

■ **28.3.2** In the compound tenses the prefix is never separated from the verb:

Ich werde morgen *I'm going to phone tomorrow.*  
**anrufen.**

Der Angeklagte wurde *The accused was acquitted.*  
**freigesprochen.**

In the past participle the **-ge-** is inserted after the prefix:

Das Tier hat meine *The animal imitated my*  
Bewegungen **nachgeahmt.** *movements.*

Ich habe es **nachgeschlagen.** *I looked it up.*

■ **28.3.3** In infinitive constructions with **zu**, the **zu** is inserted after the prefix:

Ich habe vergessen, es *I forgot to look it up.*  
**nachzuschlagen.**

# 29 Impersonal verbs

Impersonal verbs are used with the impersonal pronoun **es** (*it*) either as the true subject of the clause or as a substitute for a subject.

## 29.1 es as a true subject

■ **29.1.1** In the following constructions **es** is the only possible subject and can never be left out. The English equivalent is usually a construction with *it* or a personal verb.

- expressions of time and weather  
es ist sechs Uhr *it's six o'clock*  
es regnet/schneit/friert *it's raining/snowing/freezing*
- constructions with **gehen**  
Wie **geht es** dir? *How are you?*  
Mit dem Zug **geht es** *It's quicker by train.*  
schneller.
- the expression **es gibt** (+ accusative)  
**Es gibt** hier ein Problem. *There's a problem.*  
Was **gibt's** denn? *What's the matter?*  
Da **gibt's** nichts zu lachen! *This is not a laughing matter.*
- others  
es fragt sich, ob *the question is whether*  
es handelt sich um *it's about*  
es hängt davon ab (ob) *it depends (on whether)*  
es kommt auf ... an *it depends on ...*  
es macht nichts *it doesn't matter*

■ **29.1.2** In the following constructions **es** can be omitted if another word or phrase takes the initial position ('inversion': see 36.1.2):

**Es** ärgert mich, dass er *It annoys me that he is*  
immer zu spät kommt. *always late.*

Inversion: **Mich** ärgert, dass ...