

32 The present participle

The present participle and the more commonly used past participle (20.3) do not refer to any particular time. In German they are often called **Partizip I** and **II**.

32.1 Formation

The present participle is formed by adding **-d** to the infinitive:

kochen (to cook, to boil) → kochend (cooking, boiling)

Exceptions are the very rare forms **seiend** (being) and **tuend** (doing).

Separable verbs (28.3) remain as one word in the present participle:

vorbeigehen (to pass) → vorbeigehend (passing)

32.2 Use

In German the present participle is used far less than in English.

■ **32.2.1** It is usually found as an adjective or adjectival noun, when it is declined like an adjective (9.2).

Ich habe **kochendes** Wasser geholt. *I fetched boiling water.*

Die **Streikenden** stimmten nicht zu. *The strikers did not agree.*

■ **32.2.2** Note that the German present participle is NOT used

- for continuous tenses:

I am going to the cinema. Ich gehe ins Kino.

- after modal verbs and verbs of perception and motion:

I like singing. Ich singe gerne.

We went swimming. Wir sind schwimmen gegangen.

33 The imperative

The imperative is the form of the verb which expresses commands, requests or instructions.

33.1 Formation

German has three principal imperative forms:

du	familiar singular	Komm her!	} <i>Come here!</i>
ihr	familiar plural	Kommt her!	
Sie	formal sing./pl.	Kommen Sie her!	

There is also a **wir** form for making suggestions:

Gehen wir! *Let's go!*

- The familiar imperative singular is identical with the stem of the verb (the part of the verb that is left when the infinitive ending **-en** or **-n** is removed), except for the variations detailed in 33.1.1.
- The familiar imperative plural adds **-t** to the verb stem.
- The **Sie** and **wir** forms are identical to the indicative, with the pronoun following (verb stem + **-en** + **Sie/wir**).

■ **33.1.1** Variations in the familiar imperative singular

a An **-e** is added

- if the verb stem ends in **-d** or **-t**, or in **-m** or **-n** preceded by a consonant other than **l** or **r**:

Beantworte bitte die Frage! *Please answer the question.*

Öffne bitte die Tür! *Please open the door!*

If pronunciation permits, the **-e** is often omitted:

Red(e) bitte etwas lauter! *Speak up, please!*

- if the infinitive ends in **-eln** or **-ern**. The additional **e** within the stem is usually dropped:

Samm(e)le bitte das Geld ein! *Please collect the money.*