



learning target

Aim of this section is to learn the correct use of Partizip I and Partizip II.

German	English
Er ist ein gestresster Mann.	He is a stressed man.
Wir sehen einen spannenden Film.	We are watching an exciting movie.
Ich helfe dem weinenden Mädchen.	I help the crying girl.

rules

Partizip I

What is Partizip I (present participle) ?

Partizip I are modified verbs which turn into **adjectives**.

Once they got modified they "work" like normal adjectives and take *adjectives endings* as well.

Partizip I has a similar meaning to the ing-form of English verbs - the present participle.

German		English	
<i>verb</i>	<i>Partizip I</i>	<i>verb</i>	<i>present participle</i>
laufen	laufend	to run	running
kommen	kommend	to come	coming
weinen	weinend	to cry	crying
schlafen	schlafend	to sleep	sleeping
spielen	spielend	to play	playing

Since they "work" like normal adjectives they go in front of the noun.

examples:

- Sie stoppten den **laufenden** Mann. (They stopped the running man.)
- Ich komme am **kommenden** Wochenende zu dir. (I'll come to you coming weekend.)
- Sie wecken die **schlafenden** Kinder auf. (They wake up the sleeping children.)

How do you form Partizip I?

You form the Partizip I in every tense with:

Infinitive of the verb + d + (adjective ending)



example:

- Ich ging zu der **wartenden** Frau. (I went to the waiting woman.)
 - **warten** = Infinitiv form of the verb *warten*
 - **d** = "ending" to form the Partizip I
 - **en** = adjective ending

exceptions:

There are two exceptions:

- **sein -> seiend**
- **tun -> tuend**

When do you use Partizip I?

Partizip I is used:

- **when you use describe a process / something what hasn't finished**
- **when the action, you describe, has an active character** (somebody is doing something)

... whereby it doesn't matter if the action takes place in the past, presense or future.

example 1:

- Wir brauchen **fließendes** Wasser. (We need running water.)

You could transform the Partizip I into a relativ sentence with active character:

Wir brauchen Wasser, das fließt. The water is doing something. It runs.

example 2:

- Ich beobachte sie mit **wachsendem** Interesse. (I observe them with growing interest.)

You could transform the Partizip I into a relativ sentence with active character:

Ich beobachte sie mit einem Interesse, das wächst. The interest is doing something. It grows.

example 3:

- Sie sucht ein **passendes** Kleid. (She is looking for a fitting dress.)

You could transform the Partizip I into a relativ sentence with active character:

Sie sucht nach einem Kleid, das passt. The dress is doing something. It fits.



Time neutrality of Partizip I

As the word already implied is the Partizip I time neutral and is formed in every tense in the same way. The action, which the Partizip I describes, takes place at the same time as the "main-action" (=real verb of the sentence).

examples:

- Ich sehe ein **singendes** Mädchen. (I see a singing girl.) - Präsens
- Ich sah ein **singendes** Mädchen. (I saw a singing girl.) - Präteritum
- Ich habe ein **singendes** Mädchen gesehen. (I have seen a singing girl.) - Perfekt
- Ich hatte ein **singendes** Mädchen gesehen. (I had seen a singing girl.) - Plusquamperfekt
- Ich werde ein **singendes** Mädchen sehen. (I'll see a singing girl.) – Futur I

Partizip II

What is Partizip II (past participle) used for?

We learned already one purpose of Partizip II when we spoke about the tense *Perfekt*. Partizip II has a second purpose, though. It can be used as an **adjective** similar to Partizip I.

If Partizip II is used as an adjective it takes *adjectives endings* like normal adjectives. Partizip II has a similar meaning to the ed-form of (regular) English verbs - the past participle.

German		English	
<i>verb</i>	<i>Partizip II</i>	<i>verb</i>	<i>past participle</i>
kochen	gekocht	to cook	cooked
zerstören	zerstört	to destroy	destroyed
machen	gemacht	to make	made
schreiben	geschrieben	to write	written
stressen	gestresst	to stress	stressed

examples:

- Sie essen die **gekochten** Eier. (They eat the cooked eggs.)
- Wir untersuchen die **zerstörten** Häuser. (We inspect the destroyed houses.)
- Ich mag selbst **gemachten** Kuchen. (I like self-made cake.)

How do you form Partizip II?

We spoke already detailed about Partizip II in the topic *Perfekt*. There are different ways how to form Partizip II depending whether it's a weak, strong or mixed verb.



I'll give you a short summary here. For a detailed summary check *summary - Präterium and Partizip II*.

weak verbs	strong verbs	mixed verbs
"ge" + stem + "t"	"ge" + stem (with irregular change) + "en"	"ge" + stem (with irregular change) + "t"

When do you use Partizip II?

Partizip II is used:

- when you use describe a result / something what has finished
- when the action, you describe, has an passive character (something is done by somebody)

To understand the meaning of passive constructions check: *Passiv*.

example 1:

- Ich koche heute **gebratenes** Hühnchen. (I cook fried chicken today.)

The Partizip II has passive character. The chicken itself is doing nothing. It's being done. It's being fried. You can transform the Partizip II into a relative sentence with passive character:

Das Hühnchen, das von mir gebraten wird. (The chicken what is being fried by me.)

example 2:

- Wir befreien den **gefangenen** Hasen. (We free the caught rabbit.)

The Partizip II shows the result of an action in the past. Somebody put a trap and the rabbit got caught. You can transform the Partizip II into a relative sentence with passive character:

Der Hase, der gefangen wurde. (The rabbit that was caught.)

example 3:

- Sie ist ein **verwöhntes** Kind. (She is a spoiled child.)

The Partizip II has passive character. The child didn't do anything. It was being done. It got spoiled. You can transform the Partizip II into a relative sentence with passive character:

Das Kind, das verwöhnt wurde. (The child who was spoiled.)



A final overview should help you to understand the difference of Partizip I and Partizip II.

Partizip I process / active character		Partizip II result / passive character	
German	English	German	English
das <i>kochende</i> Wasser	the <i>cooking</i> water	das <i>gekochte</i> Wasser	the <i>cooked</i> water
der <i>strebende</i> Soldat	the <i>dying</i> soldier	der <i>gestorbene</i> Soldat	the <i>soldier who died</i>
der <i>fallende</i> Stein	the <i>falling</i> stone	der <i>gefallene</i> Stein	the <i>fallen</i> stone
das <i>sinkende</i> Schiff	the <i>sinking</i> ship	das <i>gesunkene</i> Schiff	the <i>ship which sunk</i>