German **Perfekt** Tense for Regular and Irregular Verbs

Why do we need to do this? Because Germans frequently use the Perfekt (Present Perfect) tense in everyday language, rather than the Präteritum (Simple Past). So, as we get to the end of "Der grüne Max 2", we will move past simple sentence structures and encounter some more realistic sentences, which use the German Perfekt tense.

Fortunately, there are quite some similarities between German and English grammar. The other good news is that when it comes to tenses, German is A LOT less complicated than English, because there are 17 (seventeen!!!) tenses in English, while there are only six in German.

Grammatical Elements	English	Infinitive	Simple Past	Perfect Participle*
	Deutsch	**Infinitiv**	**Präteritum**	**Partizip Perfekt/Partizip II***
Regular Verbs **Schwache (reguläre) Verben**	English	to learn	learn**ed** I learned about this yesterday.	auxilliary verb** + learn**ed** Present Perfect : We *have learned* Christmas songs before.
	Deutsch	lern**en**	lern**te** Zuerst lernte ich Mathe. Dann sah ich fern.	**ge**lern**t** Ich *habe* die Regel für die Bildung der schwachen Verben *gelernt*. Nun kann ich diese Verben im Satz besser finden.
Schwache (weak) Verben (regular verbs) are verbs whose finite or conjugated forms have a STEM (e.g., "learn" in the examples above) that remains UNCHANGED. Hence, they can be formed by learning a few rules how to do it.				
Irregular Verbs **Starke (irreguläre) Verben**	English	to sing	s**a**ng	s**u**ng
	Deutsch	sing**en**	s**a**ng Wir *sangen* gestern ein Lied.	Hilfsverb + **ge**s**u**ng**en** Perfekt : Wir *haben* gestern ein Lied *gesungen*.
Starke (strong) Verben (irregular verbs) are verbs whose finite or conjugated forms have a stem that often (not always) undergoes a VOWEL SHIFT. Hence, there are no hard-and-fast rules how to form them and they must be learned by heart.				

* Note that, unlike Simple Past (Präteritum), the participles are just building blocks for tenses - they are not tenses themselves! For example, the Perfect Participle "learned" is a building block that is used in the three English Perfect tenses: Present Perfect => I have learned, Past Perfect => I had learned, Future Perfect => I will have learned.

** Auxilliary verbs : to have, to be / Hilfsverben: haben, sein