

The past tense: “weak” verbs

11.1 Weak and strong verbs

The verbs in all Germanic languages can be divided into two major classes according to whether:

- 1 the past tense is formed by the addition of a suffix to the stem = WEAK

to reside	resided	(has) resided
wonen	woonde(n)	(heeft) gewoond

or

- 2 the past tense is formed by a vowel change in the stem itself = STRONG

to sing	sang	(has) sung
zingen	zong	(heeft) gezongen

11.2 Simple past of weak verbs

The past tense of weak verbs is formed by adding **-t-** or **-d-** to the stem of the verb, and then the endings **-e** for the singular and **-en** for the plural:

Simple past = **stem + t/d + e(n)**

koken = to cook		horen = to hear	
ik		ik	
jij	kookte	jij	hoorde
u		u	
hij/zij/het		hij/zij/het	

wij		wij	
jullie	kookten	jullie	hoorden
zij		zij	

11.2.1 t or d?

The choice of **t** or **d** as the sign of the past is automatically determined by the consonant in the infinitive.

- 1 The endings **-te**, **-ten** are used after voiceless consonants (**t**, **k**, **f**, **s**, **ch**, **p**). A handy way to remember them is with the word 't kofschip, a name for an old type of sailing vessel:

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Translation</i>	<i>Simple past singular</i>	<i>Simple past plural</i>
zetten	to set	zette	zetten
praten	to talk	praatte	praatten
roken	to smoke	rookte	rookten
straffen	to punish	strafte	strafden
fietsen	to cycle	fietste	fietsten
lachen	to laugh	lachte	lachten
hopen	to hope	hoopte	hoopten
kloppen	to knock	klopte	klopten

Notice that since **-tt-** is a spelling convention and pronounced like single **t**, and **-n** is dropped in ordinary speech, **praten** (infinitive), **praatte** (simple past, singular), **praatten** (simple past plural) are all pronounced alike.

- 2 Verbs that do not have any of the above consonants in their infinitive take a **-de/-den** ending:

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Translation</i>	<i>Simple past singular</i>	<i>Simple past plural</i>
bestellen	to order	bestelde	bestelden
bouwen	to build	bouwde	bouwden
naaien	to sew	naaide	naaiden
studeren	to study	studeerde	studeerden
schudden	to shake	schudde	schudden
leggen	to lay	legde	legden
antwoorden	to answer	antwoordde	antwoordden

- 3 Verbs with **v** or **z** in the infinitive also add the endings **-de, -den**, but these endings are added to the *stem* of the verb:

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Translation</i>	<i>Stem</i>	<i>Simple past singular</i>	<i>Simple past plural</i>
leven	to live	leef-	leefde	leefden
geloven	to believe	geloof-	geloofde	geloofden
reizen	to travel	reis-	reisde	reisden
glanzen	to shine	glans-	glansde	glansden

The explanation of this is the familiar rule that the letters **v** and **z** may not close a syllable. The pronunciation does not follow this, however, and the past tense forms on the right are pronounced as *leevde*, *geloovde*, *reizde*, *glanzde*.

11.2.2 *By the way*

Most Dutch speakers in the *Randstad* area pronounce the sound spelled **g** in the same way as that spelled **ch**, which would make it seem as though a verb like **leggen** ought to have the ending **-te**, as does **lachen**. The **-de** ending, however, reflects the fact that for many Dutch speakers, particularly in the southern provinces and in the whole of Dutch-speaking Belgium, the sounds **g** (voiced) and **ch** (voiceless) are as sharply distinguished from one another as are **v** and **f**, or **z** and **s**.

11.2.3 Let's try it

Supply the past tense.

- (**werken**) Hij _____ in de jaren 70 bij de Universiteit van Groningen.
 (**wonen**) Wij _____ toen nog in de polder.
 (**praten**) Jij _____ gisteren de hele tijd met haar.
 (**schudden**) Sara en Karel _____ echt van het lachen.
 (**verhuizen**) Wij _____ in dat jaar naar het oosten van het land.
 (**zetten**) Met Sinterklaas _____ ik altijd mijn schoen.
 (**hopen, regenen**) Zij _____ op mooi weer, maar volgens mij _____ het de hele tijd.
 (**verven**) Ik _____ mijn haar op Koninginnedag helemaal oranje.

11.3 The past participle

The past participle in Dutch consists of the stem of the verb plus either **d** or **t** and a prefix **ge-**:

past participle = **ge-** + stem + **d/t**

- 1 The **-t** ending is used when the final consonant of the stem is any of the consonants in **'t kofschip**, provided it is the same consonant in the infinitive.
- 2 The **-d** ending is used for all other weak verbs.

Note

- 1 In pronunciation there is no difference between **-t** and **-d** at the end of the word.
- 2 Since doubled letters may never stand at the end of a word in Dutch, no **-t** or **-d** is added to verbs whose stems already end in **-t** or **-d**:

praten
to talk

gepraat hebben
to have talked

antwoorden
to answer

geantwoord hebben
to have answered

II

The

past tense:
“weak” verbs

	PRESENT TENSE, INFINITIVE		PAST TENSE		PAST PARTICIPLE	
VOICELESS	kloppen	to knock	<input type="text" value="p"/>	te	<input type="text" value="p"/>	
	hopen	to hope	<input type="text" value="t"/>		<input type="text" value="t"/> -	
	zetten	to set	<input type="text" value="k"/>		ge	<input type="text" value="k"/> t
	praten	to talk	<input type="text" value="f"/>			
	pakken	to pack	<input type="text" value="s"/>		<input type="text" value="s"/>	
	roken	to smoke	<input type="text" value="ch"/>		<input type="text" value="ch"/>	
	straffen	to punish	<input type="text" value="b"/>		<input type="text" value="b"/>	
	missen	to miss	<input type="text" value="d"/>		<input type="text" value="d"/> -	
VOICED	fietsen	to cycle	<input type="text" value="g"/>	de	ge	
	kuchen	to cough	<input type="text" value="f"/>			<input type="text" value="f"/> d
	krabben	to scratch	<input type="text" value="s"/>			
	schudden	to shake	<input type="text" value=""/>			<input type="text" value=""/>
	baden	to bathe	<input type="text" value=""/>			<input type="text" value=""/>
	leggen	to lay	<input type="text" value=""/>			<input type="text" value=""/>
volgen	to follow	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value=""/>			
leven	to live	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value=""/>			
reizen	to travel	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value=""/>			
(all others)		<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value=""/>			

Dutch has six unstressed verbal prefixes, **be-**, **er-**, **ge-**, **her-**, **ont-** and **ver-**. The participle prefix **ge-** is not added to verbs that already have one of these six prefixes:

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Translation</i>	<i>Simple past</i>	<i>Past participle</i>
bedanken	to thank	bedankte(n)	bedankt
erkennen	to admit	erkende(n)	erkend
geloven	to believe	geloofde(n)	geloofd
herhalen	to repeat	herhaalde(n)	herhaald
ontmoeten	to meet	ontmoette(n)	ontmoet
verklaren	to explain	verklaarde(n)	verklaard

Note

1 The prefix **er-** occurs in only two verbs:

erkennen	to admit
ervaren	to experience

2 **Her-** always adds a meaning of “again” to the verb:

herbouwen	to rebuild
herrijzen	to rise again

Note that (unlike German) the thousands of verbs ending in **-eren** do require the participle prefix **ge-** regardless of the length of the verb:

noteren	to note	noteerde(n)	genoteerd
activeren	to activate	activeerde(n)	geactiveerd
digitaliseren	to digitalize	digitaliseerde(n)	gedigitaliseerd

11.3.1 Let's try it

What is the past participle of these verbs?

fietsen	pakken	antwoorden	herinneren
zeggen	ontdekken	trouwen	geloven
betalen	leven		

11.4 The present perfect

The present perfect tense consists of the past participle of the verb accompanied by the appropriate form of the auxiliary verb **hebben/zijn** (in English, for example, “I have talked”).

(For when to use **hebben** or **zijn**, see Chapter 12.)

Present perfect = **hebben/zijn . . . ge- + stem + d/t**

Note: The greatest difference from English, however, is the fact that the auxiliary verb and past participle do not normally appear next to one another. In a regular sentence, the auxiliary verb is positioned immediately after the subject (or second in the sentence; see remarks on word order in Chapter 5) and the participle is *always* placed at the end of the clause:

II

The

past tense:
“weak” verbs

Hij heeft een huis gebouwd.

He has built a house.

Heb je vaak met haar gepraat?

Have you talked to her often?

Ik heb hem vaak in de stad in de bibliotheek ontmoet.

I have met him often in the library in the city.

Gisteren heeft ze wat aardappelen gekookt.

She cooked some potatoes yesterday.

Bij de kruidenier hebben wij wat kaas besteld.

We ordered some cheese at the grocer's.

Ik ben naar huis gewandeld.

I walked home.

11.4.1 Let's try it

Supply the present perfect.

(fietsen) Hij _____ gisteren uren door de stad _____.

(antwoorden) Maria _____ niet op de vraag _____.

(studeren) De twee zusjes _____ allebei in Utrecht _____.

(zeggen) Jij _____ op maandag niet zo veel _____.

(dansen) _____ jullie dit weekend lekker _____?

(horen) De docent _____ de vraag niet _____.

(geloven) Ik _____ zijn verhaal niet _____.

(betalen) Wie _____ de koffie _____?

(praten) Vorige week _____ ik uren met hem _____.

(reizen) De president _____ als kind veel _____.

The past tense: “strong” verbs

12.1 Simple past of strong verbs

The simple past tense of strong verbs is indicated by some difference from the present in the vowel of the stem. First, let us note how a typical strong verb is conjugated in the simple past:

zingen to sing

Present

Simple past

ik	zing	I sing	ik	zong	I sang
jij	zingt	you sing	jij	zong	you sang
u	zingt	you sing	u	zong	you sang
hij/zij/het	zingt	he/she/it sings	hij/zij/het	zong	he/she/it sang
wij	zingen	we sing	wij	zongen	we sang
jullie	zingen	you sing	jullie	zongen	you sang
zij	zingen	they sing	zij	zongen	they sang

The singular of the simple past tense is simply the stem without any ending, the past tense being indicated in this case by the change from *i* to *o*.

12.2 Vowel changes in the stem

There are a number of different ways in which the vowel of the stem might change. By an old tradition, in the Germanic languages, we arrange these in seven classes, each illustrated here with one verb. The past participle has the prefix *ge-* and, like the English strong verb “give,” ends in an *-en*.

	<i>Infinitive</i>		<i>Simple past singular/plural</i>	<i>Past participle</i>
1	blijven	to stay	bleef/bleven	gebleven
2a	bieden	to offer	bood/boden	geboden
2b	buigen	to bend	boog/bogen	gebogen
3a	binden	to tie	bond/bonden	gebonden
3b	zenden	to send	zond/zonden	gezonden
4	nemen	to take	nam/namen	genomen
5a	geven	to give	gaf/gaven	gegeven
5b	liggen	to lie	lag/lagen	gelegen
6	dragen	to carry	droeg/droegen	gedragen
7a	laten	to let	liet/lieten	gelaten
7b	helpen	to help	hielp/hielpen	geholpen
8	Minor groups, represented by only a few members each:			
8a	hangen	to hang	hingen/hing	gehangen
8b	bewegen	to move	bewoog/bewogen	bewogen
8c	zweren	to swear	zwoer/zwoeren	gezworen

Note: The simple past of classes 4 and 5 has a *short* vowel in the singular but a *long* vowel in the plural.



and **lag** **la.....gen**
bad **ba.....den**

just like **dag** **da.....gen**
weg **we.....gen**
god **go.....den**

12.2.1 A few other strong verbs present slight irregularities:

verliezen	to lose	verloor/verloren	verloren
komen	to come	kwam/kwamen	gekomen
houden	to hold	hield/hielden	gehouden
eten	to eat	at/aten	gegeten
worden	to become	werd/werden	geworden

For more irregularities, see also Chapter 13.

12.2.2 *Verliezen and vergeten*

verliezen: usually **hebben** is used. **zijn** is also used in spoken language or in the expression **icmand/iets uit het oog verliezen** (to lose track of someone).

vergeten: **hebben** or **zijn** depends on the meaning. **hebben** if **vergeten** means to not think about something: **Ik heb mijn paraplu vergeten** “I forgot my umbrella.” **zijn** if **vergeten** means to lose from one’s memory: **Ik ben jouw naam vergeten** “I forgot your name.”

A list of the strong verbs used in this text is to be found in the appendix, “Strong and irregular verbs in common use.” Although the total number of strong verbs in the Dutch language is smaller than the number of weak verbs, many of the most common verbs are strong. Since there is no foolproof way of predicting the past tense of a given strong verb, the principal parts (infinitive–simple past–past participle) must be learned with each verb. In the Dutch–English vocabulary in the grammar, the past tense and past participle forms are supplied for each strong verb. Principal parts of weak verbs, since they are regularly predictable, are given only in the case of irregular verbs.

12.2.3

The infinitive gives no clue as to whether a verb is weak or strong. However, when verbs are strong, one can find recurring patterns within each class of strong verbs.

Look at the recurring pattern between the two strong verbs **rijden** and **schrijven**:

rijden to drive	reed/reden drove	heeft/ is gereden driven
schrijven to write	schreef/schreven wrote	heeft geschreven written

But here you find pairs of two verbs that look similar in the infinitive: one is strong and one weak:

hopen to hope	hoopte/hoopten hoped	heeft gehoopt hoped
lopen to run/walk	liep/liepen ran/walked	heeft/ is gelopen ran/walked
fietsen to cycle	fietste/fietsten cycled	heeft gefietst cycled
bieden to offer	bood/boden offered	heeft geboden offered
kijken to watch	keek/keken watched	heeft gekeken watched
bevrijden to liberate	bevrijdde/bevrijdden liberated	heeft bevrijd liberated

12.2.4 Let's try it

Give the simple past of the following (strong) verbs:

kijken	worden	bieden	lopen
schrikken	zwemmen	komen	

12.3 Conjugation with *hebben* or *zijn*?

Many verbs are conjugated in the perfect tense with the verb **hebben** rather than with **zijn**. But verbs that indicate a change of place or state, provided they are intransitive (i.e. can take no object), take **zijn**:

Hij is op de grond gevallen.

He fell on the floor. (he has fallen . . .)

Zij is in Rotterdam gestorven.

She died in Rotterdam.

Verbs indicating a specific means of locomotion use **zijn** if the destination is specified or implied; **hebben** if it is not:

Wij zijn naar de stad gelopen.

We (have) walked downtown.

Wij hebben de hele dag gelopen.

We walked all day.

Ik ben naar de stad gereden.

I drove downtown.

Ik heb nooit in zijn auto gereden.

I have never driven his car.

Ik ben naar Amsterdam gevlogen.

I flew to Amsterdam.

Ik heb nooit gevlogen.

I have never been in a plane.

Nearly all verbs that take **zijn** in the perfect tense are strong. The verbs **blijven** and **zijn**, although they show no change of place or state, also take **zijn**:

Hij is thuis gebleven.

He (has) stayed home.

Wij zijn nooit in Friesland geweest.

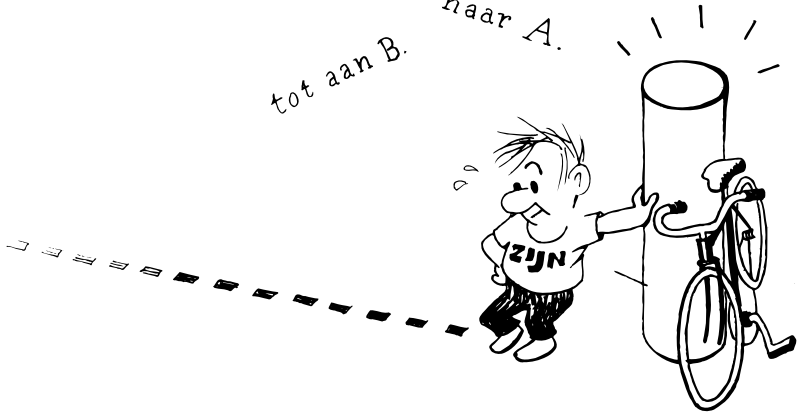
We have never been to Friesland.

12.3.1 Let's try it

Supply the present perfect.

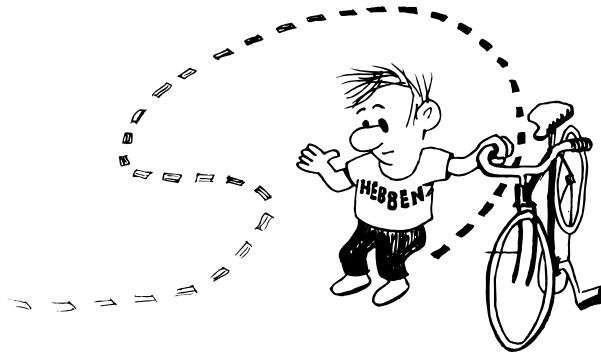
- 1 Gisteren (**rijden**) wij naar Maastricht.
- 2 We (**lopen**) de hele dag in de stad.
- 3 Vorige winter (**schaatsen**) wij tot in Leeuwarden.
- 4 Mijn haar (**worden**) dertig centimeter langer.
- 5 Wij (**vliegen**) in minder dan zes uur naar Zaventem, de luchthaven van Brussel!

hier naar toe de stad in
tot aan B. naar A. weg-



Ik ben ... gelopen Hij is ... gefietst Zij zijn ... gevlogen

veel een uur
nooit in A. rond-



Ik heb ... gelopen Hij heeft ... gefietst Zij hebben ... gevlogen

- 6 Annie M.G. Schmidt (**sterven**) in 1995.*
 7 Dit weekend (**fietsen**) wij drie uur lang door het bos.
 8 Ik (**vliegen**) gisteren voor het eerst van mijn leven.
 9 (**schaatsen**) jij weleens op natuurijs?
 10 Ik (**wandelen**) gisteren heerlijk in het Vondelpark.

12.4 Past participle without **ge-**

When the infinitive of a verb starts with **be-**, **ge-**, **er-**, **her-**, **ver-** or **ont-**, the past participle of that verb does not take **ge-**, whether the verb is weak or strong.

(See also paragraph 11.3.)

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Translation</i>	<i>Simple past singular/plural</i>	<i>Past participle</i>
beginnen	to begin	begon/begonnen	begonnen
beamen	to confirm	beaamde/beaamden	beaamd
genezen	to cure	genas/genazen	genezen
geloven	to believe	geloofde/geloofden	geloofd
ervaren	to experience	ervoer/ervoeren	ervaren
erkennen	to recognize	erkende/erkenden	erkend
herlezen	to re-read	herlas/herlazen	herlezen
herhalen	to repeat	herhaalde/ herhaalden	herhaald
verliezen	to lose	verloor/verloren	verloren
vertrouwen	to trust	vertrouwde/ vertrouwden	vertrouwd
onthouden	to remember	onthield/onthielden	onthouden
ontdekken	to discover	ontdekte/ontdekten	ontdekt

* Anna Maria Geertruida Schmidt (Kapelle, 20 May 1911–Amsterdam, 21 May 1995) was a Dutch poet and writer. She wrote a large variety of poems, songs, plays, musicals and books. She is best known for her children's literature, most popular of which is the series *Jip en Janneke*. She died at the age of 84 and is buried in Amsterdam.

Some irregular verbs; the past perfect tense

13.1 Irregular verbs

In addition to the strong and weak verbs in Dutch, there are a few verbs, either strong or weak, that show a variety of irregularities.

13.1.1 Strong verbs

doen	deed, deden	heeft gedaan	to do
slaan	sloeg, sloegen	heeft geslagen	to hit
staan	stond, stonden	heeft gestaan	to stand
zien	zag, zagen	heeft gezien	to see
gaan	ging, gingen	is gegaan	to go
weten	wist, wisten	heeft geweten	to know

13.1.2 Showing a change of vowel but having a weak past participle

brenge	bracht, brachten	heeft gebracht	to bring
denke	dacht, dachten	heeft gedacht	to think
kopen	kocht, kochten	heeft gekocht	to buy
vragen	vroeg, vroegen	heeft gevraagd	to ask
zoeken	zocht, zochten	heeft gezocht	to look for
zegge	zei, zeiden	heeft gezegd	to say
kunne	kon, konden	heeft gekund	to be able

13.1.3 *Mixed, with weak past but strong past participle*

bakken	bakte/bakten	heeft gebakken	to fry, to bake
lachen	lachte/lachten	heeft gelachen	to laugh
heten	heette/heetten	heeft geheten	to be called
scheiden	scheidde/scheidden	heeft gescheiden	to separate
wassen	waste/wasten	heeft gewassen	to wash

13.1.4

The two most common verbs also form their past tense and past participle irregularly:

hebben	had, hadden	heeft gehad	to have
zijn	wās, wāren	is geweest	to be

Like English was/were, the singular gets an s, and the plural an r.

zien: short vowel in singular and long vowel in plural of the simple past:

Gisteren zāg hij ons in de bioscoop, maar wij zāgen hem niet.

He saw us at the movies yesterday, but we didn't see him.

13.1.5 *Let's try it*

Fill in the table.

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Simple past singular</i>	<i>Simple past plural</i>	<i>Past participle</i>
staan			
vragen			
lachen			
zien			
zijn			

13.2 Past perfect tense

Simple past of **hebben/zijn** + past participle

Hij was naar Parijs gegaan.

He had gone to Paris.

The past perfect tense is formed by using the past tense of the auxiliaries **hebben** or **zijn** and the past participle of the action verb:

Ik had een brief geschreven.

I had written a letter.

Had ze dat al gehoord?

Had she already heard that?

Zij waren nog niet gekomen.

They had not come yet.

Hij was naar Wassenaar gegaan.

He had gone to Wassenaar.

Zij had nog nooit Nederlands gehoord.

She had never heard Dutch.

13.3 Use of the tenses

Although the Dutch **ik schreef** has been rendered here by “I wrote” and **ik heb geschreven** by “I have written,” the Dutch usage of the simple past and perfect tenses does not correspond as closely to English usage as we imply by this.

13.3.1 Simple past

The simple past is used to describe different actions in the past.

To describe a habit from the past:

Toen ik klein was, woonde ik in Amsterdam.

When I was small, I lived in Amsterdam.

Vroeger at ik elke dag een appel.

I used to eat an apple every day.

To describe something in general:

Er zaten veel mensen te wachten.

A lot of people were waiting.

Like English, Dutch uses the simple past for the narration of a series of events in the past:

Hij ging naar de stad, kocht een jas, zag zijn vriend, praatte met hem en kwam toen terug.

He went downtown, bought a coat, saw his friend and talked with him and then came back.

13.3.2 Present perfect

The present perfect is used in the following cases.

To illustrate that a situation is finished:

Wij hebben 5 jaar in Utrecht gewoond.

We lived for 5 years in Utrecht.

Hij heeft zijn huiswerk gemaakt.

He did his homework.

To illustrate that an action is over and done with:

Ik heb mijn auto gewassen.

I washed my car.

Hij heeft de woonkamer schoongemaakt.

He cleaned the living room.

To illustrate an action that is not performed daily and took place in the past:

Vorige week heb ik een nieuwe computer gekocht.

Last week, I bought a new computer.

For the expression of isolated events in the past, Dutch generally uses the perfect tense, whereas English tends to use the perfect tense only for a more indefinite past time without specific connection to the present.

Ik heb hem gisteren gezien.

I saw him yesterday.

We hebben ons kopje koffie in de kamer gedronken.

We drank our cup of coffee in the living room.

Hij is om de hoek verdwenen.

He disappeared around the corner.

Ik heb hem nooit gezien.

I have never seen him.

Ik heb haar daar vaak ontmoet.

I have often met her there.

Note: The English versions of the first three examples would not sound right in the perfect tense.

When a verb describes an action that began in the past and continues at the present time, Dutch requires the present tense, usually accompanied by **nu** or **al**, whereas English uses the perfect tense:

Wij zijn al twee maanden in Nederland.

We have been in the Netherlands for two months.

Ik wacht al een uur op je!

I have been waiting an hour for you!

Hij is al jaren weg.

He has been gone for years.

Note: Dutch uses the perfect tense more and the simple past correspondingly less than English.

13.3.3 Past perfect

The past perfect is used for an event that takes place in the past before another past event takes place. In this respect, Dutch and English correspond with one another:

Hij had de was gedaan, toen zij telefoneerde.

He had done his laundry when she called.

Nadat ik had afgewassen, belde ik mijn moeder.

After I had done the dishes, I called my mother.

Zij vertelde dat zij vorige week in New York was geweest.

She said that she had been in New York last week.

Note on word order

Just as in the present perfect, the conjugated auxiliary (**hebben/zijn**) is in second position in the main clause. If there is a dependent clause, as in **toen zij telefoneerde**, the conjugated verb goes at the *end* of the dependent clause.

13.3.4 Let's try it

Fill in the simple past and past perfect where appropriate:

- 1 Vanmorgen (**moeten**) ik naar de tandarts. Ik (**zijn**) nog nooit eerder bij haar.
- 2 Nadat ik mijn boodschappen (**doen**), (**gaan**) ik bij De Poort lunchen.
- 3 In de vakantie (**lezen**) ik de nieuwste roman van Mulisch.* Ik (**horen**) er al veel over.
- 4 Vroeger (**lopen**) ik graag een uur langs het strand. Mijn vriendin (**gaan**) dan vaak mee.
- 5 Toen wij klein (**zijn**), (**lezen**) wij elke dag een stukje in de bijbel.
- 6 Voordat Ali naar Nederland (**komen**), (**horen**) hij nog nooit Nederlands.
- 7 Hij (**vragen**) of zij vorige week in Chicago een leuke tijd (**hebben**).
- 8 De docent (**stellen**) een vraag die niemand (**begrijpen**).

13.4 Verb plus preposition

Many verbs are commonly used together with a particular preposition, the selection of which is not predictable from a knowledge of English. These combinations can only be learned individually. (For more about prepositions, see Chapter 19.)

A few examples of verbs with their most usual preposition are given here:

Zij hebben het over het weer.

They are talking about the weather.

Zij wacht al een uur op me.

She has been waiting for me for an hour.

Hij vraagt om het adres.

He asks for the address.

* Harry Mulisch (born 29 July 1927) is a Dutch author. Along with W.F. Hermans and Gerard Reve, he is considered one of the "Great Three" of Dutch postwar literature. He has written novels, plays, essays, poems and philosophical reflections. Two of his most well-known novels are *De Aanslag* (The Assault, 1982) and *De Ontdekking van de Hemel* (The Discovery of Heaven, 1992).

Lach je om het t.v.-programma?

Are you laughing at the TV programme?

Ik denk niet vaak *aan* haar.

I don't think of/about her often.

Denk om je moeder!

Remember your mother!

De duinen bestaan hoofdzakelijk *uit* zand.

The dunes consist mostly of sand.

Ik houd niet *van* sinaasappels.

I don't like oranges.

Zij lijkt *op* haar moeder.

She looks like her mother.

Dat zei hij niet *tegen* mij.

He didn't say that to me/tell me that.

Ik zoek *naar* mijn overhemd.

I'm looking for my shirt.

Wij kijken *naar* de film.

We are watching the film.