

Lassen (Partizip II: *gelassen + haben* / 2sg imperative: *lass!* / 2pl imperative: *lasst!*)

Präsens
ich lasse
du lässt
er/sie/es lässt
wir lassen
ihr lasst
sie/Sie lassen

Präteritum
ich ließ
du ließst
er/sie/es ließ
wir ließen
ihr ließst
sie/Sie ließen

The structure of sentences with *lassen* is similar to that of those with a modal verb: *Lassen* conjugates and the other verb appears at the end of the sentence as an infinitive as in this example: Ich lasse mein Auto reparieren. I'm having my car fixed.

In the perfect tense, *lassen* is used together with the other verb as a double infinitive as seen in these examples:

Habt ihr das Auto reparieren lassen? Did you guys get your car fixed? / Er hat sein Haus anmalen lassen. He had his house painted.

LEXICAL

leave, forget (an object somewhere) not to be confused with *verlassen* - leave a place, abandon

Ich habe meine Brille bei Rudi gelassen. I left my glasses at Rudi's.

leave, give (something for someone) Lassen Sie ihm DM20! Leave him DM20!

let (allow an action to occur); often used with the infinitival form of another verb

Lass das Seil herunter! Let down the rope!

Lässt du den Hund immer so umherlaufen? Do you always let the dog run around like that?

Er lässt das Telefon immer lange klingeln. He always lets the telephone ring a long time.

stop, quit (as in giving up a habit) often used with nouns derived from infinitives

Lass das Heulen! Quit crying! / Stop it! Lass das! / Lassen Sie den Kaffee! Quit (drinking so much) coffee!

allow, permit, let (a person to continue pursuing an activity) not to be confused with *dürfen* - be permitted to

Lass ihn reden! Let him speak! / Ich lasse meinen Sohn nur im Hintergarten spielen. I only allow my son to play in the back yard.

CAUSATIVE

have, get (to make someone do something, to have an action accomplished by someone else)

(not to be confused with *haben* - to possess, own)

Ich lasse mir ein Haus bauen. I'm building a house. (lit: I'm having a house built for me.)

Sie lässt sich ein Kleid machen. She's having a dress made (for herself). (She's getting a dress made.)

(a construction with two direct objects is also possible)

Wir lassen den Diener den Nachtisch bringen. Wir having the servant bring the dessert.

Lässt du die Zeitung (die Milch) liefern? Do you have the newspaper (the milk) delivered?

IDIOMATIC CONSTRUCTIONS WITH *SICH*

(*sich* + *lassen* + adverb (use words such as: *easy, difficult, nice, not*, etc.) + verb)

Diese Wohnung lässt sich schön wohnen. It's nice living in this apartment. (this apartment lets itself nice live)

Das Buch lässt sich leicht lesen. The book is easy to read. (the book lets itself easy read)

Sie lässt sich einfach nicht ansprechen. You just can't talk to her. (she lets herself simply not speak to)

Das lässt sich schwer beweisen. That's hard to prove. (that lets itself difficult prove)

WITH INTRANSITIVE VERBS TO CREATE TRANSITIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

(often arises when an action is accomplished not by a person, but rather by some means over which that person has control)

Sie ließen die Maschinen anlaufen. ~ Sie haben die Maschinen anlaufen lassen. They started the machines.

(People don't start machines, rather *electricity and starter motors* start machines.)

Ich habe den Blumentopf fallen lassen. I dropped the flower pot.

(Note: This does not mean I allowed the pot to fall, it means I dropped it, and is the only way to say *drop*.)

Er lässt ein Ei kochen. He is cooking an egg. / Lass das Wasser immer zuerst kochen! Always boil the water first. (bring it to a boil)

Man lässt den Tee mindestens zehn Minuten ziehen. One steeps the tea for at least ten minutes.

(*People* don't cook eggs or steep tea, *boiling water* cooks eggs and steeps tea, people simply have control over cooking devices.)

Lass den Motor anspringen! Start the engine. / Lass das Wasser bitte nicht alzu lange laufen! Please don't run the water too long.

IDIOMS

Das lass' ich mir nicht gefallen. I won't put up with that. (notice: in rapid speech „lasse“ becomes „lass“.)

Sie lässt bitten. She's requesting (that you come in). (lit: She is having request. - that you come in)

Lass von Dir hören! Send me a letter sometime. (this is a very common idiom. Note: 2nd person is capitalized when used in letters.)

Lass es dir schmecken! Lasst es euch schmecken! Enjoy your meal.

SUBSTITUTE FOR IMPERATIVE

Lass uns nur alles vergessen! Let's just forget everything. (equivalent to: Vergessen wir nur alles!)

Lass uns gehen! Let's go! (equivalent to: Gehen wir!)