

16.12 wohl

- 16.12.1 In statements **wohl** expresses probability:

Sie werden jetzt **wohl** gelandet sein. *They will probably have landed by now.*

- 16.12.2 In questions **wohl** can signal uncertainty or express a polite request:

Ob sie **wohl** daran gedacht hat, es mitzubringen? *I wonder whether she's remembered to bring it?*

Kann ich **wohl** mal dein Auto ausleihen? *Do you think I could borrow your car?*

- 16.12.3 In commands (which are mostly in the form of questions) **wohl** can intensify:

Wirst du **wohl** still halten! *Will you keep still!*

16.13 Clusters of modal particles

In everyday speech modal particles often occur in combination with others, which usually gives them an intensifying force:

Ruf **doch mal** an! *Do give me a call, won't you?*

Steig **doch schon mal** ein! *Why don't you get in!*

Du hättest **ja doch wohl** *You could at least have*

mal 'Guten Tag' sagen können. *said 'hello!'*

17 Weak and strong verbs

German verbs fall into two main categories, 'weak' and 'strong' verbs.

17.1 Weak verbs

These are by far the larger category and follow a predictable pattern. The past tense is formed by adding **-te** to the stem (the part of the verb that is left when the infinitive ending **-en** or **-n** is removed) and the past participle ends in **-t**:

infinitive	present	simple past	past participle
machen to make/do	er/sie/es macht he/she/it makes	er/sie/es machte he/she/it made	gemacht made

17.2 Strong verbs

Although not as numerous as weak verbs, these include some very commonly used verbs. The vowel of the stem changes in the past tense and generally in the past participle, which ends in **-en** or rarely in **-n**. Many strong verbs also have a vowel change in parts of the present tense:

infinitive	present	simple past	past participle
bleiben to stay	er/sie/es bleibt he/she/it stays	er/sie/es blieb he/she/it stayed	geblieben stayed
laufen to run	er/sie/es läuft he/she/it runs	er/sie/es lief he/she/it ran	gelaufen run

As strong verbs do not follow a predictable pattern, their forms have to be learnt. Common strong verbs are listed in 34.3.

17.3 Irregular verbs

Among both weak and strong verbs, there are some verbs with irregularities. Irregular weak verbs are sometimes called 'mixed verbs', because they take the weak endings but also have a vowel change like strong verbs. Common verbs with irregularities are listed in 34.3.