

Cheat Sheet: Past Tense with sein

Key Learning

Most of the times, we use for the past tense (**Perfekt**) the auxiliary verb **haben**. You remember, we build the past with the auxiliary verb **haben** + **participle**.

Ich **habe** gestern **gearbeitet**. (*I worked yesterday.*)

But there are some verbs that use the auxiliary verb **sein** to build the past.

Ich **bin** gestern ins Kino **gegangen**. (*I went to the cinema yesterday.*)

These are mainly verbs that express for example a movement.



Ich **bin** mit dem Auto **gefahren**. (*I drove with the car.*)

Wir **sind** letztes Jahr nach Spanien **geflogen**. (*We flew to Spain last year.*)

Wann **seid** ihr gestern ins Kino **gegangen**? (*When did you guys go to the cinema yesterday?*)

And also verbs that express a change of state.



Er **ist** um 8:00 Uhr **aufgestanden**. (*He got up at 8.*)

Er **ist** um 22:00 Uhr **ingeschlafen**. (*He fell asleep at 22.*)

Wir **sind** in Deutschland **aufgewachsen**. (*We grew up in Germany.*)

There are also some exceptions, so verbs that don't express a movement but use **sein**.

bleiben (to stay): Wir **sind** am Wochenende zu Hause **geblieben**. (*We stayed at home on the weekend.*)

And also verbs that express a movement but use **haben**.

tanzen (to dance): Ich **habe** am Samstag nicht **getanzt**. (*I didn't dance on Saturday.*)