How to learn German verbs

The one form that you need to learn for every "weak" verb (i.e. regular verb)

For every "weak" verb (i.e. regular verb), you only need to learn the INFINITIVE. From the INFINITIVE, you can derive ...

derived form	formula	abbreviated name for the preceding formula
... the present stem, as well as the imperative 2nd person singular	INFINITIVE – en, *or* (!) INFINITIVE – n, *if the INFINITIVE doesn't end in -en*	PRS/IMP
... the preterite stem, as well as the conditional II stem	PRS/IMP + t *or* (!) PRS/IMP + et, *if PRS/IMP ends in d, t, or in more than one consonant* = INFINITIVE – (e)n + (e)t	PRT/CO2
... the past participle with its auxiliary verb in infinitive form	ge + PRT/CO2 haben = ge + INFINITIVE – (e)n + (e)t haben	PPC

Some examples of "weak" verbs (i.e. regular verbs)

INFINITIVE	PRS/IMP	PRT/CO2	PPC
fragen "to ask"	frag	fragt	gefragt haben "to have asked"
lieben "to love"	lieb	liebt	geliebt haben "to have loved"
ordnen "to bring in order"	ordn	ordnet (!), instead of ‡ordnt	geordnet haben "to have brought in order"
arbeiten "to work"	arbeit	arbeitet (!), instead of ‡arbeitt	gearbeitet haben "to have worked"
handeln "to trade, to act"	handel (!)	handelt	gehandelt haben "to have traded, to have acted"

Using these derived forms, you can form all other forms of a "weak" verb (i.e. regular verb).

The non-synthetic tenses and moods of the "weak" verb, i.e. the tenses and moods being formed by merely altering the form of the verb itself

		singular				plural		
	person:	1st	2nd	2nd polite	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd
tense or mood	meaning of the tense or mood	ich "I"	du "you, †thou"	Sie "you"	er, sie, es "he, she, it"	wir "we"	ihr "you"	sie "they"
imperative	"Walk!"		PRS/IMP + (e)[1]	INFINITIVE			PRS/IMP + (e)[1]t	
present indicative	"I walk." "I am walking."	PRS/IMP + e	PRS/IMP + (e)[1]st	INFINITIVE	PRS/IMP + (e)[1]t	INFINITIVE	PRS/IMP + (e)[1]t	INFINITIVE
conditional I (present subjunctive)	TO BE DONE	PRS/IMP + e	PRS/IMP + est	INFINITIVE	PRS/IMP + e	INFINITIVE	PRS/IMP + et	INFINITIVE
preterite (imperfect) indicative	"I walked."	PRT/CO2 + e	PRT/CO2 + est	PRT/CO2 + en	PRT/CO2 + e	PRT/CO2 + en	PRT/CO2 + et	PRT/CO2 + en
conditional II (preterite subjunctive)	"I would walk."	PRT/CO2 + e	PRT/CO2 + est	PRT/CO2 + en	PRT/CO2 + e	PRT/CO2 + en	PRT/CO2 + et	PRT/CO2 + en

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1 Add this e, if PRS/IMP ends in d, t, or in more than one consonant.

<u>General remarks on the use of these forms</u>

1. Almost all forms must be preceded by the corresponding pronoun or noun. E. g. *ich frage*, etc.
2. **Exceptions** to this are:
2.1. The imperative 2nd person singular and plural is used without a corresponding pronoun or noun: *Frag! Fragt!* Etc.
2.2. The **polite** imperative 2nd person singular is followed by the corresponding pronoun: *Fragen Sie!*

<u>Tricks for every day speech</u>

1. The **conditional I** can be freely replaced with the **present** indicative.
2. The **preterite** can be freely replaced with the **present perfect**. (See the *synthetic* tenses and moods below.)
3. The **conditional II** can be freely replaced with the **conditional III**. (See the *synthetic* tenses and moods below.)

The five forms that you need to learn for every "strong" verb (i.e. irregular verb)

form or ※ derived form	formula	abbreviated name for the preceding formula
the INFINITIVE		
※ the present stem 1	INFINITIVE – en	PRS1
the present stem 2	present indicative 3rd person singular – t	PRS2
the imperative 2nd person singular		IMP
the preterite stem	preterite indicative 3rd person singular	PRT
※ the conditional II stem	PRT + ¨ on the vowel, *if the vowel is a, o, or u otherwise just* PRT	CO2
the past participle with its auxiliary verb in infinitive form		PPC

Some examples of "strong verbs" (i.e. irregular verbs)

INFINITIVE => PRS1	PRS2	IMP	PRT => CO2	PPC
sehen "to see" => seh	sieh	**Sieh**! "See!"	sah => säh	gesehen haben "to have seen"
fahren "to drive" => fahr	**fähr**	Fahr! "Drive!"	fuhr => führ	gefahren sein "to have driven"
geben "to give" => geb	gib	**Gib**! "Give!"	gab => gäb	gegeben haben "to have given"
gehen "to go" => geh	geh	Geh! "Go!"	ging => ging (!)	ge**gang**en sein "to have gone"
stoßen "to push" => stoß	**stöß**	Stoß! "Push!"	stieß => stieß (!)	gestoßen haben "to have pushed"
frieren "to feel cold" => frier	frier	Frier! "Feel cold!"	fror => frör	ge**fror**en haben "to have felt cold"

Using these forms, you can form all other forms of a "strong" verb (i.e. irregular verb).

The non-synthetic tenses and moods of the "strong" verb, i.e. the tenses and moods being formed by merely altering the form of the verb itself

		singular				plural		
person:		1st	2nd	2nd polite	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd
tense or mood	meaning of the tense or mood	ich "I"	du "you, †thou"	Sie "you"	er, sie, es "he, she, it"	wir "we"	ihr "you"	sie "they"
imperative	"Walk!"		IMP	INFINITIVE			PRS1 + t	
present indicative	"I walk." "I am walking."	PRS1 + e	PRS2 + st	INFINITIVE	PRS2 + t	INFINITIVE	PRS1 + t	INFINITIVE
conditional I (present subjunctive)	TO BE DONE	PRS1 + e	PRS1 + est	INFINITIVE	PRS1 + e	INFINITIVE	PRS1 + et	INFINITIVE
preterite (imperfect) indicative	"I walked."	**PRT**	PRT + **st**	PRT + en	**PRT**	PRT + en	PRT + **t**	PRT + en
conditional II (preterite subjunctive)	"I would walk."	CO2 + e	CO2 + est	CO2 + en	CO2 + e	CO2 + en	CO2 + et	CO2 + en

The *synthetic* tenses and moods of *all* verbs, i.e. the tenses and moods being formed by adding an auxiliary verb to the verb in question

tense or mood	meaning of the tense or mood	formula *auxiliary verb* + verb form
conditional III	"I would walk."	*würde* + INFINITIVE
future indicative	"I will walk." or "I'm going to walk."	*werde* (1) + INFINITIVE
†future conditional (future subjunctive)	"I would walk." (in the future)	*werde* (2) + INFINITIVE
present perfect indicative	"I have walked."	*habe* (1) / *bin* + PPC
present perfect conditional (present perfect subjunctive)	"I would have walked."	*habe* (2) / *sei* + PPC
preterite perfect indicative (past perfect indicative)	"I had walked."	*hatte* / *war* + PPC
preterite perfect conditional (preterite perfect subjunctive)	"I would have walked." (in the past long ago)	*hätte* / *wäre* + PPC
†future perfect indicative	"I will have walked."	*werde* (1) + PAST INFINITIVE[2]
†future perfect conditional (future perfect subjunctive)	"I would have walked." (in the future)	*würde* + PAST INFINITIVE

General remarks on the use of these forms

1. The **future conditional** is basically **not** used anymore in any way.
2. The **future perfect and its conditional** is basically **not** used anymore in any way.

Tricks for every day speech

1. The **future** can be freely replaced with the **present**, if you also add an **adverb denoting a moment in time in the future**.
2. The **present perfect conditional** can be freely replaced with the **present perfect**.

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2   The PAST INFINITIVE will be mentioned later.

The passive (always formed synthetically)

The passive can in general be completely avoided by formulating your sentence differently.

TO BE COMPLETED ...

The highly irregular forms of the mentioned auxiliary verbs

	the infinitives of the mentioned auxiliary verbs										
	werden			haben				sein			
	present indicative	conditional I	conditional II	present indicative	conditional I	preterite indicative	conditional II	present indicative	conditional I	preterite indicative	conditional II
	werde (1)	†*werde* (2)	*würde*	*habe* (1)	*habe* (2)	*hatte*	*hätte*	*bin*	*sei*	*war*	*wäre*
ich "I"	werde	werde	würde	habe	habe	hatte	hätte	bin	sei	war	wäre
du "you, †thou"	wirst	werdest	würdest	hast	habest	hattest	hättest	bist	seist	warst	wärest
Sie "you (polite)"	werden	werden	würden	haben	haben	hatten	hätten	sind	seien	waren	wären
er, sie, es "he, she, it"	wird	werde	würde	hat	habe	hatte	hätte	ist	sei	war	wäre
wir "we"	werden	werden	würden	haben	haben	hatten	hätten	sind	seien	waren	wären
ihr "you (plural)"	werdet	werdet	würdet	habt	habet	hattet	hättet	seid	seiet	wart	wäret
sie "they"	werden	werden	würden	haben	haben	hatten	hätten	sind	seien	waren	wären

General remarks on the use of these forms

1. Since the **future conditional** is basically not used anymore in any way, *werde* (2) can be safely ignored.

The three infinitives

form	meaning of the form	formula
present infinitive	"to walk"	INFINITIVE
future infinitive	"to walk" (in the future)	INFINITIVE + werden
past infinitive	"to have walked"	PPC + sein / haben

The other participle

form	meaning of the form	formula
†present participle	"walking"	INFINITIVE + d

General remarks

The **present participle** is basically not used anymore in any way.