

THE VERB "LASSEN" OVERVIEW

The verb "**lassen**" functions in the same way as the modal verbs, i.e. it can be used alone, or together with a dependent infinitive. If used with a double infinitive, the present perfect tense is formed, as with modal verbs, with a double infinitive.

1. When used alone, "**lassen**" = "to leave (someone or something) behind":

PRESENT	Er läßt seinen Mantel im Auto. <i>(He is leaving his coat in the car.)</i>
SIMPLE PAST	Er ließ seinen Mantel im Auto. <i>(He left his coat in the car.)</i>
PRES. PERFECT	Er hat seinen Mantel im Auto gelassen . <i>(He [has] left his coat in the car.)</i>

2. When used with a dependent infinitive, "**lassen**" = "to let " or "to permit":

PRESENT	Ich lasse meine Tochter nicht allein ausgehen . <i>(I'm not letting my daughter go out alone.)</i>
SIMPLE PAST	Ich ließ meine Tochter nicht allein ausgehen . <i>(I did not let my daughter go out alone.)</i>
PRES. PERFECT	Ich habe meine Tochter nicht allein ausgehen lassen . <i>(I did [have] not let my daughter go out alone.)</i>

3. When used with a dependent infinitive, "**lassen**" = "to have something done"

PRESENT	Er läßt sein Auto reparieren . <i>(He is having his car repaired.)</i>
SIMPLE PAST	Er ließ sein Auto reparieren . <i>(He had his car repaired.)</i>
PRESENT PERFECT	Er hat sein Auto reparieren lassen . <i>(He [has] had his car repaired.)</i>

4. "**Lassen**" is often used reflexively, with a dependent infinitive. "**sich lassen**" = "to have something done to or for oneself":

PRESENT	Ich lasse mich scheiden . <i>(I'm getting [having myself] divorced.)</i>	Ich lasse mir die Haare schneiden . <i>(I'm having my hair cut.)</i>
SIMPLE PAST	Ich ließ mich scheiden . <i>(I got [had myself] divorced.)</i>	Ich ließ mir die Haare schneiden . <i>(I had my hair cut.)</i>
PRES. PERFECT	Ich habe mich scheiden lassen . <i>(I've gotten [had myself] divorced.)</i>	Ich habe mir die Haare schneiden lassen . <i>(I [have] had my hair cut.)</i>

Examples:

Sie lassen sich den Weg zeigen.
(They are having the way shown to them.)

Warum läßt du dich nicht von deinem Freund abholen?
(Why don't you have yourself picked up by your friend?)

Hans und Renate lassen sich scheiden.
(Hans and Renate are getting divorced [having themselves divorced])._

Das läßt sich nicht machen.
(That can't be done [doesn't let itself be done].)

Er hat sich durch nichts stören lassen.
(He didn't let himself be disturbed by anything.)

Der Lehrer hat seine Schüler übersetzen lassen.
(The teacher had his students translate.)

Sie hat ihr Portemonnaie zu Hause gelassen.
(She left her portemonnaie at home.)

Ich habe mich vom Flughafen abholen lassen.
(I had myself picked up at the airport.)

Sie ließen ihren Sohn eine Reise machen.
(They let their son take a trip.)

Laß dir dein Auto waschen!
(Have your car washed!)