

Note

- 1 The prefix **er-** occurs in only two verbs:

erkennen	to admit
ervaren	to experience

- 2 **Her-** always adds a meaning of “again” to the verb:

herbouwen	to rebuild
herrijzen	to rise again

Note that (unlike German) the thousands of verbs ending in **-eren** do require the participle prefix **ge-** regardless of the length of the verb:

noteren	to note	noteerde(n)	genoteerd
activeren	to activate	activeerde(n)	geactiveerd
digitaliseren	to digitalize	digitaliseerde(n)	gedigitaliseerd

11.3.1 Let's try it

What is the past participle of these verbs?

fietsen	pakken	antwoorden	herinneren
zeggen	ontdekken	trouwen	geloven
betalen	leven		

11.4 The present perfect

The present perfect tense consists of the past participle of the verb accompanied by the appropriate form of the auxiliary verb **hebben/zijn** (in English, for example, “I have talked”).

(For when to use **hebben** or **zijn**, see Chapter 12.)

Present perfect = **hebben/zijn . . . ge- + stem + d/t**

Note: The greatest difference from English, however, is the fact that the auxiliary verb and past participle do not normally appear next to one another. In a regular sentence, the auxiliary verb is positioned immediately after the subject (or second in the sentence; see remarks on word order in Chapter 5) and the participle is *always* placed at the end of the clause:

Hij heeft een huis gebouwd.

He has built a house.

Heb je vaak met haar gepraat?

Have you talked to her often?

Ik heb hem vaak in de stad in de bibliotheek ontmoet.

I have met him often in the library in the city.

Gisteren heeft ze wat aardappelen gekookt.

She cooked some potatoes yesterday.

Bij de kruidenier hebben wij wat kaas besteld.

We ordered some cheese at the grocer's.

Ik ben naar huis gewandeld.

I walked home.

11.4.1 Let's try it

Supply the present perfect.

(fietsen) Hij _____ gisteren uren door de stad _____.

(antwoorden) Maria _____ niet op de vraag _____.

(studeren) De twee zusjes _____ allebei in Utrecht _____.

(zeggen) Jij _____ op maandag niet zo veel _____.

(dansen) _____ jullie dit weekend lekker _____?

(horen) De docent _____ de vraag niet _____.

(geloven) Ik _____ zijn verhaal niet _____.

(betalen) Wie _____ de koffie _____?

(praten) Vorige week _____ ik uren met hem _____.

(reizen) De president _____ als kind veel _____.

The past tense: “strong” verbs

12.1 Simple past of strong verbs

The simple past tense of strong verbs is indicated by some difference from the present in the vowel of the stem. First, let us note how a typical strong verb is conjugated in the simple past:

zingen to sing

Present

Simple past

ik	zing	I sing	ik	zong	I sang
jij	zingt	you sing	jij	zong	you sang
u	zingt	you sing	u	zong	you sang
hij/zij/het	zingt	he/she/it sings	hij/zij/het	zong	he/she/it sang
wij	zingen	we sing	wij	zongen	we sang
jullie	zingen	you sing	jullie	zongen	you sang
zij	zingen	they sing	zij	zongen	they sang

The singular of the simple past tense is simply the stem without any ending, the past tense being indicated in this case by the change from *i* to *o*.

12.2 Vowel changes in the stem

There are a number of different ways in which the vowel of the stem might change. By an old tradition, in the Germanic languages, we arrange these in seven classes, each illustrated here with one verb. The past participle has the prefix *ge-* and, like the English strong verb “give,” ends in an *-en*.

12

The
past tense:
“strong”
verbs

	<i>Infinitive</i>		<i>Simple past singular/plural</i>	<i>Past participle</i>
1	blijven	to stay	bleef/bleven	gebleven
2a	bieden	to offer	bood/boden	geboden
2b	buigen	to bend	boog/bogen	gebogen
3a	binden	to tie	bond/bonden	gebonden
3b	zenden	to send	zond/zonden	gezonden
4	nemen	to take	nam/namen	genomen
5a	geven	to give	gaf/gaven	gegeven
5b	liggen	to lie	lag/lagen	gelegen
6	dragen	to carry	droeg/droegen	gedragen
7a	laten	to let	liet/lieten	gelaten
7b	helpen	to help	hielp/hielpen	geholpen
8	Minor groups, represented by only a few members each:			
8a	hangen	to hang	hingen/hing	gehangen
8b	bewegen	to move	bewoog/bewogen	bewogen
8c	zweren	to swear	zwoer/zwoeren	gezworen

Note: The simple past of classes 4 and 5 has a *short* vowel in the singular but a *long* vowel in the plural.



and **lag** **la...gen**
 bad **ba...den**

just like **dag** **da...gen**
 weg **we...gen**
 god **go...den**

12.2.1 A few other strong verbs present slight irregularities:

verliezen	to lose	verloor/verloren	verloren
komen	to come	kwam/kwamen	gekomen
houden	to hold	hield/hielden	gehouden
eten	to eat	at/aten	gegeten
worden	to become	werd/werden	geworden

For more irregularities, see also Chapter 13.

12.2.2 Verliezen and vergeten

verliezen: usually **hebben** is used. **zijn** is also used in spoken language or in the expression **icmand/iets uit het oog verliezen** (to lose track of someone).

vergeten: **hebben** or **zijn** depends on the meaning. **hebben** if **vergeten** means to not think about something: **Ik heb mijn paraplu vergeten** “I forgot my umbrella.” **zijn** if **vergeten** means to lose from one’s memory: **Ik ben jouw naam vergeten** “I forgot your name.”

A list of the strong verbs used in this text is to be found in the appendix, “Strong and irregular verbs in common use.” Although the total number of strong verbs in the Dutch language is smaller than the number of weak verbs, many of the most common verbs are strong. Since there is no foolproof way of predicting the past tense of a given strong verb, the principal parts (infinitive–simple past–past participle) must be learned with each verb. In the Dutch–English vocabulary in the grammar, the past tense and past participle forms are supplied for each strong verb. Principal parts of weak verbs, since they are regularly predictable, are given only in the case of irregular verbs.

12.2.3

The infinitive gives no clue as to whether a verb is weak or strong. However, when verbs are strong, one can find recurring patterns within each class of strong verbs.

Look at the recurring pattern between the two strong verbs **rijden** and **schrijven**: