

Pl.	1. wir	diskutierten	we	} -discussed
	2. ihr	diskutiertet	you	
	3. sie/Sie	diskutierten	they/you (formal)	

If the verb stem ends in **-d** or **-t**, or in **-m** or **-n** preceded by a consonant other than **l** or **r**, for ease of pronunciation an **-e** is inserted between the stem and the ending in all persons:

arbeiten (to work)	→	ich arbeitete, du arbeitetest, ...
öffnen (to open)	→	ich öffnete, du öffnestest, ...

### 21.3 Formation: strong verbs

In the simple past the stem of most strong verbs has a vowel change and sometimes also a consonant change (see 34.3). The following endings are added to the past tense stem:

Sing.	1. ich	trank	I	} -drank
	2. du	trankst	you	
	3. er/sie/es	trank	he/she/it	
Pl.	1. wir	tranken	we	}
	2. ihr	trankt	you	
	3. sie/Sie	tranken	they/you (formal)	

If the verb stem ends in **-s**, **-ß**, **-x** or **-z**, the ending of the second person singular (**du**) loses its **-s** (as in the present tense, 18.2.2):

lesen (to read)	→	ich las, du last, er/sie/es las
essen (to eat)	→	ich aß, du aßt, er/sie/es aß

### 21.4 Formation: modal and separable verbs

- For the simple past of modal verbs see 26.2.2.
- For the simple past of separable verbs (**abfahren**, **anrufen**, etc.) see 28.3.1.

# 22 The past tenses: the pluperfect

## 22.1 Use

The pluperfect is used to refer to an action which ended before another event in the past:

Er fuhr mit dem Taxi nach Hause, weil er den Bus *miss* hatte. *He went home by taxi because he had missed the bus.*

Als sie eine halbe Stunde *wart* hatte, ging sie alleine ins Kino. *After she had waited for half an hour, she went to the cinema on her own.*

## 22.2 Formation

The pluperfect is formed from the simple past of **haben** or **sein** and the past participle of the verb. The past participle is placed at the end of a simple sentence or main clause. For the use of **haben** or **sein** and the formation of the past participle see 20.2–3.

### 22.2.1 Pluperfect with haben

Sing.	1. ich	<b>hatte</b>	} -geschlafen	} -had slept
	2. du	<b>hattest</b>		
	3. er/sie/es	<b>hatte</b>		
Pl.	1. wir	<b>hatten</b>	}	}
	2. ihr	<b>hattet</b>		
	3. sie/Sie	<b>hatten</b>		

### 22.2.2 Pluperfect with sein

Sing.	1. ich	<b>war</b>	} -gegangen	} -had gone
	2. du	<b>warst</b>		
	3. er/sie/es	<b>war</b>		
Pl.	1. wir	<b>waren</b>	}	}
	2. ihr	<b>wart</b>		
	3. sie/Sie	<b>waren</b>		