Conversational Past: The Basics

1. Place conjugated form of *haben (or sein)* in 2nd position and place past participle of main VERB in last position.

2. Past participle of main VERB adds *ge-* to the front of it.

3. Follow regular word order for the rest of the sentence:

BASIC = Sub + conj *haben* + [time~manner~place] + DirOb + past participle main VERB

BETTER = time + conj *haben* + Sub + [manner~place] + DirOb + past participle main VERB

Conversational Past: The Specifics

Forms of *haben*

ich habe	wir haben
du hast	ihr habt
er, sie, es hat	sie, Sie haben

Forms of *sein*

ich bin	wir sind
du bist	ihr seid
er, sie, es ist	sie, Sie sind

Forming Past Participles of MAIN VERB

1. weak main verb:

ge + STEM + *t*   EX: hat...gespielt   EX: ist...gewandert

spielen = to play   wandern = to hike

2. weak main verb with STEMS needing bonus "e":

ge + STEM + "e" + *t*   EX: hat...gezeichnet

zeichnen = to draw   fahren = to go by vehicle

3. STRONG main verb:

ge + given STEM + *en*   EX: hat...gefunden   EX: ist...geschwommen

finden = to find   schwimmen = to swim

4. weak main verb with separable prefix:

prefix + *ge* + STEM + *t*   EX: hat...aufgeräumt

aufräumen = to pick up

5. STRONG main verb with separable prefix:

prefix + *ge* + given STEM + *en*   EX: hat...ausgesehen

aussehen = to look like

6. weak main verb with INSEPARABLE prefix:

inseparable prefix + STEM + *t*   EX: hat...besucht

besuchen = to visit

7. STRONG main verb with INSEPARABLE prefix:

inseparable prefix + given STEM + *en*   EX: hat...versprochen

versprechen = to promise

8. weak verbs ending with *–ieren*:

STEM + *t* EX: hat...sortiert   sortieren = to sort

separable prefix + STEM + *t* EX: hat...anprobiert   anprobieren = to try on

9. STRONG verbs ending with *ieren*:

(inseparabel prefix +) given STEM + *en*   EX: hat...verloren verlieren = to lose