

German Tenses

Pasadena City College – Germania Culture Club

	Active Voice The subject is performing the action (<i>I read</i>) and the object is being acted upon.	Passive Voice The subject is being acted upon, in other words, it is passive. The subject performing the action is mentioned in a prepositional phrase (<i>by / von + Dat</i>), and it is called the “ <u>agent</u> .”
Present with modal verb	<p>Ich lese das Buch. I read the book.</p> <p>Ich muss das Buch lesen. I must read the book.</p>	<p>Das Buch wird von mir gelesen. The book is read <u>by me</u>.</p> <p>Das Buch muss von mir gelesen werden. The book must be read <u>by me</u>.</p>
Simple Past with modal verb	<p>Ich las das Buch. I read the book.</p> <p>Ich musste das Buch lesen. I had to read the book.</p>	<p>Das Buch wurde von mir gelesen. The book was read <u>by me</u>.</p> <p>Das Buch musste von mir gelesen werden. The book had to be read <u>by me</u>.</p>
Present Perfect with modal verb	<p>Ich habe das Buch gelesen. I have read the book.</p> <p>Ich habe das Buch gelesen müssen. I have had to read the book.</p>	<p>Das Buch ist von mir gelesen worden. The book has been read by me.</p> <p>Das Buch hat von mir gelesen werden müssen. The book had been read <u>by me</u>.</p>
Past Perfect with modal verb	<p>Ich hatte das Buch gelesen. I had read the book.</p> <p>Ich hatte das Buch gelesen müssen. I had had to read the book.</p>	<p>Das Buch war von mir gelesen worden. The book had been read <u>by me</u>.</p> <p>Das Buch hatte von mir gelesen werden müssen. The book had had to be read <u>by me</u>.</p>
Future with modal verb	<p>Ich werde das Buch lesen. I will read the book.</p> <p>Ich werde das Buch lesen müssen. I will have to read the book.</p>	<p>Das Buch wird von mir gelesen werden. The book will be read <u>by me</u>.</p> <p>Das Buch wird von mir gelesen werden müssen. The book will have to be read <u>by me</u>.</p>