)

person	sein	haben
1st person singular (Ich)	Ich bin	ich habe
2nd person singular (du)	du bist	du hast
3rd person singular (er/sie/es/man)	er ist	er hat

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Concept C: Conjugation of German Verbs in Perfect Tense:

1st person plural (wir)	wir sind	wir haben
2nd person plural (ihr)	ihr seid	ihr habt
3rd person plural/polite form (sie/Sie)	sie sind	sie haben

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