Past Participle — Short & Simple (A2)

1) What is the past participle? What is it used for?

The past participle is a verb form. It indicates that an action is finished or completed.

The past participle is used for: - the perfect
tense (past): I have eaten. - the passive voice: The house is being
built. (built = past participle) - as an adjective: the opened door.

Note: Participle II is only the verb form (e.g., eaten, gone).
The perfect tense consists of: haben/sein + past participle (e.g., Ich habe essen).

2) Formation – simple rules - Regular: ge- +

stem + -t ÿ machen ÿ gemacht - Irregular (strong): ge- + stem (vowel

change) + -en ÿ gehen ÿ gegangen, sehen ÿ gesehen - Mixed: ge- + stem (vowel change) + -t ÿ bringen ÿ gebracht,
denken ÿ

gedacht - Separable verbs: prefix + ge- + stem + -t/-en ÿ aufstehen ÿ aufgestanden, aufmachen ÿ aufgemacht -

Inseparable prefixes: no ge-, often -t/-en ÿ verstehen ÿ verstehen, besuchen ÿ Besuch - Verbs ending in -ieren: no ge-, stem
+ -t ÿ studieren

ÿ studieren, telefonieren ÿ telefoniert **3) Modal** verbs Modal verbs: dürfen, können, mögen, müssen, sollen, wollen.

Participle II: durft, able, liked, must, should, wanted.

These forms are rarely used in everyday speech. Modal verbs in the perfect tense usually appear with two infinitives at
the end of a sentence: ÿ I have been

able to sing. (not: *I have been able to sing*)

The past participle is only used if no other verb follows: ÿ He couldn't do it.

4) Important exceptions - Not

all -ieren verbs are regular: verlieren ÿ verloren (strong, no ge-).
- Some inseparable verbs are strong: bekommen ÿ bekommen.
- Important strong forms: sein ÿ gewesen, haben ÿ gehabt, werden ÿ geworden.
- Other irregular forms: essen ÿ gegessen, trinken ÿ gotrunken.

5) Common strong / irregular verbs

eat ÿ eaten go ÿ gone
come ÿ come read ÿ read
write ÿ written speak ÿ spoken
drink ÿ drunk sleep ÿ
slept help ÿ helped take ÿ taken
get ÿ received

lose ÿ lost find ÿ found
bring ÿ brought think ÿ
thought stay ÿ stayed see
ÿ seen know ÿ known do
ÿ done be ÿ been have ÿ
had