



Absolute Beginner S1

Lessons 1-25

1-25

Introduction

This is Innovative Language Learning.

Go to [InnovativeLanguage.com/audiobooks](https://www.innovativelanguage.com/audiobooks) to get the lesson notes for this course and sign up for your FREE lifetime account.

The course consists of lessons centered on a practical, real-life conversation.

In each lesson, first, we'll introduce the background of the conversation.

Then, you'll hear the conversation two times:

One time at natural native speed and one time with the English translation.

After the conversation, you'll learn carefully selected vocabulary and key grammar concepts.

Next, you'll hear the conversation 1 time at natural native speed at the end of the lesson.

Finally, practice what you have learned with the review track. In the review track, a native speaker will say a word or phrase from the dialogue, wait three seconds, and then give you the English translation. Say the word aloud during the pause. Halfway through the review track, the order will be reversed. The English translation will be provided first, followed by a three-second pause, and then the word or phrase from the dialogue. Repeat the words and phrases you hear in the review track aloud to practice pronunciation and reinforce what you have learned.

Before starting the lessons, go to [InnovativeLanguage.com/audiobooks](https://www.innovativelanguage.com/audiobooks) to get the lesson notes for this course and sign up for your FREE lifetime account.



Absolute Beginner S1

Is Your Coffee as Strong as Your German Apologies?

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Formal German

(A spills his water onto the next passenger's lap)

- A Oh! Entschuldigung! ... Entschuldigung, es tut mir wirklich leid.
D Es ist schon okay.
A Sind Sie sicher?
D Ja. Es ist okay.
A Sind Sie wirklich sicher?
D (grins) Ja. Es ist nur Wasser.
A Kein Problem?
D Nein, kein Problem.
A Ich bin Joe Cardigan, und Sie?
D Ich bin Anke Löwen.

English

(A spills his water onto the next passenger's lap)

- A Oh! Excuse me! ... Excuse me, I'm really sorry.
D It's okay.
A Are you sure?
D Yes. It's okay.
A Are you really sure?
D (grins) Yes. It's just water.
A No problem?
D No, no problem.
A I'm Joe Cardigan, and you?
D I'm Anke Löwen.

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
wirklich	really	adverb	
sein	to be	verb	
es	it	personal pronoun	
schon	already	adverb	
Sie	you (formal)	personal pronoun	
sicher	sure; safe, secure; surely	adjective	



ja	yes,	other	
nur	only	adverb	
Wasser	water	noun	neuter
nein	no	expression	Yes is "Ja"
ich	I	personal pronoun	
und	and	conjunction	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Diese Stadt ist wirklich groß.

Das war wirklich lecker.

Ich bin Student.

Es gibt viele Cafés hier.

Es ist schön, dass Sie da sind.

Es ist früh am Morgen.

Es ist ein sonniger Morgen.

Bist du schon müde?

Sie sind Herr Smith

Ich werde mir die Stadt ansehen.

Bist du dir sicher?

Ich zähle auf dich, das weißt du ja.

Na schön, du hast ja recht.

Ja, das stimmt.

Ich esse nur Gemüse.

Und der Kahn soll uns wirklich heil über das Wasser bringen?

Ein Glas Wasser ohne Kohlensäure bitte!

Nein, ich bin nicht aus Köln.

Ich bin Lisa.

Thomas und Lisa.

This city is really big.

This was really yummy.

I am a student.

There are many cafés here.

It's nice that you're there.

It is early in the morning.

It's a sunny morning.

Are you tired already?

You are Mr Smith.

I will have a look at the town.

Are you sure?

I'm counting on you, you do know that.

Fair enough, you're right. (In the sense of "I'm giving in.")

Yes, that's right.

I only eat vegetables.

And this barge is really supposed to bring us safely over the water?

A glass of water without carbonation please!

No, I am not from Cologne.

I am Lisa.

Thomas and Lisa.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

„Sie“ = you, formally. There is a notion of formality in German, just like in French, Spanish, Italian

and other languages. If you're addressing somebody by their family name, you should also call them „Sie“ and use the corresponding form of the verbs. If you're addressing somebody by their first name, you will usually use another pronoun, „du“. The formal address is the default in German unless you're talking to children or people who explicitly asked you to switch to an informal address. As a foreigner, you'd do well to address everybody as „Sie“ initially.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is the verb "sein" (to be)

Ich bin Joe.

"I am Joe."

In this lesson we've seen three forms of the verb „sein“, „to be“. This verb is irregular in almost all languages, and German is no exception. Here are the forms we've seen;

sein – to be

ich bin – I am

es ist – it is

Sie sind – you are (formally)

We've also seen that German word order corresponds to English so far. When you're asking a question, the verb moves to the front of the sentence in German, just like in English.

Sind Sie Joe? = Are you Joe?

Sind Sie sicher? = Are you sure?



Cultural Insight

Apologizing and reacting

The most general word of apology in German is „Entschuldigung“. This literally means „apology“, and it's used in most situations:

- when you've accidentally done something bad

- when you want somebody's attention

- when you want people to make room

It is NOT used when somebody tells some sad news about themselves, because that is not something you should apologize for – unless you had any stake in it.

5 If you need something stronger than „Entschuldigung“, use „Es tut mir leid“ (literally „it does me harm“). And you can make it even stronger by adding an adverb before the „leid“.

Es tut mir wirklich leid. - I'm really sorry.

Es tut mir sehr leid. - I'm very sorry.

To accept an apology informally, say;

Es ist (schon) okay. - It's okay (now).

Kein Problem. - No problem.



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To Live and Work in Germany, You Have to Start Here!

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Formal German

- D Herr Cardigan, Sie sind sicher Amerikaner, oder?
A Nein, ich komme aus Kanada.
D Oh, Entschuldigung.
A Es ist schon okay. Ich wohne in Washington.
D Und Sie kommen aus Kanada?
A Ja. Ich komme aus Calgary. Und Sie, Frau Löwen?
D Ich bin Deutsche.
A Kommen Sie aus Berlin?
D Nein, ich komme nicht aus Berlin. Ich wohne und arbeite in Berlin, aber ich komme aus Leipzig.

English

- D Mr Cardigan, you probably are an American, aren't you?
A No, I come from Canada.
D Oh, excuse me.
A It's okay. I live in Washington.
D And you come from Canada?
A Yes. I come from Calgary. And you, Mrs Löwen?
D I am German.
A Do you come from Berlin?
D No, I don't come from Berlin. I live and work in Berlin, but I come from Leipzig.

Vocabulary

German	English	Notes
Herr	Mister, Lord	masculine
Amerikaner	American	masculine; plural is the same
oder	or	used as "isn't it?"-type question at the end of a sentence.
kommen	to come	
aus	from	



wohnen	to live, to inhabit		
in	in, into		prepositions are rarely the same across languages, so this can be used in situations where English would not use "in"
Frau	Ms, woman		feminine
Deutsche	German woman		feminine; plural: Deutschen
nicht	not		
arbeiten	to work		
aber	but		

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Herr Smith

Ich bin Afro-Amerikaner.

Wie sagt man "train" auf Deutsch?

In Deutschland gibt es richtig leckere Würstchen.

Lisa kommt heute nicht.

Kommst du aus Berlin oder von außerhalb?

Ich komme aus Australien.

Ich habe meinen Hund aus dem Tierheim.

Bringst du uns etwas aus der Stadt mit?

Ich bin aus Deutschland.

Ich wohne nicht in Berlin.

Kinder lieben es in Pfützen zu springen.

Ist Bier teuer in Deutschland?

Der Schlüssel ist in meiner Hosentasche.

Frau Smith

Ich bin Deutsche.

Du bist nicht mein Vater!

Ich trinke immer Kaffee, wenn ich arbeite.

Bis wann arbeitest du heute?

Ich arbeite als Lehrer.

Mr Smith

I'm an African American.

How do you say "train" in German?

In Germany there are really delicious sausages.

Lisa isn't coming today.

Do you come from Berlin or from elsewhere?

I come from Australia.

I've got my dog from the animal shelter.

Are you getting something for us from the city?

I am from Germany.

I don't live in Berlin.

Children love to jump into puddles.

Is beer expensive in Germany?

The key is in my pants pocket.

Mrs Smith.

I am a German woman.

You aren't my father!

I always drink coffee when I work.

Till when are you working today?

I work as a teacher.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1.

To address somebody by their family name, use „Herr“ (Mr) or „Frau“ (Mrs). Old courses may also teach you the word „Fräulein“ („Miss“, literally „little woman“), but this is no longer acceptable because modern women don't necessarily want everybody to know their marital status. Only old spinsters insist on being called „Fräulein“.

2.

Note how „oder“ (or) is used at the beginning of our dialog in order to turn a simple sentence into a yes/no question. „oder“ works like the English question tags „aren't you“ or „isn't it“ in such phrases.

3.

Note also that in German you're supposed to say „Ich bin Amerikaner“ (I am an American man) or „Ich bin Amerikanerin“ (I am an American woman) – we always use the word for the person, not the adjective of nationality.



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Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson are regular verbs, part 1.

Copy and Paste a line from the dialog that uses this grammar point here (If this is a romance language, please use italics for this line)

"Copy and Paste the translation for the line above here" (Please keep quotation marks | Find this **BLUE** in the font color box: top row, third from the right.)

Today let's have a first look at regular verbs. We've just encountered „kommen“ (to come), „wohnen“ (to live / inhabit) and „arbeiten“ (to work). As you can see, the infinitive ends in -en, and this form with the -en ending is also used when addressing somebody formally with „Sie“.

Sie kommen, Sie wohnen, Sie arbeiten = you come, you live, you work

When talking about yourself, the „ich“ form of the verb requires you to drop the final -n.

ich komme, ich wohne, ich arbeite = I come, I live, I work

To make a yes/no question, just put the verb at the beginning of the sentence, as before.

Kommen Sie aus Kanada? = Do you come from Canada?

Wohnen Sie in Calgary? = Do you live in Calgary?

Arbeiten Sie in Washington? = Do you work in Washington?

To answer in the negative, use the word „nicht“ (not). Unlike in English, you don't need to make any other changes to the sentence in German.

Ich komme nicht aus Kanada. = I don't come from Canada.

Ich wohne nicht in Calgary. = I don't live in Calgary.

Ich arbeite nicht in Washington. = I don't work in Washington.

One more peculiarity of German – these sentences can just as well mean „I am not coming from Canada“, „I am not living in Calgary“ or „I am not working in Washington“ ... German uses the same tense for what you usually do and what you are doing right now.

Cultural Insight

Meeting new people

When meeting somebody new, only young people hug or exchange kisses on the cheek like the French, most Germans will shake hands while bowing their heads a little, kind of like a nod. The older or higher-ranking person should offer his hand first. If you offer your hand to somebody ranking higher than you, a few will even snub it, but fortunately they are the minority. Even though not all Germans are known to observe the rules (in particular the uneducated may not), please try to observe etiquette when here, as that will definitely help your career in Germany. Also, it is quite important you

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don't forget to bow your head a little when shaking hands. If you keeping looking straight ahead, people will instinctively perceive you as arrogant.





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German In-Formalities

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Formal German

- D Herr Cardigan...
A Bitte nennen Sie mich nur Joe.
D Also gut. Ich bin Anke.
D Joe, kommst du als Tourist nach Berlin oder beruflich?
A Als Tourist.
D Und wie lange bleibst du?
A Ich bleibe zwei Wochen.

English

- D Mr Cardigan...
A Please just call me Joe.
D Alright. I am Anke.
D Joe, are you coming to Berlin as a tourist or for business reasons?
A As a tourist.
D And how long are you staying?
A I am staying two weeks.

Vocabulary

German	English	Notes
bitte	please	
nennen	to name, call	er nennt, er nannte, er hat genannt
mich	me	Accusative of "ich"
gut	good	Adjectives change when combined with nouns. Adverbs don't change.
du	you (informally)	
als	as, than	same as in English
Tourist	tourist	masculine; plural: Touristen
wie	how	when not used as a question word, "wie" has the meaning of "as"

lange	long; a long time		
bleiben	stay		
zwei	two		
Woche	week		feminine; plural: Wochen

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Er nennt sich jetzt "Sensei".

He calls himself "Sensei" now.

Nennen Sie drei Flüsse in Asien.

Name three rivers in Asia.

Verstehst du mich, wenn ich auf Englisch spreche? Do you understand me when I speak on (in) English?

Ist das Paket für mich?

Is that package for me?

Habt ihr noch Platz für mich?

Do you still have some space for me?

Du bist gut.

You are good.

Du studierst Philosophie? Was willst du denn später einmal werden?

You study philosophy? What do you want to do for a living later?

Bringst du uns etwas aus der Stadt mit?

Are you getting something for us from the city?

Bist du dir sicher?

Are you sure?

Bist du schon müde?

Are you tired already?

Alle kommen zur Party, du auch?

Everybody is coming to the party, you too?

Ich arbeite als Lehrer.

I work as a teacher.

Was machst du als Linguist?

What do you do as a linguist?

Am Brandenburger Tor sieht man immer viele Touristen.

At the Brandenburg Gate you always see many tourists.

Wie heisst du?

How are you called?

Ich muss heute noch zur Uni.

I still have to go to university today.

Musstest du lange warten?

Did you have to wait a long time?

Ich möchte nicht gehen, also bleibe ich.

I don't want to go, so I stay.

Möchtest du ein oder zwei Brötchen?

Do you want one or two rolls?

Michaela hat diese Woche Geburtstag.

It's Michaela's birthday this week.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1.

„Bitte nennen Sie mich“ = Please call me . You can use this phrase to request that people use a nickname for you, but in today's dialog Joe uses it in order to request a switch to informal language.

-

„Also gut. Ich bin Anke“ agrees with that switch. Joe knows that the woman next to him is called Anke Löwen, but she tells him „I'm Anke“ anyway in order to confirm that he has the right to address her informally from now on.

- "zwei Wochen" = two weeks. Wochen is the plural of Woche. There are several different ways of forming the plural in German, but one of the most common ones is for words ending in -e to add an -n.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson are regular verbs, part 2

Wie lange bleibst du?

"How long are you staying?"

Today we've encountered two more forms of regular verbs.

First, there is the informal second person of verbs. Whenever you address somebody as „du“, you also need to take off the -en verb ending and replace it with -st. -st is the marker of the informal second person. Whenever we talk to a friend or family member, we use the -st verb ending.

Bleiben Sie in Deutschland? = Do you remain in Germany? Will you remain in Germany? (formally, to a stranger)

Bleibst du in Deutschland? = Do you remain in Germany? Will you remain in Germany? (informally, to a family member, friend, good acquaintance or young person)

We've also seen how to make a request – Mr Cardigan requested that Mrs Löwen just call him by his first name. „Bitte nennen Sie mich nur Joe“ (Please just call me Joe). To make a polite request, start with „bitte“ (please) and then put the formal form of the verb and the word „Sie“, then whatever else is

left of the sentence. Examples follow.

Bitte bleiben Sie! = Please stay!

Bitte kommen Sie! = Please come!

Bitte arbeiten Sie nicht! = Please don't work!

Cultural Insight

Reasons for coming to Germany

Germany sees a lot of foreign visitors every year – have you visited yet? If not, here are some reasons for you to visit.

- Germany features many different historic sites, ranging from the Neanderthal valley to Roman ruins to medieval castles and of course more recent history
- There are also a lot of beautiful spots, such as the German islands in the North Sea, the Black Forest, the beautiful traditional houses, the Alps... there you can also do winter sports.
- Business or conferences may also bring you here. Germany's economy is ranked 4th in the world, and it's no. 1 in exporting goods. If you're lucky, your company will want somebody to explore new markets in Germany and YOU will be chosen because you have learned some German!
- Many GermanPod101 listeners also have friends or family in Germany whom they should visit at some point.
- Finally, if you're looking to practise German, what better place to do that than Germany??



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Cloudy with a Chance of German

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Formal German

- A Wie ist das Wetter in Berlin heute?
D Heute ist es kalt, aber die Sonne scheint.
A Es ist kalt?
D Ja, aber zumindest regnet es nicht.
A Es schneit nicht??
D (lacht) Nein, es schneit nicht. In Deutschland schneit es im April nicht.
A Aber es ist kalt?
D Ja, heute ist es nicht warm. Manchmal ist es warm im April, aber nicht heute.

English

- A How is the weather in Berlin today?
D Today it is cold, but the sun is shining.
A It is cold?
D Yes, but at least it doesn't rain.
A It doesn't snow??
D (laughs) No, it doesn't snow. In Germany it doesn't snow in April.
A But it is cold?
D Yes, today it is not warm. Sometimes it is warm in April, but not today.

Vocabulary

German	English	Notes
der / die / das	the (masculine / feminine / neuter)	changes according to the gender of the following noun and according to singular/plural and case
Wetter	weather	neuter
heute	today	
kalt	cold	
Sonne	sun	feminine; plural: Sonnen
scheinen	to shine, seem	weak verb
zumindest regnen	at least to rain	the noun is "der"



			Regen"(the rain)
schneien	to snow		weak verb
Deutschland	Germany		
warm	warm		
manchmal	sometimes		

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Danke für das Geschenk.

Die Sonne scheint heute.

Die Post ist da!

Der Mann ist sehr alt.

Der arme Hund!

Das Wetter heute ist sehr schwül.

Heute gibt es Freibier in der Altstadt.

Heute ist es kalt.

Die Sonne scheint heute.

Die Sonne ist untergegangen.

Es scheint, als ob es später regnen wird.

Die Sonne scheint heute.

Zumindest hat er mich vorher gefragt.

Wahrscheinlich wird es regnen.

Ich hoffe es schneit über Nacht. Dann sind die Dächer morgens immer weiß.

Deutschland ist in Europa.

Im Süden Europas wird es früher warm, deswegen reisen viele Deutschen im Frühling dorthin.

Manchmal möchte ich einfach abhauen.

Manchmal ist es eine dumme Idee Bienen verjagen zu wollen.

In unserem Treppenhaus ist es manchmal laut.

Thanks for the present.

The sun is shining today.

The mail is there! [has arrived]

The man is very old.

The poor (pitiable) dog.

The weather is really humid today.

Today there is free beer [available] in the old town.

Today it's cold.

The sun is shining today.

The sun has gone down.

It seems as if it will rain later on.

The sun is shining today.

At least he asked me beforehand.

It will probably rain.

I hope it will snow during the night. Then the roofs are always white in the morning.

Germany is in Europe.

In the South of Europe it gets warm earlier, therefore many Germans travel there in spring.

Sometimes I simply want to run away.

Sometimes it is a stupid idea to want to chase away bees.

Sometimes it is loud on our stairwell.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1.

Let's have a closer look at the word „nicht“. Typically it is placed after the verb in order to negate the whole sentence. When you just want to deny one particular fact though, you place the nicht before that fact. Compare „Ich komme nicht zur Party heute“ (I'm not coming to the party today, [but doing something else]), „Nicht ich komme zur Party heute“ (It is not I who is coming to the party today) and „Ich komme nicht heute zur Party“ (I am not coming today to the party, [but maybe another day]).

„der“, „die“ and „das“ are all valid translations of the definite article, the English word „the“. In German, like in Spanish, French and Russian, all nouns have genders. They can be masculine, feminine, or neuter, and the article will have to match that fact. „der“ is for masculine nouns, „die“ is for feminine nouns and „das“ is for neuter nouns. For example, you'd say „der Mann“ (the man, masculine), „die Frau“ (the woman, feminine) and „das Kind“ (the child, neuter). The tricky part is when a word doesn't imply a gender, then German will assign genders pretty much randomly. For example, we say „das Wetter“ (the weather, neuter), but „die Sonne“ (the sun, feminine). You will have to memorize the gender alongside each new German noun, so in the coming lessons we will always tell you what gender words are when we study them in the vocabulary section.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is the German word order, part 1

Heute ist es nicht warm.

"Today it isn't warm."

So far, the word order in German sentences has always been subject, verb and then the rest, such as objects or descriptions of time or place. This corresponds to the typical English word order. However, in this lesson, we've seen lots of sentences with a different word order, in which the verb comes before the subject, such as in „Heute ist es kalt“ (Today it's cold).

The reason is that the basic rule of German word order is that the verb must come in 2nd position in the sentence. So if the subject comes first, German word order corresponds to the English one, but if ANYTHING ELSE comes first, for example a word of time like „heute“ (today), the two languages are no longer the same. German will put the verb in second position and the subject will lag behind the verb. In first position you can have the subject, you can have a word of time or place or manner or a conjunction, you can even have a group of words, such as „In Deutschland“ (in Germany) or „aber

zumindest“ (but at least), the thing is that you need to put the verb immediately afterwards, in second position.

On another note, did you notice that all the weather-related verbs ended in -t, just like „ist“. This is the mark of the 3rd person singular of regular verbs. You would use the same -t ending when talking about Joe or Anke - „Joe kommt aus Kanada und Anke wohnt in Berlin“.

Cultural Insight

German climate

The weather in Germany is quite typical for its region. As in the remaining countries of central Europe, a temperate cool and cloudy weather dominates. The weather in the northern part of Germany is influenced by winds from the North Sea most of the time, so temperatures over 28°C (82 F) in summer and below 0°C (32 F) in winter are uncommon.

Most of Germany is flat and not high above sea level, so it used to be quite uncommon to have snow on the ground – certainly it would snow on several days between December and February, but the snow was hardly ever enough to ride a sleigh on. Most days it would melt immediately upon contact with the ground. In the past two years however, there have been quite incredible amounts of snow even in the Northern lowlands, and they have stayed long enough to be a real annoyance.

Germany clearly has four seasons of approximately 3 months each. It really is as clear-cut as that, and you should not expect big changes in weather within 48 hours, except possibly in April, which is known to be variable, sometimes offering temperatures approaching zero and sometimes offering summer heat, along with everything in between.





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Is that 007's German Phone Number?

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Formal German

- D Wir sind bald in Berlin.
A Ahh, gut! Berlin, Berlin, wir kommen nach Berlin!
D Hier ist meine Telefonnummer.
D Null-drei-null, sieben-fünf-sechs-acht vier-vier-neun-zwei.
A Null-zwei-null...
D Nein, nicht null-zwei-null! Null-drei-null! Das ist Berlin.
A Oh, Entschuldigung. Null-drei-null, sieben-fünf-sechs-acht vier-vier-neun-zwei.
D Ja, das ist meine Telefonnummer.
A Danke. Meine Telefonnummer ist null-eins-drei-sieben, sechs-fünf-zwei-eins neun-null-null-sieben.
D Null-null-sieben?
A Yep! Null-null-sieben. Ich arbeite als Agent.
D Wirklich???
A Nein.

English

- D We will be in Berlin soon.
A Ahh, good! Berlin, Berlin, we're coming to Berlin!
D Here's my phone number.
D Zero-three-zero, seven-five-six-eight four-four-nine-two.
A Oh-two-oh...
D No, not zero-two-zero! Zero-three-zero! That's Berlin.
A Oh, excuse me. Oh-three-oh, seven-five-six-eight four-four-nine-two.
D Yes, that is my phone number.
A Thanks. My phone number is oh-one-three-seven, six-five-two-one nine-double oh-nine.
D Double oh-seven?
A Yep! Double oh-seven. I work as an agent.
D Really???
A No.

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
wir	we	personal pronoun	
bald	soon	adverb	
nach	to	preposition	Used with a place, not used with people
hier	here	adverb	
mein	my	possessive pronoun	
Telefonnummer	phone number	noun	feminine; Telefonnummern is the plural
null	zero	number	
eins	one		
drei	three		
vier	four		
fünf	five		
sechs	six	number	
sieben	seven	number	
acht	eight	number	
neun	nine	number	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Wir wohnen seit März zusammen.

We live together since March.

Wir sind uns nicht einig, welches Haus wir kaufen wollen.

We haven't reached an agreement about which house we want to buy.

Heute besuchen wir meine Großeltern.

Today we are visiting my grandparents.

Marion kriegt bald ihr erstes Kind.

Marion will soon have her first baby.

Nach dem Essen möchte ich sofort nach Hause fahren.

After the meal I immediately want to drive home.

Der gefürchtete Kriegsverbrecher floh nach Argentinien.

The feared war criminal fled to Argentina.

Am Samstag komme ich nach Hamburg.

On Saturday I am coming to Hamburg.

Sie sind hier.

You are here./ They are here.

Mein Name ist Lisa.

My name is Lisa.

Lass uns Telefonnummern austauschen!

Let's exchange phone numbers!

Hast du meine Telefonnummer?

Do you have my phone number?

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1.

Note that it's possible to talk about the future in German without using the future tense. This is what we're doing in the first phrase of the dialog. We say „Wir sind bald in Berlin“ (We are in Berlin soon), but mean „We will be in Berlin soon“.

2.

In the last lesson we already explained that German nouns are each assigned a gender. This gender influences whether „the“ is translated as „der“, „die“ or „das“. Unfortunately, that's not all that it does. It also means that adjectives and possessive pronouns, words like „good“ or „nice“ or „my“ or „your“, will also sometimes add an ending that reflects the gender. In today's lesson, this means that we say „meine Telefonnummer“ even though the word for „my“ is „mein“. The extra -e indicates that „Telefonnummer“ is feminine. Don't worry about these changes yet, just note that they occur. Even if you get them wrong, Germans will still understand you without any problem.

3.

Note that in the case of phone numbers, the number two is sometimes pronounced „zwo“ instead of „zwei“. This is to avoid confusing „zwei“ and „drei“. However, not everybody does it and it does not prevent all confusion.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is the complete conjugation of regular verbs.

Berlin, Berlin, wir kommen nach Berlin!

"Berlin, Berlin, we're coming to Berlin!"

In this lesson we've seen the 1st person plural of verbs, that is the form used with „we“. „We come“ is „wir kommen“. „We work“ is „wir arbeiten“. As you can see, there is no difference between this form and the one used when you're formally addressing somebody. This holds true for the irregular verb „sein“ (to be) as well. „We are“ is „wir sind“.

Since there's only one more form missing in our collection for regular verbs, let's go over that one as well. When you're addressing several people, the verb ending is -t, and the German pronoun is „ihr“

(you, plural). „you all work“ is „ihr arbeitet“. „you all stay“ is „ihr bleibt“.

So, to go over all the forms with the verb „bleiben“ (to stay). Ich bleibe, du bleibst, er bleibt, wir bleiben, ihr bleibt, sie bleiben. This last form, „sie bleiben“ can mean either „you (formal) stay) or „they stay“. The form is always the same in German, and the only distinction is in writing. When the formal, polite form of „you“ is meant, we capitalize the German word „Sie“ as a show of respect. When it means „they“, it is not capitalized.

Cultural Insight

German phone numbers

Phone numbers in Germany do not follow the same pattern as American ones. Rather, they typically consist of an area code (3-5 digits) for the city (such as 030 for Berlin), a slash or dash, and then the phone number that identifies the phone within that area. That phone number can be any length, depending on the size of the city. For example, in a city of 60,000 people, there are people whose phone number (without the area code) is only 3 digits, and in the same city there are people whose phone number is 7 digits. And there's everything in between.

When calling somebody from the same city, you don't dial the area code. In order to distinguish local calls from nationwide calls, area codes always start with a zero. Once you dial that, the phone knows that you are not dialing a local number. When dialing international, you even dial two zeros before the country code. Then, after the country code, you leave out the zero for the area code, because it's already clear that you are not making a local call.

Area codes are convenient, because they can be used to identify what part of the country and what city somebody is from. The first digit after the 0 is indicative of the general region, for example area codes starting with 02 are for cities in Western Germany, whereas area codes starting with 03 are in Eastern Germany, area codes with 04 are in Northern Germany, and so on.

01 is a special case: area codes starting with 01 don't belong to any particular area, they belong to a particular cell phone company. Cell phone numbers in Germany are not lumped with regular numbers, and it is also much more expensive to call them, no matter whether the person is in the same city or not. One good thing is however that you are not paying for receiving cell phone calls, unless you are outside of Germany.

0190 is a special case within a special case: phone numbers with this area code are not cell phones but



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toll calls that will charge you extra-ordinarily much for each minute, for example for adult content. It's the equivalent of 1-900 in the USA.

The most important phone number that you should know when travelling to a German-speaking country is 112. This number, which never needs an area code, will nevertheless connect you to the local emergency response, that can send firefighters or an ambulance to your place. In Germany, the police (*Polizei*) has a special number: 110; in Austria and Switzerland 112 is good for both firefighters and police or ambulance.



Absolute Beginner S1

How Far Will Klingon Get You in Germany?

6

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Formal German

- D Du arbeitest nicht als Agent, also was machst du beruflich?
A Ich bin Übersetzer.
D Für welche Sprachen?
A Ich bin Übersetzer für Englisch und Französisch.
D Ahh, ich spreche auch Französisch. In Kanada sprechen alle Englisch und Französisch, oder? Ihr sprecht alle zwei Sprachen?
A (lacht) Nein. Wir sprechen alle Englisch, nur im Quebec sprechen viele Französisch.
D Aber du sprichst Englisch, Französisch und Deutsch.
A Ja, und ich spreche auch Klingonisch, aber nur ein bißchen.
D Klingonisch?? Wirklich??
A Ja.
D Was ist „Hallo“ auf Klingonisch?
A nuqneH.
D Wow.

English

- 2
- D You don't work as an agent, so what are you doing for a living?
A I am a translator.
D For which languages?
A I am a translator for English and French.
D Ahh, I speak French, too. In Canada everybody speaks English and French, right? You all speak two languages?
A (laughs) No. We all speak English, just in Quebec many speak French.
D But you speak English, French and German.
A Yes, and I also speak Klingon, but just a little.
D Klingon?? Really??
A Yes.
D What's "Hello" in Klingon?
A nuqneH.
D Wow.

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
also	so	conjunction, expression	
was	what	question word	
machen	to make, to do	verb	weak verb
Übersetzer	translator	noun	masculine; plural is the same
welcher	which	question word	
Sprache	language	noun	feminine; plural: Sprachen
Englisch	English language	noun	
Französisch	French	noun & adjective	
sprechen	to speak	verb	vowel-changing verb: E changes to I for 2nd and 3rd person singular in present tense
auch	also, too	adverb	
alle	all, everybody	pronoun	
viele	many	adverb	
Deutsch	German language	noun	
ein bisschen	a little	adverb	
auf	on, onto	preposition	also used for some cases where English would use "in" or "at", as prepositions usually don't correspond across languages.

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

So ist das also.

Ich möchte nicht gehen, also bleibe ich.

Was ist das?

Ich mache Kaffee.

Ich arbeite als Übersetzer bei einer großen Firma. I work as a translator for a big company.

Welches Gericht können Sie mir empfehlen? Which dish can you recommend to me?

Welche Sprachen sprechen Sie fließend? In which languages are you a fluent speaker?

Welchen Flug nimmst du? Which flight will you take?

Deutsch ist eine interessante Sprache. German is an interesting language.

Welche Sprachen sprechen Sie fließend? In which languages are you a fluent speaker?

Ah, so it is.

I don't want to go, so I stay.

What is this?

I am making coffee.

I work as a translator for a big company.

Which dish can you recommend to me?

In which languages are you a fluent speaker?

Which flight will you take?

German is an interesting language.

In which languages are you a fluent speaker?



<i>Sprichst du Englisch?</i>	Do you speak English?
<i>Muttersprachler bietet günstigen</i>	Native speaker offers cheap French lessons
<i>Französischunterricht</i>	
<i>Ich habe mir Französisch selbst beigebracht.</i>	I taught myself French.
<i>Ich spreche Deutsch.</i>	I speak German.
<i>Thomas kommt auch.</i>	Thomas is coming, too.
<i>Alle kommen zur Party, du auch?</i>	Everybody is coming to the party, you too?
<i>Viele Studenten sind arm.</i>	Many students are poor.
<i>Deutsch ist eine interessante Sprache.</i>	German is an interesting language.
<i>Ich spreche nur ein bisschen Deutsch.</i>	I only speak a little German.
<i>Verstehst du mich, wenn ich auf Englisch spreche?</i>	Do you understand me when I speak on (in) English?

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1.

The word „welcher“ also changes according to the word following it. In this case, it's „welche“ to match „Sprachen“. Also, „im“ is a combination of „in“ and the article, so it can be translated as „in the“. Don't worry about this yet, we'll cover it later.

2.

As you may have noticed, German language names tend to end in -isch. This is especially true for languages that end in -ish in English, for example Englisch, Spanisch, Finnisch, Türkisch and so on, but in German there are a whole lot more languages endings in -isch, such as Chinesisch (Chinese), Japanisch (Japanese), Portugiesisch (Portuguese), Italienisch (Italian) and even Klingonisch (Klingon). In case of doubt, pronounce the English language name in German and change the ending to -isch.

3.

To say „in French“, you should say „auf Französisch“. Or „in English“ is „auf Englisch“, even though „auf“ literally translates to „on“, „on English“. Prepositions like this don't typically transfer across language, so be prepared for German to sometimes use prepositions differently than you're used to.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson are vowel-changing verbs.

Aber du sprichst Englisch, Deutsch und Französisch.

"But you speak English, German and French."

This lesson saw a healthy dose of the verb „sprechen“. „Sprechen“ adds the same endings as the other regular verbs we've seen, however, there is one important change. When we use „sprechen“ in the 2nd or 3rd person singular, so when we're addressing somebody informally or when we're talking about he, she, or it, the first E changes to an I suddenly. „du sprichst“ and „Joe spricht“.

The endings are still what you're used to, -st for „du“ and -t for the 3rd person. However, to go from the expected „du sprichst“ to „du sprichst“ is a vowel change. „sprechen“ is not the only verb that does this, so there's an entire category of common verbs that we'll dub „vowel-changing verbs“. All of them change their vowel for the 2nd and 3rd person singular only, and most of the time the switch is from E to I.

Here are the complete forms of „sprechen“, just for practise.

ich spreche - I speak

du sprichst - you speak (informally)

er spricht - he speaks

wir sprechen - we speak

ihr sprecht - you all speak (several people)

sie sprechen / Sie sprechen - they speak / you speak (formally)

Cultural Insight

Foreign language study in Germany

In Germany, English is a mandatory subject at school for at least 5 years, 7 if you want to go to university. It's also increasingly present in kindergartens. However, the quality of instruction varies a lot and most people won't remember any of their English 10 years after they have gone to school, unless they have had to use it often in the meantime - hence if you want to ask a German something in English, your best bet is a student or a businessman.

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Among other groups, understanding of English is actually quite low. For example, in a study more than 50% of Germans were unable to understand English slogans used in German TV ads, things as simple as "where money lives". This is another reason for you to learn German of course!

Other than English, French is the most commonly studied foreign language, followed by Latin. However, these wouldn't normally be studied instead of English, rather, they are studied as a second foreign language. In Eastern Germany, Russian used to be the most common foreign language. If you intend to go to university, you will have to study two foreign languages for at least 5 years each at high school, which is supposed to give you fluent command of them. You have the option of studying up to 4 foreign languages even, but few will do that - foreign language classes, once chosen, can usually not be dropped easily, and they will effect your mark average.



Absolute Beginner S1

If It's Compliments You are Fishing for, Germany May Not Be the Right Place!

7

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Formal German

- D So, jetzt sind wir in Berlin.
A Was ist das da vorn?
D Das da vorn ist die Passkontrolle.
A Ah. Sprechen die Polizisten alle Englisch?
D Ja, aber du sprichst ja auch Deutsch.
A Hmm, ich lerne noch, ich spreche Deutsch noch nicht so gut.
D Dann sprichst du Englisch. Kein Problem. Oder Klingonisch.
A Okay... Klingonisch? Seid ihr Deutschen alle Star Trek Fans?
D Nein. Nur ein Witz.
A Ah. ...
D Warten, warten, warten. Ich hasse warten!
A Ich hasse es auch.

English

- D So, now we are in Berlin.
A What is that over there in front?
D That in front is passport control.
A Ah. Do all policemen speak English.
D Yes, but you do also speak German.
A Hmm, I'm still learning it, I don't yet speak German very well.
D Then you'll speak English. No problem. Or Klingon.
A Okay... Klingon? Are you all of you Germans Star Trek fans?
D No. Just a joke.
A Ah. ...
D Waiting, waiting, waiting. I hate waiting!
A I hate it, too.

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
jetzt	now	adverb	
da	there	adverb	
vorn(e)	in front	adverb	
Pass / Reisepass	passport	noun	masculine; plural: Pässe

lernen	learn, study	verb	
noch	still; yet; another	adverb	
dann	then	adverb	
Scherz	joke	noun	masculine; plural: Scherze
warten	to wait	verb	
hassen	to hate	verb	weak verb
Kontrolle	control	noun	feminine; plural: Kontrollen
Polizist	policeman	noun	masculine; plural: Polizisten
ein	a, an	article	changes according to gender, number and case of following noun
Witz	joke	noun	masculine; plural: Witze

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Ich möchte jetzt gehen.

Wo wohnst du jetzt?

Die Post ist da!

Er steht da drüben.

Hältst du bitte da vorne an?

Hast du einen deutschen Pass?

Ich möchte auch Deutsch lernen.

Ich muss viel für die Uni lernen.

Nimm dir noch ein Stück Fleisch!

Es ist noch Winter.

Morgen arbeite ich und dann fliege ich nach Boston.

Das war nur ein Scherz.

Musstest du lange warten?

Ich mag kein Sushi, denn ich hasse Fisch.

Ich hasse hellgrüne Hemden.

Sind wir jetzt fertig oder kommen noch mehr Kontrollen?

Der mutmaßliche Mörder hatte zwei Polizisten bestochen.

Das ist eine sehr angenehme Arbeit.

I want to go now.

Where do you live now?

The mail is there! [has arrived]

He stands over there.

Would you please stop up there?

Do you have a German passport?

I also want to learn German.

I have to study a lot for university.

Take another piece of meat!

It's still winter.

Tomorrow I work and then I fly to Boston.

That was just a joke.

Did you have to wait a long time?

I don't like sushi because I hate fish.

I hate light green shirts.

Are we done now or are more controls coming up?

The presumed murderer had bribed two policemen.

That is a very pleasant/nice [type of] work.



Heute ist ein guter Tag.

Today is a good day.

Du bist ein sehr schlechtes Beispiel für die Kinder.

You are a very bad example to the kids.

Das war nur ein Scherz.

That was just a joke.

Er war beleidigt, dabei wollte ich nur einen Witz machen.

He was offended, yet I only wanted to make a joke.

Es gibt einen alten Witz über Statistik: Wenn zwei an einer Kreuzung stehen und einer geht nach links und der andere nach rechts, dann sind Durchschnitt beide gerade aus gegangen.

There is an old joke about statistics: If two people stand at a crossroad and one of them turns left and the other one turns right, then in average both went straight ahead.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1.

Passkontrolle. This is a compound noun based on „Pass“ (passport) and „Kontrolle“ (control). In German, we like to write this as one long word, rather than two separate ones like „passport control“ in English. Generally you will find a lot of long compound nouns in German, because they're fun. To make things easier, you can already keep in mind that the gender of a compound noun is based on the last-mentioned noun. So in this case, „Kontrolle“ is feminine and that makes the entire noun „Passkontrolle“ feminine.

2.

Nur ein Witz. This German expression is roughly equivalent to „don't hurt me, it was just a joke“, or just the last part of that. Note the „ein“ in there – that's the indefinite article. As we shall note plenty of times in the future, „ein“ also acquires different endings depending on the gender of the noun that follows. For example, „a control“ is „eine Kontrolle“, because „Kontrolle“ is feminine.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson are the forms of the irregular verb "sein" (to be)

Seid ihr Deutschen alle Star Trek Fans?

"Are all of you Germans Star Trek fans?"



This lesson was mostly a review lesson. However, we snuck in the last two remaining forms of the irregular verb „sein“ (to be). They are

du bist – you are (informally)

ihr seid – you are (several people)

So the complete forms of „sein“ are; ich bin, du bist, es ist, wir sind, ihr seid, sie sind. „sie sind“ (they are) is of course the same as „Sie sind“ (you are, formally), the only distinction being that the German word „Sie“ starts with a capital letter when it's the formal address.

Cultural Insight

Compliments

5 Joe said that his German wasn't that good yet, even though he's clearly able to have a conversation in it. Either he is very modest or he was fishing for a compliment. Anyway, no such luck in Germany. An English speaker may have then complimented Joe on his language skills, but in Germany, compliments are usually not as easily earned.

Part of it is probably that many Germans speak a foreign language well, so that it doesn't impress people as much when you do as well. However, part of it is definitely also that Germans don't generally pay as many compliments, and are more likely to focus on the truth. This also means that if a German compliments you, it means a lot more. And, if you compliment a German, he may just continue the conversation! If he believes that what you said was a truthful account of the situation, then he won't need to thank you for the compliment nor will he need to claim to be worse than he knows he is. This is definitely a difference in cultures.



Absolute Beginner S1

What Will it Take for You to Get Through German Passport Control??

8

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Formal German

- P Ihren Pass bitte.
A Hier.
P Sie sprechen Deutsch?
A Ja.
P Das ist gut. Also, kommen Sie aus Kanada?
A Ja, ich komme aus Kanada, aber ich wohne in Washington, in den USA.
P So so. Wie lange werden Sie in Deutschland bleiben?
A Ich werde nur zwei Wochen bleiben. Ich komme als Tourist, nicht beruflich.
P Werden Sie nur Berlin besuchen?
A Hmm. Berlin ist groß und interessant, aber vielleicht werde ich auch nach Köln oder München reisen. Mal sehen.
P Werden Sie auch arbeiten, während Sie in Deutschland sind?
A Nein.
P Sind Sie sicher?
A Ja. Ich mache Ferien in Deutschland, ich arbeite nicht.
P Gut. Hier ist Ihr Pass.

English

- P Your passport please.
A Here.
P You speak German?
A Yes.
P That's good. So, do you come from Canada?
A Yes, I come from Canada, but I live in Washington, in the USA.
P Uhuh. How long will you stay in Germany?
A I will only stay for two weeks. I come as a tourist, not for business.
P Will you visit just Berlin?
A Hmm. Berlin is big and interesting, but maybe I will also travel to Cologne or Munich. We'll see.
P Will you work as well while you're in Germany?
A No.
P Are you sure?
A Yes. I'm on holidays in German, I don't work.
P Good. Here's your passport.

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
so	so	adverb	"so" as a conjunction would be "also"!
besuchen	to visit	noun	weak verb
groß	tall, big	adjective	
interessant	interesting	adjective	
vielleicht	maybe	adverb	
reisen	to travel	verb	weak verb
mal	have a...; colloquial particle for doing something in a leisurely way	particle	
sehen	to see	verb	vowel-changing verb: e -> ie
während	while, during	conjunction	used with Genitive or subclause
Ferien	holidays	noun	always plural

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Wieso ist das so?

Heute besuchen wir meine Großeltern.

Du hast eine große Klappe.

Seine Arbeit ist nicht sehr interessant.

Die Technische Universität Berlin bietet viele interessante Kurse an.

Der Anfang dieses Film ist wirklich langweilig, aber danach wird es interessanter.

Berlin ist eine wirklich interessante Metropole.

Vielleicht später.

Wegen der Vogelgrippe sind viele Leute nicht nach Asien gereist.

Kommst du mal schnell?

Zeig mir mal deine Urkunde!

Guck mal bitte, wer an der Tür ist.

Ich sehe ein gutes Café.

Welchen Film möchtest du sehen?

Einige Sozialarbeiter brauchen selbst Hilfe, um die Some social workers need help themselves to

Why is that so?

Today we are visiting my grandparents.

You have a big mouth.

His work isn't very interesting.

Berlin Technical University offers a lot of interesting courses.

The beginning of this movie is really boring, but afterwards it gets more interesting.

Berlin is a really interesting metropolis.

Maybe later.

Because of the bird flu many people didn't travel to Asia.

Please come here quickly.

Do show me your certificate!

Please have a look who is at the door.

I see a good café.

Which movie would you like to see?

<i>Dinge zu verarbeiten, die sie während der Arbeit erleben.</i>	handle the things they experience during their work.
<i>Pass auf, dass du während deiner Rast keinen Rost ansetzt.</i>	Be careful not to grow any rust while you rest.
<i>Die Kinder freuen sich auf die Ferien.</i>	The kids are looking forward to the holidays.
<i>Ich konnte in den Ferien jeden Tag ausschlafen.</i>	During holidays I could sleep in every single day.
<i>An diesen Luxus könnte ich mich echt gewöhnen.</i>	I could really get used to this luxury.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. Sie sprechen Deutsch? - normally, you'd have to say „Sprechen Sie Deutsch?“ in order to make this a question. However, German is a melodious language, so in this case we're just relying on the sentence melody to show that this is a question. In questions, the voice goes up at the end, whereas in a statement it goes down.
2. in den USA – in the USA. Just like in English, there is a difference between saying „in Canada“ and „in the USA“. That extra article is also reflected in German. And since we're talking about more than one united state, we have to use the plural article, which is „den“ in this case, so „in den USA“.
3. Ferien machen, literally „to make holidays“ is to go on holidays.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is the future tense.

Werden Sie nur Berlin besuchen?

"Will you visit only Berlin?"

The future tense (Zukunft) is formed using a form of the auxiliary “werden” and the infinitive of the verb that you meant to use. “werden” is conjugated similarly to a vowel-changing verb: ich werde, du wirst, er wird, wir werden, ihr werdet, sie werden.

Note that all verbs are regular in the future tense. However, as Mark Twain might have warned you, the main verb gets placed at the end of the sentence, after everything else. This will take some getting used to. Some examples of sentences using the future tense;

Ich werde Deutsch lernen. - I will learn German

Wann werden Sie Deutschland besuchen? - When will you visit Germany?

Wirst du hier arbeiten? - Will you work here?

Cultural Insight

Germans have a mandatory identity card in addition to being able to get a passport. The identity card contains a photo and some basic information about yourself, including your current address. It is used to prove your age (e. g. to be able to buy alcohol), to prove your address (e. g. to take advantage of regional offers) or to prove your identity (e. g. when making a contract or voting). The identity card is also enough to travel within the European Union, but you'll still need a passport to travel outside the EU.

Americans can come to Germany as tourists for a limited timeframe without needing a special visa, just having a passport is enough. You will however need a visa if you are staying here for a longer time, if you plan to study or take a job here.

The border control wears similar uniforms as the regular German police, based on the color green. German police cars are also green, set off in white or silver. The newer police uniforms and the newer police cars use the color blue instead of green, as this is becoming standardized across Europe.



Absolute Beginner S1

Do You Have What it Takes to Survive the German Airports?!

9

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Formal German

Anke Hast du schon deinen Koffer?
Joe Nein, noch nicht. Und du?
Anke Ja. Ich habe meinen Koffer schon.
Joe Und wo ist die Kofferausgabe?
Anke Da vorn.
Joe Ah, gut.
Anke Welche Farbe hat dein Koffer?
Joe Mein Koffer ist schwarz und er hat ein Muster.
...
Anke Ist er das?
Joe Nein.
Anke Und der da?
Joe Nein, auch nicht. Wir haben wohl kein Glück!
Anke Ja, schon wieder warten.
Joe Ah, da ist er. ... Aber...
Joe Hey! Sie haben da meinen Koffer!
Mann Das ist Ihr Koffer?
Joe Ja.
Mann Oh, Entschuldigung, das tut mir leid. Hier haben Sie Ihren Koffer.
Joe Danke. ... Jetzt warten wir nur noch auf deinen Koffer.
Anke Nein, mein Koffer ist schon hier!
Joe Ach ja!

English

Anke Do you have your suitcase already?
Joe No, not yet. And you?
Anke Yes. I have my suitcase already.
Joe And where is the luggage conveyor belt?
Anke There in front.
Joe Ah, good.
Anke What is the colour of your suitcase? [what colour does your suitcase have?]
Joe My suitcase is black and it has a pattern.
...
Anke Is it that one?

Joe No.
Anke And that one there?
Joe No, also not. We aren't lucky, it seems!
Anke Yes, waiting again.
Joe Ah, there is is. ... But ...
Joe Hey! You have my suitcase there!
Man That is your suitcase?
Joe Yes.
Man Oh, excuse me, I'm sorry. Here you have your suitcase.
Joe Thanks. ... Now we're just waiting for your suitcase.
Anke No, my suitcase is already here!
Joe Ah yes!

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
haben	to have	verb	irregular, e. g. "ich habe" but "du hast".
dein	your (informal)	possessive pronoun	
Koffer	suitcase	noun	masculine; plural is the same
mein	my	possessive pronoun	
Ausgabe	edition; handing-out; expenditure	noun	feminine; plural: Ausgaben
Farbe	color, paint	noun	feminine; plural: Farben
schwarz	black	adjective	
wohl	probably	adverb	
Glück	luck, good times, happiness	noun	neuter
wieder	again	adverb	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Haben Sie Zeit?

Do you have time?

Dein Haus ist sehr groß.

Your house is very big.

Kommst du allein oder kommt dein Mann auch?

Are you coming alone or is your husband coming, too?

Dieser Koffer ist wirklich leicht - hast du nichts

This suitcase is really light - didn't you pack

gepackt?

Mein Name ist Lisa.

Wir haben im Moment zu viele Ausgaben.

Wo ist die Kofferausgabe?

Dies ist die Juni-Ausgabe der Zeitschrift.

Welche Farbe hat dein neues Auto?

Ich liebe schwarze Halbschuhe.

Mir wurde schwarz vor Augen.

Das wird wohl nichts mehr.

Viel Glück!

Musst du wieder Gitarre spielen?

anything?

My name is Lisa.

We have too many expenditures at the moment.

Where is the luggage conveyer belt? (where do they hand-out suitcases)

This is the June edition of this magazine.

What color is your new car?

I love black low shoes.

Every thing around me went black.

That probably won't work out anymore

Good luck!

Do you have to play the guitar again?

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. Note the use of „das" as meaning „that" in the phrase „Das ist Ihr Koffer?" (that is your suitcase?). The definite articles have gradually replaced the demonstrative pronouns in German, so „das" can mean either „the" or „that", depending on how it's used.
2. „Wir haben wohl kein Glück!" (We probably won't be lucky). „Glück haben", literally „to have luck" is usually rendered as „to be lucky" in English. „Wir haben Glück" is „We are lucky".
3. „mein" (my) and „dein" (your) are possessive pronouns, that is, they show us that something belongs to me or you. In German, they behave just like adjectives in that they also get different endings based on the gender of the noun that they are associated with. Also, you may notice that at one point we say „dein Koffer" and at another point we say „deinen Koffer". This is because in the one case the suitcase is the subject of the sentence and in the other case the suitcase is the object. Adjectives don't just depend on the noun gender, they also depend on whether the noun is singular or plural and even what role the noun plays in the sentence. Don't worry too much about these endings right now; even Germans don't always use the right ones. Just work on being able to formulate simple German sentences for now, and we'll take a closer look at the endings and the reason for the changes later.
4. If a word was randomly assigned the masculine gender in German, then all references to it will use the word „er" (he) instead of the „es" (it) that you might expect from English. That's why Joe said „Er hat ein Muster" („he" has a pattern) about his suitcase.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is the irregular verb "haben" (to have)

Copy and Paste a line from the dialog that uses this grammar point here (If this is a romance language, please use italics for this line)

"Copy and Paste the translation for the line above here" (Please keep quotation marks | Find this **BLUE** in the font color box: top row, third from the right.)

„haben“ (to have) is one of the most important German verbs. It is used not only to talk about possession, but also to form other tenses, as we shall see later. And it is used in a non-literal sense in various expressions, such as „Hunger haben“ (to be hungry), „Durst haben“ (to be thirsty), „Zeit haben“ (to have time), and so on.

Unfortunately, „haben“ is irregular. Here are its forms for the present tense:

ich habe – I have

du hast – you have (singular, informal)

er hat – he has

wir haben – we have

ihr habt – you have (plural)

sie haben / Sie haben – they have / you have (singular, formal)

5

Cultural Insight

German Airports

- * no free internet, though most airports have paid wireless internet
- * no water fountains
- * signs in English and German, so you don't have to learn all the advanced words like „Kofferausgabe“
- * the staff is bilingual or trilingual
- * wares are really expensive, like at any international airport. Duty-free shops are not cheap ways to shop either.
- * you'll have to give up your drinks before you go through security, but at least you won't have to take off your shoes or provide fingerprints as you may have to do at airports abroad



Absolute Beginner S1

It's Never Been So Easy to Say Goodbye to New Friends...to All of Them...in
German!!

10

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Formal German

Anke Gut, also... Wie kommst du jetzt in dein Hotel?
Joe Hmm. Ich nehme wohl ein Taxi. Und wie fährst du nach Hause?
Anke Ich fahre mit dem Bus.
Joe Ah, okay. Und wo hält dein Bus?
Anke Da vorne.
Joe Hmm, ich sehe es nicht. Wo?
Anke Da! Siehst du den Polizisten?!
Joe Hmm, ja...
Anke Da hält mein Bus und da halten auch die Taxis.
Joe Aaah...okay.
...
Joe Gibst du mir noch deine Telefonnummer? Oder ich gebe dir meine Telefonnummer...
Anke Aber du hast doch meine Telefonnummer schon! Und ich habe deine!
Joe Ach ja, natürlich! Entschuldigung!
Anke Kein Problem! ... Ah, da kommt mein Bus. Joe, ich hoffe wir sehen uns bald wieder!
Joe Ja, hoffe ich auch!
Anke Tschüss!
Joe Bis bald!

English

Anke Good, so... How do you get to your hotel now?
Joe Hmm. I will probably take a taxi. And how will you go home?
Anke I will ride the bus.
Joe Ah, okay. And where does your bus stop?
Anke Over there in front.
Joe Hmm, I don't see it. Where?
Anke There! Do you see the policeman?!
Joe Hmm, yes...
Anke There my bus will stop and the taxis stop there too.
Joe Aaah... okay.
...
Joe Will you give me your phone number? Or I could give my phone number to you...

Anke: But you already have my phone number! And I have yours!
 Joe: Ah yes, of course! I'm sorry!
 Anke: No problem! ... Ah, there's my bus. Joe, I hope we will see each other again soon!
 Joe: Yes, I hope so too!
 Anke: Bye!
 Joe: See you soon!

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
Hotel	hotel	noun	neuter
nehmen	to take	verb	vowel-changing verb: ich nehme, du nimmst, er nimmt, wir nehmen...
Taxi	taxi	noun	neuter; plural: Taxis
fahren	to drive, go	verb	not just when you're the driver, not just for cars (also bicycles, busses, trains...)
Haus	house	noun	Neuter.
wo	where	question word	
halten	to hold; to consider sb./sth. as, to think; to stop	verb	vowel-changing a ? ä
geben	to give	verb	vowel-changing verb: ich gebe, du gibst, er gibt, wir geben...
natürlich	of course, natural, naturally	adjective & adverb	
hoffen	to hope	verb	
tschüss	bye	salutation	
bis	until, till	adverb	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Nimm dir noch ein Stück Fleisch!

Take another piece of meat!

Hallo? Ich brauche ein Taxi an der Königsstraße

Hello? I need a taxi at the corner of Königsstraße

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<i>Ecke Friedrichsstraße.</i>	and Friedrichsstraße.
<i>Viele Taxifahrer kommen aus der Türkei.</i>	Many taxi drivers come from Turkey.
<i>Du musst auf der rechten Seite fahren.</i>	You have to drive on the right side.
<i>Wir fahren nach Deutschland.</i>	We go to Germany.
<i>Mein Haus ist nicht groß.</i>	My house isn't big.
<i>Wo wohnst du jetzt?</i>	Where do you live now?
<i>Halten Sie bitte an der Ecke.</i>	Please stop at the corner.
<i>Kannst du das kurz halten?</i>	Can you hold that for a second?
<i>Ich halte ihn für klug.</i>	I think he is intelligent.
<i>Bitte gib mir etwas zu trinken!</i>	Please give me something to drink!
<i>Natürlich habe ich schon vom Brandenburger Tor gehört!</i>	Of course I've heard of the Brandenburg Gate!
<i>Ich hoffe, dass du nicht wieder zu spät kommen wirst.</i>	I hope that you won't come late again.
<i>Ich schlafen jeden Tag bis 10 Uhr.</i>	I sleep till 10 am every day.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. nach Hause = "to house" = home (as a direction). This is a set expression, a relic of older times. You can tell because "Haus" does not get an -e ending in modern German.
2. bis = until. This can be used to form a lot of German goodbyes. For example "Bis bald" (until soon = see you soon), "Bis nächste Woche" (see you next week), "Bis morgen" (see you tomorrow) and "Bis Juni" (see you in June)

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson are the object personal pronouns.

Gibst du mir noch deine Telefonnummer?

"Will you give your phone number to me?"

In this lesson you have encountered more verbs that change their vowel for the „du" and „er" forms. They behave just like the verb „sprechen" that we have seen in lesson 6. Just the verbs „nehmen" and „sehen" change their spelling a bit to reflect the pronunciation - definitely have a look at the PDF for that.

nehmen ? ich nehme, du nimmst, er nimmt, wir nehmen, ihr nehmt, sie nehmen
sehen ? ich sehe, du siehst, er sieht, wir sehen, ihr seht, sie sehen
fahren ? ich fahre, du fährst, er fährt, wir fahren, ihr fahrt, sie fahren
halten ? ich halte, du hältst, er hält, wir halten, ihr haltet, sie halten
geben ? ich gebe, du gibst, er gibt, wir geben, ihr gebt, sie geben

The change is always towards a vowel that is further in front of the mouth. E changes to I (or IE in exceptional cases) and A changes to Ä.

Now there's something tricky with the verb „geben"(to give), and also other verbs we'll see. You could say for example „You give your phone number to me"... but what is that word „me" there? It's a form of „I", which is used here because „I" is not the subject of this sentence. In German, this change also occurs. In the same sentence in German, you have to say „mir" instead of „ich". „mir" is the German equivalent of „to me".

If you try the same with the word „we", then you'll notice that it also changes. Instead of „You give your phone number to we", you say „You give your phone number to us". In German, „to us" is „uns". And German goes one step further by having such words for each of the personal pronouns. Here's the list.

ich ? mir (to me)
du ? dir (to you, informally)
er ? ihn (to him)
sie ? ihr (to her)
es ? es (to it)
wir ? uns (to us)
ihr ? euch (to you, plural)
sie ? ihnen (to them / to you, formally)

Now if you see the sentence „Oder ich gebe dir meine Telefonnummer..." in today's dialog, you will hopefully no longer be confused.

Cultural Insight

Taking the bus in Germany is a bit different from how you would do so in the states, and I believe also that some of our listeners may not have taken a bus before. So let's talk about how to go about it.

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First, the bus stops. You can identify bus stops by tall metal posts or columns bearing a flag-like white sign. That sign should have the letter H in green on a yellow background inside a green-rimmed circle. Even though there are lots of independent bus companies in Germany, they all use this sign.

At the bus stop, typically attached to the pole, there will be one or more time-tables that show the departure times. The various stops that the bus makes before or after the current one should also be listed on the same sheet. If the bus is going in the wrong direction, look for a similar bus station pole on the other side of the street, not too far away. It's quite easy to navigate the busses in Germany, because you don't have to call anybody for information. Some often-used bus stops also have rain shelters, benches and electronic displays announcing when the next bus is scheduled to arrive.

Once the bus is there, get in through the front door and buy a ticket there. If you already have one, wave it at the bus driver, because some areas are very strict about that. You can buy single-pass tickets, which are valid within a certain zone even if you have to change, and you can also buy reduced-fare tickets, multi-pass tickets or day tickets. You hand the money directly to the bus driver. He will give you change back if necessary, but may be unable to do so if you only have very large bills.

Sit down or hang onto something as soon as possible, because you can't sue the bus company if you fall in Germany. Don't fall asleep though, because you have to be alert and hit the button labelled „Halt" or „Stop" as the bus draws closer to your desired stop. This can be tricky if you don't know the area. Modern busses have an electronic display that indicates what the next stop or even the next few stops are. Otherwise you'll have to ask a local to alert you in time, or try to make out the writing on those bus stop poles to identify your location.

As the bus comes to a stop, go to the back door, because some regions keep a clear policy of only allowing people to get in the one way and exit the other way. The bus driver should open the door, but if that doesn't happen, look for another button on the door or on a near near the door, which will open the door for you, so you can get out.



Absolute Beginner S1

Leave This German Taxi at Once!

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Formal German

Joe: Hallo. Ich möchte nach Wilmersdorf. Das Hotel ist in der Bundesallee.
Fahrerin: Kein Problem. Kommen Sie, ich fahre Sie.
Joe: Danke.
Fahrerin: Und woher kommen Sie?
Joe: Ich komme aus Kanada.
Fahrerin: Ah, Kanada ist schön. Mensch, fahr schon! Die Ampel ist grün!
Joe: Wie bitte?
Fahrerin: Ach, ich meine das Auto da vorn.
Joe: Ach so.
Fahrerin: Und wie lange werden Sie in Berlin bleiben?
Joe: Ich bleibe nur zwei Wochen.
Fahrerin: Ah so. ... Wie heißt das Hotel?
Joe: Das Hotel heißt „Hotel Berlin“.
Fahrerin: Lauf doch!
Joe: Wie bitte?
Fahrerin: Nein, nicht Sie. Der Fußgänger.
Joe: Ach so.
Joe: Ähm, halten Sie bitte hier. Ich sehe schon das Hotel da vorn.
Fahrerin: Okay, das macht 15 Euro.
Joe: Bitte schön.
Fahrerin: Danke.

English

Joe: Hello. I'd like to [go to] Wilmersdorf. The hotel is in the Federal Alley.
Driver: No problem. Come, I'll drive you.
Joe: Thanks.
Driver: And where do you come from?
Joe: I come from Canada.
Driver: Ah, Canada is nice. Man, go already! The traffic light is green!
Joe: Excuse me?
Driver: Oh, I mean the car up there in front.
Joe: Aha.
Driver: And how long will you stay in Berlin?
Joe: I'm only staying for two weeks.
Driver: Aha. ... What's the name of the hotel?

Joe: The hotel is called 'Hotel Berlin'.
 Driver: Walk on!
 Joe: Excuse me?
 Driver: No, not you. That pedestrian.
 Joe: Aha.
 Joe: Ehm, please stop here. I already see the hotel up there in front.
 Driver: Okay, that will be 15 Euros.
 Joe: Here you are.
 Driver: Thanks.

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
möchte	would like	verb	conditional tense of "mögen", but it behaves essentially like a fictional verb "möchten"
woher	from where	question word	
schön	nice, pretty	adjective & adverb	
Mensch	human	noun	masculine; plural: Menschen
Ampel	traffic light	noun	feminine
grün	green	adjective	
meinen	to mean, think	verb	weak verb
Auto	car	noun	neuter
laufen	to jog; to function; to be underway	verb	er läuft, er lief, er ist gelaufen
heißen	to be called; (3rd person only:) to mean	verb	not passive in German
Fußgänger	pedestrian	noun	masculine; plural is the same

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Ich möchte einen Kaffee.

I would like a coffee.

Woher kommt Robert?

Where does Robert come from?

Es ist schön, dass Sie da sind.

It's nice that you're there.

Manche Menschen bekommen schon sehr früh eine Some people get a bald head very early. But there

<i>Glatze. Aber es gibt immer wieder Fälle, denen das wirklich steht.</i>	are always cases, for whom it is very becoming.
<i>Er ist ein ehrlicher Mensch.</i>	He is an honest person.
<i>Alle Menschen sind gleich.</i>	All men are equal.
<i>An der Ampel biegen Sie rechts ab.</i>	Turn right at the traffic light.
<i>Möchtest du einen grünen Tee?</i>	Would you like some green tea?
<i>Grüner Salat ist sehr gesund.</i>	Green salad is very healthy.
<i>Das meinst du nicht ehrlich, oder?</i>	You don't seriously mean that, do you?
<i>Mein Auto ist ein bisschen dreckig.</i>	My car is a little dirty.
<i>Der Fernseher läuft bei manchen Leuten Tag und Nacht und ich habe seit gut zwei Jahren noch nicht mal mehr einen.</i>	Some people have the TV running day and night and I don't even have one anymore since a little over two years.
<i>Läufst du immer deinen Problemen davon?</i>	Are you always running from your problems?
<i>Was heißt das?</i>	What does this mean?
<i>Ich heiße Mark.</i>	I am called Mark. / My name is Mark.
<i>In der Fußgängerzone findest du alle möglichen Geschäfte - Boutiken, CD-Läden, Fotogeschäfte, Buchläden, und viele andere.</i>	In the pedestrian zone you will find all kinds of stores - boutiques, CD shops, photo shops, book stores and many others.
<i>Dieser Fußgänger steht genau vor meinem Auto und geht nicht weg!</i>	This pedestrian is standing right in front of my car and is not budging!

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. Wilmersdorf is a part of Berlin, and Bundesallee is a street name.
2. "Wie bitte?" is a very polite thing to say when you didn't understand something and would like the other person to repeat himself. Many Germans will just say "Häh?"
3. "Das macht X Euro." = That's X Euros.
4. "Bitte schön" is a more polite way of saying "Bitte". Similarly you can say "Danke schön" as a more polite way of saying "Danke". Note that „Bitte" has many uses in German. We use it to say „please", we use it to say „you're welcome" and also when we're passing something to somebody, like we're passing the money to the driver right now.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is the imperative.

Mensch, fahr schon!

"Man, go already!"

This lesson's sentences are not in the present tense - they are in imperative form. The Imperative (imperative) is used to give commands, or also polite requests, if you add „bitte“.

In German, the formal imperative is just the same as the formal present tense, except that the verb comes first and the „Sie“ second. For example „Gehen Sie!“ (Go!) or „Kommen Sie!“ (Come!).

The informal imperative, the kind you'd use with friends or family, is more interesting. This one corresponds to just the word stem without any ending and no pronoun, e. g. „Geh!“, „Komm!“. You would also use this one with people you're insulting, because using the polite „Sie“ in those cases would be extremely weird.

Finally, if you want to make a suggestion and include yourself, as in the English „Let's go!“, you can use another type of imperative in German, for the first person plural. For this, just place „wir“ AFTER rather than before the 1st person plural form - „Gehen wir!“

Cultural Insight

Taxis in Germany

- * Germans often won't even think of taking taxis because people are so used to taking the public transport, and assume that the public transport is cheaper (which it usually is, except if you're travelling with four people)
- * there are very few flat rates
- * you usually can't pay by credit card
- * when you pay and want to leave a tip, you should say the total amount that you're paying, not the difference
- * it's somewhat common to sit in the front seat next to the taxi driver, which also makes it easier to pay
- * there is no security barrier between the taxi driver and any of the seats



Absolute Beginner S1

A German Hotel Nightmare

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Formal German

Hotel	Guten Tag.
Joe	Hallo. Mein Name ist Joe Cardigan. Ich habe eine Reservierung.
Hotel	Ja, warten Sie bitte... Hmm. Ich sehe keine Reservierung für heute... Wie heißen Sie noch mal?
Joe	Cardigan, Joe. Ich habe ein Zimmer für eine Woche.
Hotel	Aah. Hier. Jetzt sehe ich es. Sie haben Zimmer 101. Geben Sie mir bitte Ihren Pass?
Joe	Hier. Und hier ist meine Mastercard.
Hotel	Danke. Bitte unterschreiben Sie hier.
Joe	Bitte. ... Gibt es ein Telefon auf dem Zimmer?
Hotel	Ja, natürlich.
Joe	Und gibt es auch Internet?
Hotel	Nein, es tut mir leid. Es gibt kein Internet auf dem Zimmer, nur an den Computern hier vorne.
Joe	Okay. Und wann gibt es Frühstück?
Hotel	Frühstück gibt es von 7 Uhr bis 10 Uhr.
Joe	Okay, danke schön.

English

Hotel	Good day.
Joe	Hello. My name is Joe Cardigan. I have a reservation.
Hotel	Yes, please wait... Hmm. I don't see a reservation for today... What is your name again?
Joe	Cardigan, Joe. I have a room for a week.
Hotel	Aah. Here. Now I see it. You have room 101. Give me your passport please?
Joe	Here. And here's my mastercard.
Hotel	Thanks. Please sign here.
Joe	There you go. ... Is there a phone in the room?
Hotel	Yes, of course.
Joe	And is there internet as well?
Hotel	No, I'm sorry. There is no internet in the room, just at the computers here in front.
Joe	Okay. And when is breakfast?
Hotel	Breakfast is from 7 o'clock to 10 o'clock.

Joe

Okay, thank you very much.

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
Name	name	noun	masculine; plural: Namen
Reservierung	reservation	noun	feminine; plural: Reservierungen
für	for	preposition	
Zimmer	room	noun	neuter; plural is the same
unterschreiben	to sign	noun	"unter" splits off
es gibt	there is, there are	expression	very useful expression!
Telefon	telephone	noun	neuter; plural: Telefone
an	at, to	preposition	used with Dative (location) or Accusative (direction)
der Computer	computer		
wann	when	question word	
Frühstück	breakfast	noun	neuter; verb: frühstücken
von	of, from	preposition	von + Dative also replaces the Genitive more and more
Uhr	clock; o'clock	noun	
bis	until, till	adverb	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Mein Name ist Lisa.

Haben Sie eine Reservierung für heute abend?

Ist das Paket für mich?

Ich hätte gern ein Einzelzimmer, kein Doppelzimmer.

Wo ist euer Badezimmer?

Bitte unterschreiben Sie diesen Vertrag.

Es gibt viele Cafés hier.

Ich brauche dringend ein neues Telefon.

Hast du meine Telefonnummer?

My name is Lisa.

Do you have a reservation for tonight?

Is that package for me?

I would like a single room, not a double room.

Where is your Bathroom?

Please sign this contract.

There are many cafés here.

I urgently need a new phone.

Do you have my phone number?

Am Rhein sieht man immer viele Schiffe.

Ich gehe oft an den Fluss.

Wann kommst du?

Es gibt Brot zum Frühstück.

Als alleinerziehende Mutter von drei Kindern hat sie es sehr schwer.

Ich kriege von meinen Eltern gesagt, was ich tun und lassen kann.

Die Uhr tickt.

Ich schlafen jeden Tag bis 10 Uhr.

At the river Rhine you always see many ships.

I often go to the river.

When will you come (over)?

There's bread for breakfast.

As a single mum of three kids she has a very hard time.

I get told by my parents what I can and can't do.

The clock is ticking

I sleep till 10 am every day.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. noch mal = once again

2. ... Uhr = ... o'clock. Sieben Uhr = seven o'clock. Note that in this case you do NOT use the plural of „Uhr“, which would be „Uhren“.

3. von... bis... = from... to... . E. g. von April bis September = from April to September

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson are the expression "es gibt" and a little bit more about "kein"

Es gibt kein Internet auf dem Zimmer.

"There is no internet in the room."

„es gibt“, literally „it gives“, is a unique German expression. It is the equivalent of the English „there is“ or „there are“, except it is always „es gibt“, it doesn't change. For example

Es gibt Internet auf dem Zimmer. = There is internet (available) in the room.

Es gibt ein Telefon auf dem Zimmer. = There is a phone in the room.

Es gibt viele Menschen im Hotel. = There are many people in the hotel.

Note that you'll use „kein“ rather than „nicht“ to make a negative sentence.

Es gibt kein Internet auf dem Zimmer. = There isn't any internet in the room.

Es gibt kein Telefon auf dem Zimmer. = There is no telephone in the room.

Es gibt keine Menschen im Hotel. = There aren't any people in the hotel.

„viele" and „keine" both have the -e ending denoting a plural.

Cultural Insight

Accommodation

When coming to Germany, you have several options of where to stay.

- * Hotels - You could stay at a hotel and most will probably do that. Depending on your need for luxury, you can spend little or very much money. Unlike in Africa for example, the German star ranking of hotels corresponds closely to the international star ranking.
- * Hostels - A hostel might be called Gasthaus or Pension in German and it will typically be a cheaper, less luxurious and more homely place to stay.
- * Youth Hostels - A special case are the Jugendherbergen (youth hostels), which mainly cater to school- or college-aged kids and families. If you don't mind the very basic furnishings and the noise, they may well be a good option for you. They are not limited to young people, though you may pay a higher fee per-night if you're past a certain age.
- * Motels - Germany has few classic road-side motels.
- * Homestays - An interesting way to see Germany, especially if you're travelling as an individual, is through a homestay with a German family. That way, you get to speak a lot more German and you experience the real German culture. Several companies offer to organize homestays along with language courses - or you can just sign up for a hospitality network online like Couchsurfing and make the contact yourself. When staying with a German family, it is customary to bring a gift from your region. Unless you're paying them, you should also help with chores like washing dishes, or buy some groceries sometime, like any member of the household.
- * Emergency shelters - In a really bad emergency, if you're about to sleep under a bridge, you can go to the Bahnhofsmmission instead. This is a shelter available at most train stations. Homeless people go there a lot, but the Bahnhofsmmission only lets you stay one or two nights.



Absolute Beginner S1

Touring Germany in Style

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Formal German

Joe	Entschuldigung...
Rezeptionist	Ja bitte?
Joe	Wie komme ich zum Reichstag?
Rezeption	Steigen Sie da vorn in den Bus einhundert (100) ein. Er hält am Reichstag.
Joe	Ah, das ist ja gut. Danke.
Rezeptionist	Viel Spaß!
...	
Joe	Entschuldigung, wie komme ich auf den Reichstag?
Einweiserin	Der Eingang ist da vorne. Kommen Sie, ich bringe Sie hin.
Joe	Oh, danke.
Einweiserin	Kein Problem. ... Kommen Sie aus den USA?
Joe	Nein, ich komme aus Kanada.
Einweiserin	Ach so! Sie sprechen gut Deutsch!
Joe	Danke.
Einweiserin	Es gibt im Reichstag einen Audio-Guide auf Deutsch und auch auf Englisch.
Joe	Ah, das ist gut. Dann leihe ich einen Audio-Guide aus. Und was kostet der Audio-Guide?
Einweiserin	Er ist kostenlos.
Joe	Oh, wirklich?
Einweiserin	Ja. Und der Eintritt zum Reichstag ist auch kostenlos.
Joe	Mensch, das ist ja super!

English

Joe	Excuse me...
Receptionist	Yes please?
Joe	How do I get to the Reichstag?
Receptionist	Get into the bus 100 up there. It stops at the Reichstag.
Joe	Ah, that's good. Thanks.
Receptionist	Have fun!
...	
Joe	Excuse, how do I get onto (= to the top of) the Reichstag?
Usher	The entrance is over there in front. Come, I'll take you there.
Joe	Oh, thanks.



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Usher: No problem. ... Do you come from the USA?
Joe: No, I come from Canada.
Usher: Ah! You speak German well!
Joe: Thanks.
Usher: In the Reichstag there is an audio guide in German and also in English.
Joe: Ah, that's good. Then I shall borrow an audio guide. And what does the audio guide cost?
Usher: It's free.
Joe: Oh, really?
Usher: Yes. And the admission to the Reichstag is also free.
Joe: Man, that's great!

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
zu	to	preposition	
steigen	to rise, climb	verb	er steigt, er stieg, er ist gestiegen
einsteigen	to get in, get on, board	verb	er steigt ein, er stieg ein, er ist eingestiegen
der Bus	bus		
(ein)hundert	(one) hundred	number	
Spaß	fun	noun	masculine
Eingang	entrance	noun	masculine; plural: Eingänge
bringen	to bring, take somebody somewhere	verb	er bringt, er brachte, er hat gebracht
hinbringen	to bring/take to a place	verb	er bringt hin, er brachte hin, er hat hingebracht
leihen	to borrow, lend	verb	er leiht, er leihte, er hat geliehen; means "lend" when another person is mentioned in the Dative
ausleihen	to borrow out, lend out	verb	er leiht aus, er lieh aus, er hat ausgeliehen; means "lend out" when another person is mentioned in the Dative
kosten	to cost	verb	weak verb



kostenlos	for free, free of charge	adjective & adverb	
Eintritt	admission, entry	noun	masculine
super	super, great	adjective & adverb	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Ich komme mit zum Strand, aber ich werde mich nur sonnen, nicht schwimmen.</i>	I'm coming along to the beach, but I will just sun-bathe, I won't swim.
<i>Bitte gib mir etwas zu trinken!</i>	Please give me something to drink!
<i>Alle kommen zur Party, du auch?</i>	Everybody is coming to the party, you too?
<i>Der Luftballon steigt hoch auf.</i>	The air balloon rises up high.
<i>Na los, steig schon ein! Wir warten nicht ewig!</i>	Go, get in already! We won't wait forever!
<i>Es gibt mehr als hundert verschiedene Hunderassen.</i>	There are more than a hundred different breeds of dogs.
<i>Es macht Spaß!</i>	It's fun!
<i>Bitte geben Sie am Eingang Ihre Taschen ab.</i>	Please give away your bags at the entrance.
<i>Bitte bring den gelben Sack mit Müll raus.</i>	Please take out the yellow sack of garbage.
<i>Komm, wir bringen ihn ins Krankenhaus.</i>	Come, we'll take him to the hospital.
<i>Mami, bringst du mich mit dem Auto zur Schule? - Ja, ich bringe dich hin.</i>	Mum, will you take me to school by car? - Yes, I'll take you there.
<i>Ich besitze keine Schlittschuhe, also muss ich mir welche ausleihen.</i>	I don't own any skates, so I have to borrow some.
<i>Ich besitze keine Schlittschuhe, also muss ich mir welche ausleihen.</i>	I don't own any skates, so I have to borrow some.
<i>Wie viel kostet dieses Stück?</i>	How much does this piece cost?
<i>Mit dieser Postkarte können Sie unseren kostenlosen Katalog anfordern.</i>	With this postcard you can request our free catalog.
<i>Der Eintritt ist frei/kostenlos.</i>	Admission is free/free of charge.
<i>Mann, du siehst heute abend super aus!</i>	Man, you're looking awesome tonight!

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. am = an dem = at the; by the same token zum = zu dem = to the
2. Viel Spaß = much fun = have fun! enjoy!
3. -los, as in „kostenlos“, is equivalent to the English -less. kostenlos = cost-less = free. arbeitslos = work-less = unemployed.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is separable verbs.

Steigen Sie da vorn in den Bus 100 ein.

"Get into bus 100 up there."

A „separable verb“ is one that splits in two at the slightest provocation. For example „ausleihen“ (to lend out, borrow out). In the infinitive it's one word, as you can also see in the phrase „Ich werde ihm mein Auto ausleihen“ (I will lend out my car to him). However, when it's conjugated, the „aus“ part splits off and positions itself at the end of the sentence: „Ich leihe ihm mein Auto aus.“ (I'm lending out my car to him).

The prefix „aus“ is the direct equivalent of the English „out“ in „to lend out“, so just „leihen“ means simply „to lend“ - or „to borrow“, depending on whether another person is mentioned or not. However, unlike in English, this verb prefix is jumping around. The „aus“ is an integral part of the infinitive „ausleihen“ but when you use it in a conjugated form, it splits off and places itself at the end of the sentence, as in „Ich leihe ihm mein Auto aus“.

The same thing happens with the verbs „einsteigen“ (ein- = in) and „hinbringen“ (hin- = to) from this lesson. It's always the same prefixes that split off. Once you get the hang of it, it's not really difficult, just an annoyance. We shall see a lot more separable prefixes.

Cultural Insight

The Reichstag

The Reichstag building in Berlin is an impressive building where the German parliament met between 1894 and 1933. In 1933 the Nazis set fire to it and blamed the arsony on the Communists. After the war, with Germany divided into two separate states and Berlin split into two as well, the East German parliament convened in the Palace of the Republic in East Berlin, while the West German government settled down in Bonn as a safer place.

The reunified Germany started using Berlin as the seat of government again in 1999, and since then the German parliament is meeting in the Reichstag building again. The building is also open to tourists



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and there are always long lines of visitors waiting to be allowed into the glass dome, which is really beautiful and offers a nice view of Berlin.





Absolute Beginner S1

German Ice-cream With a View of Berlin

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Formal German

- Joe Entschuldigung, wo finde ich die Audio-Guides?
E Gleich hier vorn.
Joe Der Audio-Guide ist doch kostenlos, oder?
E Ja. Und es gibt den Audio-Guide in vielen Sprachen. Welche Sprache sprechen Sie?
Joe Hmm, ich spreche Englisch, Französisch und ein bisschen Deutsch. Aber ich glaube, ich nehme Deutsch.
E Gut. Hier bitte, viel Spaß!
Joe Danke.
... (Später auf der Dachterrasse) ...
Joe Hallo. Eine Kugel Eis bitte.
Kellnerin Gerne. Welche Sorte?
Joe Hmm, welche Sorten haben Sie?
Kellnerin Wir haben Schokolade, Vanille und Erdbeere. Und dann gibt es noch Zitrone und Banane als Wassereis.
Joe Hmm, so viele Sorten. Ich glaube dann nehme ich drei Kugeln. Schokolade, Banane und Zitrone, bitte.
Kellnerin Gut, das kostet 3 Euro.
Joe Hier bitte.
Kellnerin Guten Appetit!

English

- Joe Excuse me, where do I find the audio guides?
E Immediately here in front.
Joe The audio guide is free, isn't it?
E Yes. And the audio guide is available in many languages. Which language do you speak?
Joe Hmm, I speak English, French and a little German. But I believe I shall take the German.
E Good. Here you go, have fun!
Joe Thanks.
... (Later on the roof terrace) ...
Joe Hello. One scoop of ice-cream please.
Waitress Gladly. What kind?
Joe Hmm, what types do you have?

Waitress: We have chocolate, vanilla and strawberry. And then there's lemon and banana as water ice.
Joe: Hmm, so many types. I believe I shall take three scoops then. Chocolate, banana and lemon please.
Waitress: Good, that will cost you 3 Euros.
Joe: Here you are.
Waitress: Enjoy your meal!

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
finden	to find	verb	ich finde, ich fand, ich habe gefunden
gleich	equal; immediately, shortly	adjective & adverb	
glauben	to believe	verb	weak verb
Kugel	sphere, scoop of ice-cream	noun	feminine; plural: Kugeln
Eis	ice, ice-cream	noun	neuter
gern(e)	gladly	adverb	"gern" and "gerne" are used interchangeably.
Sorte	sort, kind, type, variety, species	noun	feminine; plural: Sorten
Schokolade	chocolate	noun	feminine; plural: Schokoladen
Vanille	vanilla	noun	feminine
Erdbeer(e)	strawberry	noun	feminine; plural: Erdbeeren
Zitrone	lemon	noun	feminine; plural: Zitronen
Banane	banana	noun	feminine; plural: Bananen
Appetit	appetite	noun	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Hast du den Treffpunkt gut gefunden?
Ich finde dieses Lied wirklich langweilig.*

Did you easily find the meeting-point?
I find this song to be really boring.

Alle Menschen sind gleich.

Ich bin gleich wieder da.

Es fällt mir schwer dir zu glauben.

Ich glaube er spricht mit einem Akzent, auch wenn ich nicht weiß, wo dieser herkommt.

Oh nein! Ich glaube ich bin in Hundescheiße getreten!

Ein Hörnchen mit drei Kugeln Eis bitte:

Schokolade, Vanille und Erdbeer.

Wie wäre es mit einem Eis?

Ich esse gerne Brötchen.

Ich trinke gerne Milch mit Honig.

Es gibt viele Biersorten in Deutschland, zum Beispiel Pils, Alt, Weizen...

Zur Zeit muss ich drei verschiedene Sorten Medizin nehmen.

Ich möchte das Schokoladenmuseum in Köln besichtigen.

Teil dir die Schokolade gut ein, vor Mittwoch kriegst du keine mehr.

Ein Hörnchen mit drei Kugeln Eis bitte:

Schokolade, Vanille und Erdbeer.

Du magst doch keine Schokolade, oder? - Doch!

Ein Hörnchen mit drei Kugeln Eis bitte:

Schokolade, Vanille und Erdbeer.

Ein Hörnchen mit drei Kugeln Eis bitte:

Schokolade, Vanille und Erdbeer.

Die Schalen von Orangen und Zitronen kann man auch zum Backen verwenden.

Guten Appetit! - Danke, gleichfalls!

All men are equal.

I will be back shortly.

I find it difficult to believe you.

I do believe he speaks with an accent, though I am not sure where it is from.

Oh no! I believe I stepped into dog poop!

A cone with three scoops of ice-cream please: chocolate, vanilla and strawberry.

How about having an ice-cream?

I like eating rolls.

I like drinking milk with honey.

There are many types of beer in Germany, for example pilsner, alt, wheat beer...

At the moment I have to take three different types of medicine.

I would like to visit the chocolate museum in Cologne.

Ration your chocolate well, you won't get any more before Wednesday.

A cone with three scoops of ice-cream please: chocolate, vanilla and strawberry.

You surely don't like chocolate, do you? – Yes I do!

A cone with three scoops of ice-cream please: chocolate, vanilla and strawberry.

A cone with three scoops of ice-cream please: chocolate, vanilla and strawberry.

One can also use the peel of oranges and lemons for backing.

Have a good appetite! / Enjoy your meal! -

Thanks, same to you!

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. Eis = ice, ice-cream. Even though it's possible to say „Eiskrem" in German, Germans usually won't call it that. We just refer to both ice and ice-cream as „Eis".

2. gerne, or gern, with an optional E. This word does not really have an English equivalent. It's possible

to translate it as „gladly" or „willingly", but „gerne" is a lot more common in German than either of these. It can replace the verb „to like". For example „Ich fahre gerne Taxi", „I like to ride a taxi".

3. Guten Appetit! Literally this means „good appetite", and it means that somebody is wishing that you may have a good appetite. It's the same as French „bon appetit" or Italian „buon appetito", but there is no English equivalent except „Enjoy your meal". Keep in mind though that in Germany, wishing people „Guten Appetit" or returning that wish is mandatory before warm meals. For cold meals and snacks like ice-cream it's a bit strange to hear this wish, since you don't need appetite to eat those, that's why the waitress said in a half-joking way.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is noun plurals, part 1.

Hmm, so viele Sorten. Ich glaube dann nehme ich drei Kugeln.

"Hmm, so many types. I believe I shall take three scoops then."

German plurals can be a mouthful, because there are different groups of words that form the plural differently. Today we will look at two types. But before that, please note that the German definite article is always „die" for plural nouns - no more worrying about „der", „die" or „das"!

Type 1 - no new ending. Nouns ending in -er or -en do not add any ending. This easy group includes some very common types of words, such as nationalities and professions (Amerikaner, Japaner, Designer, Programmierer) and diminutives with the -chen ending (Bierchen - little beer, Häuschen - little house, etc.).

Type 2 - add -en or -n. This is a really common way of forming the plural covering most feminine nouns, including all ice-cream flavor names that we saw in this lesson (Erdbeere, Banane, Zitrone, Schokolade), many Latin- or Greek-derived words (e. g. Nationalität - Nationalitäten), as well as masculine nouns ending in -e or describing a living being (der Deutsche - die Deutschen). In the previous lessons we've already encountered the following nouns that are this type - Ampel, Ausgabe, Entschuldigung, Farbe, Frau, Herr, Kontrolle, Mensch, Name, Polizist, Reservierung, Sonne, Sprache, Telefonnummer, Tourist, Uhr and Woche. Do you recall the translations of all of them? Otherwise, look them up using the dictionary at GermanPod101.com .

Since there are different types of nouns requiring different endings for plural, we shall always tell you what kind of plural a noun chose when we teach a new noun.

Cultural Insight

Ice-cream and ice-cream sundaes are vastly popular in Germany, especially if the ice-cream is home-made by an Italian ice-cream parlour - Italians have the reputation of making the best ice-cream. The ice-cream parlours are usually quite small, perhaps accomodating 30 people inside, but in summer they offer several times as many seats outside in the pedestrian zone or on the sidewalk. Despite that, you will still struggle to find a seat, especially if it's a place renowned to be good.

You will find that the ice-cream flavors are quite different from American ones. Most places only have natural flavors such as various fruit, chocolate, vanilla and stracciatella, that is a kind of vanilla with chocolate pieces in it. Bigger places may add some yoghurt flavors, mocca, nut flavors or peppermint, but what is really missing are things like double-chocolate, cookie dough, marshmellow or other flavors based on sweets. If you absolutely want them, it is possible to get these flavors in some jars of Ben & Jerry's or Haagen Dasz, but they are really expensive and you definitely won't find them at ice-cream parlours.



Absolute Beginner S1

Using the Phone At a German Hotel

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Formal German

Rezeption	Hallo Herr Cardigan, wie geht es Ihnen?
Joe	Danke, gut. Aber ich bin jetzt etwas müde von dem Ausflug zum Reichstag.
Rezeption	Ja, Ausflüge machen müde.
Joe	Ja. ... Sagen Sie, wie funktioniert das Telefon auf dem Zimmer?
Rezeption	Werden Sie Ihre Familie in Kanada anrufen?
Joe	Ja.
Rezeption	Okay. Drücken Sie die Taste mit dem Stern auf dem Telefon.
Joe	Stern, wie die Sterne am Himmel?
Rezeption	Haha, ja, aber am Telefon ist es diese Taste hier.
Joe	Ah, okay.
Rezeption	Dann wählen Sie 001 für Kanada und dann die Telefonnummer.
Joe	Okay. Und was kostet ein Anruf?
Rezeption	Anrufe kosten 40 Cent pro Minute.
Joe	Und wenn meine Familie anruft? Wie geht das?
Rezeption	Das ist kein Problem. Sie ruft hier im Hotel an und ich leite den Anruf auf Ihr Zimmer weiter.
Joe	Ah, gut. Danke.
Rezeption	Bitte, kein Problem.

English

Reception	Hello Mr Cardigan, how are you?
Joe	Thanks, I'm well. But I am a bit tired now from the excursion to the Reichstag.
Reception	Yes, trips make you tired.
Joe	Yes. Tell me, how does the phone work in the room?
Reception	Are you going to call your family in Canada?
Joe	Yes.
Reception	Okay. Press the button with the star on the phone.
Joe	Star, like the stars in the sky?
Reception	Haha, yes, but on the phone it's this button here.
Joe	Ah, okay.
Reception	Then dial 001 for Canada and then the phone number.
Joe	Okay. And what does a call cost?
Reception	Calls cost 40 cents a minute.

Joe: And if my family calls? How does that work?
 Reception: That is no problem. They call the hotel and I transfer the call to your room.
 Joe: Ah, good. Thanks.
 Reception: You're welcome, it's no problem.

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
müde	tired	adjective & adverb	
Ausflug	trip, excursion	noun	masculine; plural: Ausflüge
Familie	family	noun	feminine; plural: Familien
anrufen	to call	verb	er ruft an, er rief an, er hat angerufen
Himmel	sky, heaven	noun	masculine; plural is the same
wählen	to choose; to vote; to dial	verb	weak verb
Anruf	call	noun	masculine; plural: Anrufe
pro	per	preposition	
Minute	minute	noun	feminine; plural: Minuten
weiterleiten	to forward, transfer	verb	"weiter" splits off
funktionieren	to function, work	verb	weak verb
drücken	to press, push	verb	weak verb
Taste	button, key	noun	feminine; plural: Tasten
Stern	star	noun	masculine; plural: Sterne

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Heute bin ich sehr müde. I am very tired today.
Für diesen Ausflug sollten Sie widerstandsfähige Kleidung tragen. You should wear [wind+rain] resistant clothing for this excursion.
Ich habe eine große Familie. I have a big family.
Ich habe schon oft dort angerufen. Am Ende läuft es immer darauf hinaus, dass wir noch länger auf I already called there often. In the end it always comes down to us waiting even longer for our

unsere Bestellung warten müssen.

Sie war im siebten Himmel.

Wieso ist der Himmel blau?

Du kannst wählen: Fisch, Fleisch oder etwas Vegetarisches.

Stellen Sie den Anruf bitte in mein Büro durch.

Ich hab neulich gelesen, dass jeder Deutsche im Durchschnitt drei Kilo Lasagne pro Jahr isst.

Irgendwie hab ich das Gefühl, dass ich mindestens noch die Portionen meiner Eltern mitesse.

Nur noch fünf Minuten!

Ich leite ihre E-Mail gerne weiter.

Seit heute morgen funktioniert mein Computer nicht mehr. Ich vermisse ihn so sehr!

Auf der Tür steht "Drücken", nicht "Ziehen".

Bitte nicht auf den roten Knopf drücken!

Ein Klavier hat viele Tasten.

Auf dem Dorf kann man in einer wolkenlosen Nacht die Milchstraße sehen. Und die Sterne funkeln wie Diamanten um sie herum.

Deine Augen sind wie funkelnde Sterne!

order.

She was in seventh heaven.

Why is the sky blue?

You can choose: fish, meat or something vegetarian.

Please patch through the call to my office.

Recently I read that every German eats an average of three Kilo of Lasagne per year. Somehow I have the feeling that I am at least eating also eating the servings of my parents.

Just five more minutes!

I shall gladly forward your e-mail.

My computer hasn't been functioning since this morning. I miss it so much!

The door says "Push", not "Pull".

Please don't press the red button!

A piano has many keys.

In a village you can see the milky way in a cloudless night. And the stars glitter like diamonds around her.

Your eyes are like sparkling stars!

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. Ausflug = trip, excursion. This is only used for something that lasts less than a day.
2. funktionieren = to function, to work. Instead of „funktionieren" you can also use „laufen" when you just want to say that something is functioning or isn't functioning. „Es läuft" / „Es läuft nicht".

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is noun plurals, part 2.

Ausflüge machen müde.

"Excursions make you tired."

Last week we already learned that a lot of German nouns will add -en or -n for plural, especially if they are feminine nouns or end in -e already. We've also encountered nouns that don't change at all,

such as the ones ending in -er or -en. And we learned that the plural article is always „die“, there is no distinction between genders. Now let's look at some more ways of forming the plural.

Type 3 - nouns that add -e. E. g. der Anruf - die Anrufe (calls), das Problem - die Probleme (problems) and der Stern - die Sterne (stars). Most of these nouns are masculine and do not already end in an e, obviously. A special case are those that add an -e and also change their vowel, such as der Ausflug - die Ausflüge. Unfortunately it's not possible to predict which words will change their vowel; this largely depends on a vague sense of vowel harmony.

Cultural Insight

Making phone calls in Germany

When calling somebody in Germany, most people will say their name immediately after picking up the receiver in order to let you know whether you have reached the right person. They expect the same from you as the caller. Your answer to them saying their name should definitely include your name. It may be just your name or it may be your name with a greeting, but if you fail to say who you are altogether, quite a few people will get annoyed or hang up. It's not just a common courtesy, it also distinguishes you from people that have no business calling, such as telemarketers.

If you want to talk to somebody else in the household, you should still say your name before asking for the phone to be passed over. If you want to be really polite, you should also have a brief conversation with whoever answered the phone before requesting that, especially if you are acquainted with the person.



Absolute Beginner S1

Making the Most of Your Memories in Germany

16

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Formal German

Joe Hallo Mama!
Mutter Oh, hallo Joe! Wie geht es dir?
Joe Mir geht es gut! Ich rufe aus dem Hotel an.
Mutter Oh, hast du ein Telefon auf dem Zimmer?
Joe Ja.
Mutter Und wie findest du München?
Joe Aber ich bin in Berlin!
Mutter Oh ... Berlin! ... und wie findest du Berlin?
Joe Bis jetzt finde ich es gut hier. Die Menschen sind alle nett und das Hotel ist auch gut. Wie geht es euch?
Mutter Ach, hier ist alles gut. Deine Schwester ist bei Freundinnen.
Joe Und was machen die Männer?
Mutter Dein Vater und deine Brüder spielen Basketball.
Joe Ist das Wetter so schön schon?
Mutter Ja. Die Sonne scheint und es ist warm. Und morgen kommen Großmutter und Großvater uns besuchen.
Joe Oh, das ist schön!
Mutter Ja. ... Na gut, dann noch viel Spaß in München!
Joe Du meinst in Berlin!
Mutter Haha, ja natürlich ... in Berlin! Mach viele Fotos!
Joe Danke, bis bald!
Mutter Bis bald!

English

Joe Hello mum!
Mother Oh, hello Joe! How are you?
Joe I'm good! I'm calling from the hotel.
Mother Oh, do you have a telephone in the room?
Joe Yes.
Mother And how do you like Munich?
Joe But I am in Berlin!
Mother Oh ... Berlin! ... and how do you like Berlin?
Joe Until now I like it here [find it good here]. All of the people are nice and the hotel is good, too. How are you all?
Mother Oh, everything is good here. Your sister is with [female] friends.

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Joe: And what are the men doing?
Mother: Your father and your brothers are playing basketball.
Joe: Is the weather so nice already?
Mother: Yes. The sun is shining and it is warm. And tomorrow grandmother and grandfather are coming to visit us.
Joe: Oh, that's nice!
Mother: Yes. ... Well, have fun in Munich!
Joe: You mean in Berlin!
Mother: Haha, yes of course... in Berlin! Take many photos!
Joe: Thanks, see you soon!
Mother: See you soon!

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
Mama	mum	noun	feminine; plural: Mamas
Mutter	mother	noun	feminine; plural: Mütter
gehen	to go, to walk	verb	rarely used for going by car, that would be "fahren"
nett	nice, affable	adjective & adverb	
alles	everything, all	pronoun	
Schwester	sister	noun	feminine; plural: Schwestern
Freundin	female friend; girlfriend	noun	feminine; plural: Freundinnen
Mann	man	noun	masculine; means "husband" when used with a possessive pronoun
Vater	father	noun	masculine; plural: Väter
Bruder	brother	noun	masculine; plural: Brüder
spielen	to play	verb	play an instrument or play a game; weak verb
morgen	tomorrow	adverb	for "day after tomorrow" there is a special word: "übermorgen"; don't confuse with „der Morgen“ (the morning)



Foto	photo	noun	neuter; plural: Fotos
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Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Ich liebe Mamas Apfelkuchen. Das ist ein einfacher Mürbeteig mit Äpfeln und Zimt. Aber der Geschmack ist ungeschlagen.</i>	I love moms apple pie. It's a simple shortcrust pastry with apples and cinnamon. But nothing can beat the taste.
<i>Als alleinerziehende Mutter von drei Kindern hat sie es sehr schwer.</i>	As a single mum of three kids she has a very hard time.
<i>Meine Mutter macht unglaublich leckere Apfelkuchen.</i>	My mother makes incredibly delicious apple pies.
<i>Gehen Sie an der Tankstelle vorbei.</i>	Go past the gas station.
<i>Ich gehe nach Amerika.</i>	I go to America.
<i>Lass uns in Kino gehen.</i>	Let's go to the movies.
<i>Sie sind nett.</i>	You are nice.
<i>Nächstes Mal wird alles anders.</i>	Next time it will be completely different.
<i>Formale Bildung ist nicht alles.</i>	Formal education isn't everything.
<i>Hör auf deine Schwester zu ärgern!</i>	Stop annoying your sister!
<i>Das ist meine Freundin.</i>	This is my girlfriend. / This is a (femal) friend of mine.
<i>Mein Mann arbeitet hier.</i>	My husband works here.
<i>Wenn mein Vater seine berühmte Kohlsuppe macht, macht er immer gleich so viel, dass er die mindestens die Hälfte einfrieren und später essen kann.</i>	When my father makes his famous cabbage soup he always makes so much of it, that he can freeze at least half of it and eat it later.
<i>Du bist nicht mein Vater!</i>	You aren't my father!
<i>Die beiden Brüder rauften immer miteinander.</i>	The two brothers were always brawling with each other.
<i>Musst du wieder Gitarre spielen?</i>	Do you have to play the guitar again?
<i>Mein Hund will immer spielen.</i>	My dog always wants to play.
<i>Morgen habe ich einen Termin.</i>	Tomorrow I have an appointment.
<i>Ich habe Fotos gemacht.</i>	I took some pictures.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. Wie geht es dir? = literally „How goes it to-you?“ = How are you? The grammar behind this doesn't really make sense, so just learn it as a phrase. The typical answer is „Mir geht es gut“ (literally „to-me



goes it well" = I am well), but don't be surprised if people say they're not feeling all that well. The question is more rare in German and at the same time the answers can be more frank.

2. groß normally means "tall" or "great", as you know. However, in this lesson you've seen it used as a prefix. Großmutter = grandmother and Großvater = grandfather; while Großonkel would be great-uncle.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson are the noun plurals, for the last time.

Mach viele Fotos!

"Take many photos!"

We already learned that a lot of German nouns will add -en or -n for plural, especially if they are feminine nouns or end in -e already. We've also encountered nouns that don't change at all, such as the ones ending in -er or -en, and in the last lesson we've seen nouns that add -e for plural. Now let's look at the final few ways that nouns can form a plural.

Type 4 - Many neuter nouns and some others will add -er for plural. Then, if there's A, O or U in the word, it will also add an Umlaut. So we get Kind - Kinder (kids), Buch - Bücher (books) and Mann - Männer (men).

Type 5 - Finally, there are nouns that will add an -s. This is probably the easiest type for you, because you're used to nouns adding -s for plural in English. German words that are derived from English definitely add -s for plural. Also abbreviated words like "Foto" (short for "Fotografie") add an -s, and generally nouns that end in -a, -i or -o, for example also "Mama" (mum) and "Papa" (dad).

Cultural Insight

German families

Most German households consist of a mother, a father and one or two children. It is very uncommon for grandparents or aunts and uncles to live with the family, or for young couples not to have their own apartment. There are fewer births than deaths in Germany, so the population is expected to get older on average over the years, despite immigration. Also, as in America, single parents are becoming more and more common, though the divorce rate is not nearly as high as in the USA yet. Germany also allows homosexual couples to enter a civil union, which gives them similar benefits as marriage.



Absolute Beginner S1

Even Though it Is a Weird German Breakfast

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Formal German

Hotel Guten Morgen, Herr Cardigan!
Joe Guten Morgen. Entschuldigung, wo gibt es das Frühstück?
Hotel Frühstück gibt es in dem Zimmer gleich hier vorn. Kommen Sie, ich
 bringe Sie hin.
...
Hotel So, hier ist es.
Joe Ah, schön. Es ist ja ein Buffet.
Hotel Ja, genau. Hier vorne gibt es Brot. Da sind Wurst und Käse. Und dann
 gibt es auch noch Müsli.
Joe Uäh, Müsli! Gibt es auch Toast?
Hotel Hmm, ich glaube nicht, dass wir Toast haben.
Joe Oh, okay.
Hotel Wenn Sie noch Fragen haben ... ich komme gleich wieder.
Joe Okay.
...
Joe Entschuldigung.
Hotel Ja, bitte?
Joe Wo gibt es denn Kaffee?
Hotel Oh, tut mir leid, es gibt jetzt nur noch Tee, weil der Kaffee schon alle
 ist.
Joe Oh! Der Kaffee ist alle, obwohl es nicht mal neun Uhr ist! Hmm, na
 dann ... Tee ist auch okay!

English

Hotel Good morning, Mr Cardigan!
Joe Good morning. Excuse me, where is breakfast [served]?
Hotel Breakfast is [served] in the room right here in front. Come, I shall take
 you there.
...
Hotel Alright, this is it.
Joe Ah, nice. It is a buffet.
Hotel Yes, exactly. There is bread here in front. Over there there is lunchmeat
 and cheese. And then there is muesli as well.
Joe Yuck, Müsli! Is there toast, too?
Hotel Hmm, I don't believe that we have any toast.

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Joe Oh, okay.
Hotel If you have any more questions... I am coming back right away.
Joe Okay.
...
Joe Excuse me.
Hotel Yes, please?
Joe Where is the coffee?
Hotel Oh, I'm sorry, there is only tea now, because the coffee has run out already.
Joe Oh! The coffee has run out, even though it isn't nine o'clock yet! Hmm, well then... tea is also okay!

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
hin-	to there	prefix	
genau	exact, exactly	adjective & adverb	
Brot	bread	noun	neuter; plural: Brote
Wurst	lunchmeat, sausage	noun	feminine; plural: Würste
Käse	cheese	noun	masculine
Toast	toast	noun	masculine; plural: Toasts
dass	that	conjunction	starts a subclause
wenn	when, if	conjunction	the question word "when" is "wann" in German! ; (means „when“ only for something in the future)
Frage	question	noun	feminine; plural: Fragen
Kaffee	coffee	noun	masculine
Tee	tea	noun	masculine; no plural
weil	because	subjunction	
obwohl	although, even though	conjunction	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Ich bin müde; ich werde mich noch einmal hinlegen.

I'm tired; I'm going to lie down again.

<i>Komm sofort hierhin!</i>	Come here immediately!
<i>Der Treffpunkt ist genau hier.</i>	The meet-up point is here exactly.
<i>Ich hätte gern ein Butterbrot mit Käse.</i>	I would like a cheese sandwich.
<i>In Deutschland findet man oft Brot oder Brötchen mit Sonnenblumenkernen.</i>	In Germany you often find bread or rolls with sunflower seeds.
<i>Es gibt Brot zum Frühstück.</i>	There's bread for breakfast.
<i>Isst du heute Wurst oder Käse auf dem Brötchen?</i>	Are you eating lunchmeat or cheese on your roll today?
<i>Der Imbissstand an der Ecke dort macht die beste Currywurst in ganz Berlin.</i>	The food stall at the corner there prepares the best curry sausage in all of Berlin.
<i>Ich hätte gern ein Butterbrot mit Käse.</i>	I would like a cheese sandwich.
<i>Schweizer Käse ist sehr berühmt.</i>	Swiss cheese is very famous.
<i>Ich finde Toast nicht so lecker, ich mag Brötchen lieber.</i>	I find that toast isn't so yummy, I like rolls better.
<i>Ich denke, dass er das schon schaffen wird.</i>	I think that he will manage (it).
<i>Ich trinke immer Kaffee, wenn ich arbeite.</i>	I always drink coffee when I work.
<i>Verstehst du mich, wenn ich auf Englisch spreche?</i>	Do you understand me when I speak on (in) English?
<i>Beantworten Sie bitte meine ursprüngliche Frage.</i>	Please answer my original question.
<i>Wissen sie wer mir bei dieser Frage weiterhelfen könnte?</i>	Do you know who can help me further with this question?
<i>Ich trinke immer Kaffee, wenn ich arbeite.</i>	I always drink coffee when I work.
<i>Möchtest du einen grünen Tee?</i>	Would you like some green tea?
<i>Es gibt heute keine Entdecker mehr, weil scheinbar alle großen Entdeckungen schon gemacht wurden.</i>	There are no great discoverer anymore, because every great discovery seemingly is already made.
<i>Ich rede mit ihm, obwohl ich ihn nicht mag.</i>	I talk with him even though I don't like him.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. Guten Morgen = Good morning. This greeting can only be used before noon, unless you're using it facetiously... for example if a student is late to a 2pm lecture, the professor may say „Guten Morgen" to draw attention to the fact that it's late.

2. Buffet = buffet. Both German and English borrowed this word from French, and both spell it the same. However, Germans want to pronounce loanwords as closely to the original as they can manage, that's why the German pronunciation is quite far from the English pronunciation. It's a general rule that French-derived words should be pronounced much like in French, and it's not considered pedantic at

all. Rather, people who mispronounce those words will be considered uneducated.

3. alle sein = literally „to be all" = to have run out. For example „Der Kaffee ist alle" (Coffee has run out; We are out of coffee)

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson are subclauses.

Ich glaube nicht, dass wir Toast haben.

"I don't believe that we have any toast."

It's time to learn about the part of German that Mark Twain hated the most - subclauses. Subclauses are parts of a sentence that can't stand alone, even though they include a subject, a verb, maybe an object or other information. The main reason they can't stand alone is because of the introductory word, the conjunction, which begs further explanation. In today's dialog, we've encountered four different conjunctions.

obwohl = although, even though. Example „Der Kaffee ist alle, obwohl es nicht mal 9 Uhr ist!" (Coffee has run out even though it isn't 9 o'clock yet!). Also in English you can't say just „even though it isn't 9 o'clock yet", you have to provide more information in the same sentence. That is why we call this a subclause. The peculiarity with German subclauses is that the verb has to be placed at the very end of it, like the second „ist" in „Der Kaffee ist alle, obwohl es nicht mal 9 Uhr ist!". As you know, the verb appears in second position in main clauses.

weil = because. Example „Es gibt jetzt nur noch Tee, weil der Kaffee schon alle ist." (Only tea is available now, because the coffee has run out already). Here you can witness the same principle - „gibt" as the verb in the main clause appears in second position, while „ist" in the subclause is placed at the very end.

wenn = when, if. Example „Wenn Sie noch Fragen haben ... ich komme gleich wieder." (If you have any more questions, I'll be back right away). This goes to show that you can start a sentence with a subclause, just like in English. Also note that „wenn" can mean either „when" or „if".

dass = that. Example „Ich glaube nicht, dass wir Toast haben." (I don't believe that we have toast). This conjunction works in the same manner as all the others. Note that „dass" as a conjunction is always spelled with double S, while it is only spelled with one S when you mean the article, as in „das Zimmer".



Cultural Insight

Most Germans will eat bread or rolls with butter for breakfast. Further toppings can vary: jam, honey, Nutella (a chocolate-hazelnut spread), cheese, ham or cut sausage. Peanut butter is uncommon. Some people also regularly include yoghurt, curds, cereal, fruit or boiled eggs in their breakfast diet, or eat croissants in addition to rolls. Apart from eggs, it's very uncommon to have something that requires heating or cooking even. In exchange, there is a really big selection of different types of bread and rolls. People typically buy these immediately at a bakery because they are much better than supermarket stuff, and at a typical bakery you can find at least 6 types of rolls, 12 types of bread and lots of delicious cakes and pastries.

As a breakfast drink, regular coffee is very popular with adults, though Italian coffee variants like cappuccino, caffè latte and espresso are getting more popular. A minority drinks tea instead. Children are usually given hot cocoa or milk, or maybe juice. A specialty drink is hot milk with a spoonful of honey, this is said to be good against coughing and sore throats.





Absolute Beginner S1

The Best Way to Make Plans in German!

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Formal German

Anke Löwen, guten Tag.
Joe Ähm. Hier ist Joe Cardigan. Ist Anke da?
Anke Ja. Ich bin am Telefon!
Joe Oh! Du klingst so anders...
Anke Haha, echt?
Joe Ja, wirklich!
Anke Rufst du aus dem Hotel an?
Joe Ja, ich habe ein Telefon auf dem Zimmer.
Anke Oh, super. Wie findest du Berlin bis jetzt?
Joe Oh, ich finde Berlin wirklich toll.
Anke Schön!
Joe Anke, hast du heute schon etwas vor? Ich will später zum Potsdamer Platz gehen. Willst du mitkommen?
Anke Hmm. Heute habe ich keine Zeit, weil mein Bruder mich besuchen will. Aber morgen! Wollen wir am Ku'damm einen Kaffee trinken?
Joe Oh, ja. Das klingt super.
Anke Gut. Ich komme um zehn Uhr in dein Hotel und dann fahren wir zum Ku'damm. Okay?
Joe Ja, okay. Mein Hotel heißt „Hotel Berlin“ und ist in der Bundesallee.
Anke Ah, ich kenne das Hotel.
Joe Gut, dann bis später!
Anke Nein! Nicht später! Morgen erst!
Joe Oh, ja natürlich! Also, bis morgen!
Anke Ja, bis morgen!

English

Anke Löwen, good day.
Joe Ehm, this is Joe Cardigan. Is Anke there?
Anke Yes. I am on the phone!
Joe Oh! You sound so different...
Anke Haha, for real?
Joe Yes, really!
Anke Are you calling from the hotel?
Joe Yes, I have a phone in the room.
Anke Oh, great. How do you like Berlin up till now?



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Joe Oh, I find Berlin really great.
Anke Nice!
Joe ... Anke, do you have any plans for today? I want to go to Potsdamer Platz later. Do you want to come along?
Anke Hmm. Today I don't have time, because my brother wants to visit me. But tomorrow! Shall we have a coffee on the Ku'damm?
Joe Oh, yes. That sounds great.
Anke Good. I'll come to your hotel at 10am and then we'll drive to the Ku'damm. Okay?
Joe Yes, okay. My hotel is called "Hotel Berlin" and it's in Bundesallee.
Anke Ah, I know the hotel.
Joe Good, then see you later today!
Anke No! Not later today! Only tomorrow!
Joe Oh, yes, of course! So, see you tomorrow!
Anke Yes, see you tomorrow!

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
klingen	to sound	verb	
anders	different, other	adverb	
echt	authentic, real, really	adjective & adverb	
toll	great	adjective	
etwas	something		
vorhaben	to plan, to have in mind, to intend	verb	„vor“ splits off; ich habe vor, ich hatte vor, ich habe vorgehabt
wollen	to want	modal verb	Children are taught to say “Ich möchte” (I would like) rather than “Ich will”, as it is more polite; irregular
später	later today	adverb	
Zeit	time	noun	feminine
trinken	to drink	verb	
zehn	ten (10)	number	
kennen	to know somebody	verb	
erst	first, only then		



Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Das klingt gut.</i>	Sounds good.
<i>Privat ist er ganz anders.</i>	In private he is completely different.
<i>Nächstes Mal wird alles anders.</i>	Next time it will be completely different.
<i>Mir geht es heute echt mies. Ich frag mich ob etwas von dem Essen gestern schlecht war.</i>	I feel really awful today. I wonder if some of the food was bad yesterday.
<i>Ich finde diesen neuen Film wirklich toll.</i>	I think the new movie is really great.
<i>Ich will etwas trinken.</i>	I want to drink something.
<i>Hast du morgen schon was vor?</i>	Do you already plan something for tomorrow?
<i>Mein Hund will immer spielen.</i>	My dog always wants to play.
<i>Wir sind uns nicht einig, welches Haus wir kaufen wollen.</i>	We haven't reached an agreement about which house we want to buy.
<i>Es wird später Regen geben.</i>	There will be rain later.
<i>Die Zeiten ändern sich.</i>	Times change.
<i>Ich habe jetzt Zeit.</i>	I have time now.
<i>Ich trinke immer Kaffee, wenn ich arbeite.</i>	I always drink coffee when I work.
<i>Ich trinke kein Bier.</i>	I don't drink any beer.
<i>Ich bin zehn Jahre alt.</i>	I am ten years old.
<i>Ich kenne ihn nicht.</i>	I don't know him.
<i>Wir brauchen zuerst ein Konzept. Erst dann sollten wir uns Gedanken um das Geld machen.</i>	First we need a concept. Only then should we worry about money.
<i>Wir sollten uns erst Gedanken über den Ablauf machen. Vorher kommen wir einfach nicht weiter.</i>	First we should think about the course of action. We won't get any further before we do this.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. finden (to find) is used in the sense of „to like" in this dialog. „Wie findest du Berlin?" (How do you like Berlin?)
2. mit (with), which you have encountered before, is not just a preposition. It can also be used as a separable verb prefix, and then it should be translated as „along". For example „Ich will mitkommen" (I want to come along), „Willst du mitessen?" (Do you want to eat with us?) and „Nimm deinen Pass mit" (Take your passport along).
3. „wollen wir" = literally: do we want = shall we? As in „Wollen wir ein Eis essen?" (Shall we eat an ice-cream?)

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is the irregular verb "wollen".

Ich will später zum Potsdamer Platz gehen.

"I want to go to Potsdamer Platz later today."

In this lesson we came across the verb „wollen“, which is irregular in German. Its forms are

ich will
du willst
er will
wir wollen
ihr wollt
sie wollen

So it uses the stem "will-" for singular and "woll-" for plural, changing the vowel - but not like one of those vowel-changing verbs we've encountered before, because those only change their vowel for the 2nd and 3rd person singular. Also, note that the first person singular does NOT end in -e, and the third person singular does not end in -t... this verb is weird.

Cultural Insight

Berlin sights

Apart from the Reichstag (parliament building) and the Brandenburg Gate, which everybody knows, there are other places you should visit some time during your stay in Berlin.

* Unter den Linden, Berlin's most famous boulevard, where many important government buildings and many expensive shops are located. Unter den Linden stretches out from the Brandenburg Gate, so it's easy to „do“.

* Potsdamer Platz, featuring the Sony Center, is a glittering entertainment district with stunning post-modern architecture. This is also where you can watch Hollywood movies in the original English.

* Alexanderplatz with its TV tower. This is the busiest square in Berlin and a place everybody has heard of.

* Checkpoint Charlie was the most well-known place where you could cross from the American part of Berlin into the Soviet one or vice versa. Today the checkpoint still exists, but as a tourist attraction,

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with actors as soldiers.

* Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, which was half destroyed in the war but still looks stunning.

* Ku'damm, short for Kurfürstendamm, is Berlin's most famous shopping street, stretching out westwards from the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church.

* KaDeWe (Kaufhaus des Westens) is a famous gigantic department store that has all kinds of foreign goods that are otherwise hard to get in Germany. If you're homesick for root beer or vegemite, they will definitely have it... at horrendous prices of course.



Absolute Beginner S1

Have You Ever Seen a Blind Fish in Germany?

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Formal German

Joe Hey Anke! Schön, dass du mitkommst!
Anke Ach, mache ich doch gern! ... Wollen wir los?
Joe Ja. Wie fahren wir?
Anke Wir können von hier aus zum Kudamm laufen.
Joe Okay, das klingt gut!
Anke Schön! Wir gehen auch nur die Straße hier geradeaus.
Joe Oh, super. Dauert das lange?
Anke Nein, vielleicht 10 Minuten.
Joe Na dann los.
...
Anke Sieh mal, da vorn ist der Kudamm.
Joe Oh, so schnell sind wir da!
Anke Ja. ... Hmm, wir könnten ja im Café Kranzler einen Kaffee trinken.
Joe Café Kranzler?
Anke Ja, das ist das Café da vorn.
Joe Wo?
Anke Na da, das Café mit dem roten Sonnenschirm!
Joe Ich sehe es nicht.
Anke Da links. An der Ecke.
Joe Aaaah, jetzt kann ich es sehen.
Anke Haha, du Blindfisch!
Joe Ich was?
Anke Du Blindfisch! Das sagt man, wenn jemand etwas nicht sehen kann.
...
Passant Entschuldigung... könnt ihr mir sagen, wo die Gedächtniskirche ist?
Anke Natürlich. Sie können sie schon von hier aus sehen. Es ist die Kirche da links.
Passant Aaah, okay. Danke!
Anke Bitte.
...
Joe Haha, wenn er die Kirche von hier aus nicht sehen kann, dann ist er auch ein Blindfisch!

English

Joe Hey Anke! Nice of you to come along!

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Anke Ach, I'll gladly do that! ... Shall we go?
Joe Yes. How are we going?
Anke We can walk from here to the Kudamm.
Joe Okay, that sounds good!
Anke Nice! We'll just go straight ahead on this street.
Joe Oh, super. Does it take long?
Anke No, maybe 10 minutes.
Joe Well let's go then.
...
Anke Look, the Kudamm is up there in front.
Joe Oh, we're there so quickly!
Anke Yes. ... Hmm, we could drink a coffee at the Café Kranzler.
Joe Café Kranzler?
Anke Yes, that's the cafe in front.
Joe Where?
Anke Well there, the café with the red parasol!
Joe I don't see it.
Anke There on the left. At the corner.
Joe Aaaah, now I can see it.
Anke Haha, you "blind fish"!
Joe Me what?
Anke You blind fish! That's what people say when somebody can't see something.
...
Passer-by Excuse me... can you tell me where the Memorial Church is?
Anke Of course. You can see it from here already. It's the church over there on the left.
Passer-by Aaah, okay. Thanks!
Anke You're welcome.
...
Joe Haha, if he can't see the church from here, then he, too, is a blind fish!

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
los	go, get going, (shout of encouragement)		
können	can, to be able to, to be allowed to	modal verb	



Straße	street	noun	feminine; plural: Straßen
geradeaus	straight ahead	adverb	
dauern	to last, to take (a certain amount of time)	verb	weak verb
schnell	quick, quickly, fast	adjective & adverb	
rot	red	adjective	
Schirm	umbrella	noun	masculine; plural: Schirme
links	left, on the left	adverb	
Ecke	corner	noun	feminine; plural: Ecken
sagen	to say	verb	
man	one, you, people	pronoun	used to talk about people in general; don't confuse with "Mann" (man)
jemand	somebody		
Kirche	church	noun	feminine; plural: Kirchen

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Wir können gleich los, aber vorher sollte ich wirklich noch das Geschirr spülen.

Na los, steig schon ein! Wir warten nicht ewig!

Herr Wucher kann heute früh nach Hause kommen.

Ich kann nicht gut singen.

Geh die Straße entlang.

Dann gehen Sie immer geradeaus.

Warum dauert das so lange?

Das Dach knirschte bedenklich, also gingen wir schnell hinaus.

Bitte antworten Sie so schnell wie möglich.

Kommst du mal schnell?

Er hat sich ein rotes Auto ausgesucht.

Es könnte regnen, also vergiss nicht, einen Schirm mitzunehmen!

Links sehen Sie die berühmte Kathedrale und rechts das Geschichtsmuseum.

Er pinkelt in die Ecke!

Der Laden befindet sich gleich um die Ecke.

We can leave in a moment, but before I should really wash the dishes.

Go, get in already! We won't wait forever!

Mr. Wucher can come home early today.

I can't sing well.

Go along the street.

Then always go straight ahead.

Why is this taking so long?

The roof creaked ominously, so we quickly went outside.

Please answer as quickly as possible.

Please come here quickly.

He selected/ chose a red car.

It might rain, so don't forget to take along an umbrella!

On the left you see the famous cathedral and on the right the museum of history.

He is peeing in the corner!

The store is just around the corner.

Und dann sagte er....

Sag doch was!

Wie sagt man "train" auf Deutsch?

Sobald mich jemand fragt, ob ich den Ententanz tanzen möchte, ergreife ich die Flucht.

Ich brauche jemanden, der mich einarbeitet.

Viele Künstler sind arm wie eine Kirchenmaus.

Sie suchte in der Kirche vor dem Regen Schutz.

And then he said...

Come on, say something!

How do you say "train" in German?

As soon as someone asks me if I want to dance the funky chicken I take flight.

I need somebody to show me the ropes.

Many artists are as poor as church mice.

She sought shelter from the rain in the church.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. könnten = could. This form with the extra T is actually the conditional, which we won't study until much later. However, it's useful to know this one form because we use it to make polite requests. For example „Könnten Sie mir helfen?“ (Could you [please] help me?)

2. Sonnenschirm = parasol. „Sonnenschirm“ is a compound based on „Sonne“ (sun) and „Schirm“ (umbrella). Similarly you can say „Regenschirm“, based on „Regen“ (rain) and „Schirm“ (umbrella), or just say „Schirm“ and people will guess which one you mean.

3. Blindfisch = an term for someone who doesn't see the obvious. It's a mild insult, based on the words „blind“ (blind) and „Fisch“ (fish).

4. Gedächtniskirche = Memorial Church, referring to the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church (Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche), which we listed among Berlin's sights in the previous lesson.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is the irregular verb "können".

Jetzt kann ich es sehen.

"Now I can see it."

In this lesson we came across the verb „können“, which is also somewhat irregular in German. Actually it matches „wollen“ one to one. For „wollen“, the singular stem is „will“ and for „können“ it's „kann“. For „wollen“, the plural stem is „woll“ and for „können“ it's „könn“. The endings are exactly the same.



So, the forms are

ich kann
du kannst
er kann
wir können
ihr könnt
sie können

Cultural Insight

Religion in Germany

In Germany, freedom of religion is guaranteed by the constitution. You may have any faith, practise any faith openly or in private, and you may not be prejudiced or favoured because of your religious beliefs.

The majority of Germans are non-practicing Christians. Officially there are 32.3% Protestants and 31.9% Catholics, but actually the numbers are probably a bit higher, because being registered as a Christian means that you have pay an extra tax which will go to your church, to help its upkeep. The second largest religion is Islam. 4% of Germans believe in Islam. Then, Buddhism and Judaism claim approximately 0.25% each. This lack of diversity probably derives from the fact that Germany is not a country of immigrants, unlike the United States.

There is also a lack of diversity when it comes to non-denominational churches and sects. That however may be due to Germany's stricter laws on such organizations. The German government does not easily recognize new faiths, and what's more, it will actively pursue organizations who use religious indoctrination to defraud people of their money.

Still, there is one way in which Germany is more Christian than the USA. In most of the German Bundesländer (federal states), German public schools have to provide religious education classes. The mission of German high schools is to produce mature adults who are capable of independent thought, and who have some idea of what their purpose in life is, who know what is good and what is wrong, and so on. That's where the religious education classes come in. Of course atheists, Muslims and also everybody else can opt out of those classes for reasons of conscience, but then they have to take philosophy classes instead, which strive to answer the same basic questions and ethical problems.

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Religious education classes typically come in the flavours “Catholic” and “Protestant”, but most of the content is not specific to one particular faith. A lot of time is spent on getting an overview of the beliefs of Christianity and the beliefs of other religions (with tolerance being the goal) and to discuss issues people might need guidance on; drugs, sex, abuse, abortion and so on.



Absolute Beginner S1

The Black Forests of Germany

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Formal German

Kellner Hallo, kann ich Ihnen schon etwas bringen?
Anke Hmm, ja, ich nehme einen Kaffee.
Joe Ja, ich auch. Und ich möchte auch noch Kuchen.
Kellner Kaffee bringe ich Ihnen gerne. Kuchen müssen Sie drinnen bestellen.
Joe Ok!
Anke Und was nimmst du?
Joe Ich nehme Schwarzwaldtorte.
Anke Äh, meinst du Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte?
Joe Oh, haha, ja. Der Name ist aber auch schwierig!
Anke Haha, ja!
Joe Anke, kannst du mir gleich helfen? Ich muss eine Postkarte an einen Freund in München schreiben.
Anke Natürlich helfe ich dir, kein Problem. Hast du schon eine Postkarte oder musst du noch eine kaufen?
Joe Nein, ich habe schon eine Postkarte. Hier.
Anke Ah, die ist schön. Hast du auch schon eine Briefmarke?
Joe Oh, nein! Ich habe noch keine Briefmarke!
Anke Kein Problem. Dann müssen wir einfach gleich zur Post gehen und dort eine Briefmarke kaufen.
Joe Super, dann kann ich sie dort ja auch gleich wegwerfen.
Anke Haha, du meinst, du kannst sie einwerfen.
Joe Oh, ja natürlich, einwerfen! Wenn ich sie wegwerfe, muss mein Freund ja sehr lange auf die Postkarte warten! Haha...

English

Waiter Hello, can I bring you something already?
Anke Hmm, yes, I'm taking a coffee.
Joe Yes, me too. And I would also like cake.
Waiter I will gladly bring you coffee. Cake you will have to order inside.
Joe Ok!
Anke And what are you taking?
Joe I will take Black Forest Cake.
Anke Ehm, do you mean Black Forest Cherry Cake?
Joe Oh, haha, yes. The name is so difficult!
Anke Haha, yes!

- Joe Anke, can you help me later? I have to write a post card to a friend in Munich.
- Anke Of course I'll help you, no problem. Do you have a postcard already or do you have to buy one?
- Joe No, I have a postcard already. Here.
- Anke Ah, it is pretty. Do you also have a stamp already?
- Joe Oh, no! I don't have a stamp yet.
- Anke No problem. Then we shall simply go to the post office later and buy a stamp there.
- Joe Great, then I can immediately throw it away there too.
- Anke Haha, you mean that you can throw it in [into the mailbox] there.
- Joe Oh, yes of course, throw in! If I throw it away, my friend will have to wait for the postcard a long time! Haha...

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
Kuchen	cake, pie	noun	neuter; plural is the same. The distinction cake/pie doesn't exist in German, but there is a distinction between Kuchen (simple cake) and Torte (fancy cake, typically with a lot of cream or chocolate).
drinnen	inside		
bestellen	to order	verb	
schwierig	difficult	adjective & adverb	
helfen	to help	verb	vowel-changing verb: e ? i for 2nd and 3rd person singular; er hilft, er half, er hat geholfen
Postkarte	post card	noun	female; plural: Postkarten
schreiben	to write	verb	
kaufen	to buy	verb	
Briefmarke	stamp	noun	feminine; plural: Briefmarken



einfach	easy; simply, just	adjective & adverb	
Post	mail, post office	noun	feminine
dort	there	adverb	
wegwerfen	to throw away	verb	ich werfe weg, ich warf weg, ich habe weggeworfen
einwerfen	to throw in, drop	verb	er wirft ein, er warf ein, er hat eingeworfen
müssen	must; have to	modal verb	irregular

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Meine Mutter macht unglaublich leckere Apfelkuchen.

My mother makes incredibly delicious apple pies.

Möchtest du draußen oder drinnen sitzen?

Do you want to sit outside or inside?

Ich möchte ein Buch bestellen.

I would like to order a book.

Es wird immer schwieriger, in der Innenstadt einen Parkplatz zu finden.

It becomes harder and harder to find a parking space downtown.

Entschuldigung, könnten Sie mir bitte helfen?

Excuse me, could you please help me?

Ich schreibe eine Postkarte.

I am writing a post card.

Ich schreibe eine Postkarte.

I am writing a post card.

Wir sind uns nicht einig, welches Haus wir kaufen wollen.

We haven't reached an agreement about which house we want to buy.

Drei Briefmarken, bitte.

Three stamps, please.

Diese Lektion war sehr einfach.

This lesson was very easy.

Wo geht es hier zur Post?

How do I get to the post office from here?

Die Post ist da!

The mail is there! [has arrived]

Sandra ist dort drüben.

Sandra is over there.

Dort ist das Kino.

The cinema is (over) there.

Wie kannst du dein Leben nur so wegwerfen?

How can you throw your life away like that?

Wirfst du den Brief für mich ein?

Will you throw in (= put in the mailbox) the letter for me?

Ich muss den Film nicht unbedingt sehen.

I don't absolutely have to watch that movie.

Musst du wieder Gitarre spielen?

Do you have to play the guitar again?

Ich muss viel für die Uni lernen.

I have to study a lot for university.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage



1. Schwarzwald = Black Forest. „schwarz“ = black and „der Wald“ = forest. This is a region in South-Western Germany.
2. To form an adjective based on any city or region, just add -er. For example Schwarzwälder (relating to the Black Forest), Berliner (relating to Berlin), Münchener (relating to München), and so on.
3. Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte is the original German name of Black Forest Cherry Cake. „Schwarzwälder“ is for something relating to the Black Forest, „die Kirsche“ = cherry and „die Torte“ is a fancy cake or pie involving cream. Learn more about well-known German cakes and pies in today's culture point.
4. In this dialog, Joe confused „einwerfen“ (to throw in) and „wegwerfen“ (to throw away). Both of these German verbs are based on the verb „werfen“ (to throw), and the prefix ein- or weg- are the kind that splits off. Review lesson 13 for details on this kind of verb.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is the irregular verb "müssen".

Kuchen müssen Sie drinnen bestellen.

"You have to order cake inside."

In this lesson we came across the verb „müssen“, which is also somewhat irregular in German. Actually it matches „wollen“ and „können“ in its endings and behaviour. The singular uses the stem muss- without Umlaut and the plural uses the stem müss-, with the Umlaut. So, the forms are

ich muss
du musst
er muss
wir müssen
ihr müsst
sie müssen

Cultural Insight

Black Forest Cherry Cake is one of Germany's most famous cakes. No bakery can avoid featuring this cake occasionally if not all the time. The cake originally comes from the Black Forest area and it is very yummy. Most of the time it contains a little bit of kirschwasser (cherry firewater), though it also tastes good without it. If you would like to try it out, use the recipe at <http://www.europeancuisines.com/German-Schwarzwald-Kirschtorte-Recipe-Black-Forest-Cake-Cherry-Kirsch> .

Another really famous cake is the Donauwelle (wave of the Danube). It involves chocolate, vanilla, cherries and buttercreme, and it has a very distinct look. If you'd like to try baking an authentic German cake but don't feel up to something as complicated as the Black Forest Cherry Cake, this cake might be for you. You can find a good recipe for it at <http://www.recipezaar.com/156284> .

Also very popular are fruit cakes in summer. What the Americans call "German Chocolate Cake" however does not actually come from Germany; it's the invention of a Texan with the last name "German". Of course Germans still have chocolate cake. One of the most popular ones is the Sachertorte. To get authentic Sachertorte however, you have to go to the Sacher hotel in Vienna; Sachertorte is originally an Austrian invention and the recipe is a closely-guarded secret, though many bakeries in Germany will offer their version of Sachertorte. Note however that most German chocolate cakes are not as sweet and rich as American chocolate cakes.





Absolute Beginner S1

Use Everything You've Learned Writing a Postcard to Germany

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Formal German

- Joe Okay, also... „Lieber Michael,...“
- Anke Du kannst auch „Hallo Michael“ schreiben...
- Joe Ach so, ... aber ich nehme „Lieber Michael“.
- Anke Gut.
- Joe „...wie geht es dir? Mir geht es gut.“....“Ich bin jetzt in Berlin und ich finde die Stadt toll!“
- Anke Mensch, du schreibst doch wirklich gut!
- Joe Oh, danke. Aber ich werde sicher noch Fehler machen.
- Anke Na, wir werden sehen.
- Joe Also weiter... „Ich sitze gerade am Kudamm mit einer Freundin in einem Kaffee und esse Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte.“
- Anke Warte! „Kaffee“ ist nicht richtig. „Der Kaffee“ ist das Getränk, aber der Ort heißt „das Café“ mit „C“, einem „f“ und einem „e“. Und du sitzt ja nicht in einem Getränk!
- Joe Haha, ja... also dann „Café“...
- Anke Ja.
- Joe Gut, dann weiter... „Später werden Anke und ich die Gedächtniskirche sehen...“
- Anke Hmm, das heißt „die Gedächtniskirche besichtigen“.
- Joe Oh okay. ... „besichtigen“. ... Hmm, was kann ich noch schreiben?
- Anke Du kannst erzählen, was du noch in Berlin besichtigen wirst?
- Joe Ja, stimmt. „In den nächsten Tagen werde ich noch zum Potsdamer Platz gehen, auf den Fernsehturm steigen und das Brandenburger Tor besichtigen. Ich hoffe, dass Anke mitkommen wird...“
- Anke Haha, ja. Ich komme gerne mit!
- Joe Haha, schön! „Michael, wenn du Zeit hast, kann ich dich ja in München besuchen. Viele Grüße aus Berlin, Dein Joe“...
- Anke Super. Dann gehen wir jetzt zur Post und werfen die Postkarte ein!
- Joe Ja, dann los!

English

- Joe Okay, so... "Dear Michael,..."
- Anke You can also write "Hallo Michael"...
- Joe Ah,... but I'll take "Dear Michael".
- Anke Good.

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Joe "...how are you? I'm well." ... "I am in Berlin now and I find the city is great!"

Anke Man, you do write really well!

Joe Oh, thanks. But I will certainly make mistakes.

Anke Well, we shall see.

Joe So continuing... "I am sitting on the Kudamm in a coffee with a friend and I'm eating Black Forest Cherry Cake."

Anke Wait! "Coffee" is not right. "The coffee" is the beverage, but the place is called "the café", with "C", an "f" and an "e". And you are not sitting in a beverage!

Joe Haha, yes... so then "Café"...

Anke Yes.

Joe Good, then further... "Later Anke and I will see the Memorial Church..."

Anke Hmm, that is called "tour the Memorial Church".

Joe Oh okay. ..."to tour". ... Hmm, what else can I write?

Anke You can tell what else you will visit in Berlin?

Joe Yes, that's right. "In the next few days I shall go to the Potsdamer Platz, climb the TV tower and sight-see the Brandenburg Gate. I hope that Anke will come along..."

Anke Haha, yes. I'll gladly come along!

Joe Haha, nice! "Michael, if you have time, I can visit you in Munich. Greetings from Berlin, Your Joe" ...

Anke Great. Then we'll go the post office now and throw in the postcard!

Joe Yes, let's go!

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
lieb	dear, cherished	adjective & adverb	
Stadt	town; city	noun	feminine; plural: Städte
Fehler	mistake, error	noun	masculine; plural is the same
weiter	further, on; continue to	adjective & adverb	
sitzen	to sit; to fit right / look good [clothing]	verb	er sitzt, er saß, er hat gegessen
gerade	straight; just; just now, right now	adverb	
essen	to eat	verb	vowel-changing verb: ich esse, du isst, er isst, wir



			essen...
richtig	correct; really	adjective & adverb	
Getränk	beverage, drink	noun	neuter; plural: Getränke
Ort	town, place, location	noun	masculine; plural: Orte
besichtigen	to tour, inspect	verb	weak verb
erzählen	to tell	verb	weak verb
nächster	next	adjective	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Lieber Hans,...

Diese Stadt ist wirklich groß.

Ich mache noch viele Fehler.

Ich wollte noch stehenbleiben und zuschauen, aber meine Mutter zerrte mich weiter.

Gestern habe ich erfahren dass ich noch eine weitere Tante habe.

Dieses Kleid hat die richtige Größe, aber es sitzt nicht gut.

Wo möchtest du sitzen?

Ich halte ihn nicht gerade für eine Stimmungskanone.

Ich arbeite gerade daran.

Ich komme gerade vom Flughafen.

Ich esse gerne Brötchen.

Vegetarier essen keine Butter, sie essen Margarine.

In Deutschland gibt es richtig leckere Würstchen.

Ich weiß nicht, ob das so richtig ist.

Die Schwierigkeit liegt darin, den richtigen Zeitpunkt zu finden.

Stellen Sie die Getränke bitte auf diesen Tisch.

An welchem Ort spielt die Geschichte?

Ich möchte das Schokoladenmuseum in Köln besichtigen.

Wann können wir die Wohnung besichtigen?

Mein Urgroßvater ist ein sehr alter Mann. Er hat schon eine halbe Glatze. Aber er erzählt oft sehr interessante Geschichten aus seinem Leben.

Dear Hans,...

This city is really big.

I still make a lot of mistakes.

I wanted to stand there and keep watching, but my mother tore me away and made me go on.

Yesterday I learned that I have another aunt.

This dress is in the right size, but it doesn't drape well.

Where would you like to sit?

I am not exactly taking him for a great joker.

I am working at it right now.

I'm coming right from the airport.

I like eating rolls.

Vegetarians don't eat (any) butter, they eat margarine.

In Germany there are really delicious sausages.

I don't know if it's right like this.

The difficulty lies in finding the right time.

Please put the beverages on this table.

Where (in what location) is the story set?

I would like to visit the chocolate museum in Cologne.

When can we inspect the apartment?

My great-grandfather is a very old man. His head is half bald already. But he often tells very interesting stories from his life.

Eine Kundin in einem Asia Laden hat mir mal von der heilenden Wirkung erzählt, die Ingwer angeblich gegen Halsschmerzen und Husten hat. A costumer in an Asia shop once told me about the healing effect which Ingwer is supposed to have against a sour throat and coughing.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. der Fernsehturm = the TV tower, a well-known Berlin sight. The German literally translates to TV tower, because „das Fernsehen“ is the TV (as in TV programming, not the machine), and „der Turm“ is the tower.
2. „stimmt“ is a colloquial abbreviation of „das stimmt“.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is a review of what we studied already.

Später werden Anke und ich die Gedächtniskirche sehen.

"Later Anke and I will see the Memorial Church."

5 Today we're not studying more grammar – we'd like to give you the chance to review what we studied so far, because it was a lot. We had regular verbs like „finden“, vowel-changing verbs like „essen“, separable verbs like „mitkommen“ or „einwerfen“, irregular verbs like „sein“ and „haben“, modal verbs like „können“ and „müssen“... do you remember how to conjugate all of those? And can you recall all 5 types of noun plurals?

We also looked at word order, and this one we should review in-depth at this point. The rule is that in basic sentences like „Ich finde die Stadt toll“, the verb is always in second position. That is why Anke said „Dann gehen wir jetzt zur Post“ and not „Dann wir gehen jetzt zur Post“ - the „dann“ is in first position and the verb has to come in 2nd position, leaving the subject in third position. This is a bit unusual for English speakers, but you'll get used to it.

We also had cases where there's more than one verb, for example when using a modal verb or the future tense – compare „Später werden Anke und ich die Gedächtniskirche sehen“... the rule is that the first verb („werden“ in this case) is in second position, and any other verbs („sehen“ in this case) come at the end of the sentence.

And then there is the issue of subclauses – in subclauses, all verbs move to the end of the sentence. In today's dialog, this is exemplified in the phrases „Du kannst erzählen, was du noch in Berlin besichtigen wirst“ and „Michael, wenn du Zeit hast, kann ich dich ja in München besuchen“. As you see, subclauses may come before the main sentence, just like in English.

Cultural Insight

To start a personal letter to a male friend, use „Lieber“ and then the name. If the friend is female however, you have to drop the final R and write „Liebe“ instead. „Hallo“ is also an acceptable way to start a personal letter nowadays.

However if you're writing a formal letter, „Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren“ is the way to go. This is a standard greeting formula in letters. It literally means „very honored ladies and gentlemen“. If you know who you are writing to however, you should start with „Sehr geehrte Frau X“ or „Sehr geehrter Herr Y“. After addressing them like this, you should start a new line and **make the first letter lower-case** if the greeting ended in a comma. This is a German convention that is different from the English one.

Then you write your letter obviously, but... how to end a letter? „der Gruß“ is the German word for greeting, and the plural is „Grüße“ (greetings). When you end a letter, just before signing your name, this word will invariably come up. If you're writing to a business acquaintance, you should end the letter with „mit freundlichen Grüßen“, which is equivalent to „Best regards“. If you're writing to friends or family, you should choose less formal phrases, maybe „Viele Grüße“ or „Liebe Grüße“. Then you may also want to sign your name as „Dein ...“ or, for women, „Deine ...“. This makes it more personal.



Absolute Beginner S1

You've Got Mail...from Germany!

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Formal German

- Anke So, hier ist die Post.
Joe Oh, sieh mal. Da ist aber eine lange Schlange am Schalter!
Anke Macht nichts! Wir können auch Briefmarken am Automaten kaufen und dann die Postkarte in den Briefkasten einwerfen.
Joe Oh, super.
Anke Also, es ist wirklich einfach. Erst wählst du die Briefmarke aus.
Joe Hmm, und was für eine Briefmarke nehme ich, Anke?
Anke Na, du willst ja eine Postkarte verschicken. Da kostet das Porto 45 Cent.
Joe Ach so ... Hmm, es geht aber nicht.
Anke Haha, nein, du drückst ja auch auf den Bildschirm. Drück die Tasten an der Seite, dann geht es.
Joe Ach so! ... Haha, doch nicht so einfach ... Hmm, aber ich brauche fünf Briefmarken. Ich habe im Hotel noch Postkarten für meine Familie und Freunde in den USA.
Anke Kein Problem. Dann drückst du einfach noch mal auf die Taste, bis du fünf Briefmarken hast.
Joe Aaaaah.
Anke So, jetzt siehst du da den Gesamtpreis 2,25 Euro.
Joe Okay, kann ich auch 2 Euro und 50 Cent einwerfen?
Anke Nein, das geht nicht. Der Automat gibt kein Rückgeld!
Joe Und nun?
Anke Warte! Ich habe noch 25 Cent. Dann ist es passend!
Joe Super! Danke Anke!

English

- Anke Well, this is the post office.
Joe Oh, look. There's a long line at the counter!
Anke Doesn't matter! We can also buy stamps at the automat and then throw the postcard into the mailbox.
Joe Oh, great.
Anke So, it's really easy. First you select the stamp.
Joe Hmm, and what kind of stamp do I take, Anke?
Anke Well, you want to send off a post card. The postage for that is 45 cents.
Joe Ah... Hmm, but it doesn't go.
Anke Haha, no, you're pressing on the screen. Press the buttons on the side,

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- then it will work.
- Joe Ah right! ... Haha, not quite so easy ... Hmm, but I need five stamps. I have postcards for my family and friends in the USA at the hotel.
- Anke No problem. Then you just press the button again, until you have five stamps.
- Joe Aaaah.
- Anke Now you see the total, 2 Euros 25.
- Joe Okay, can I also throw in 2 Euros and 50 cents?
- Anke No, that's not possible. The automat doesn't give you change!
- Joe And now?
- Anke Wait! I have 25 cents. Then it's exact!
- Joe Great! Thank you, Anke!

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
Schlange	snake; queue	noun	feminine; plural: Schlangen
Schalter	counter, desk; switch	noun	masculine; plural is the same
Automat	automat, machine	noun	masculine; plural: Automaten
Briefkasten	mailbox	noun	masculine; plural: Briefkästen
auswählen	to select	verb	"aus" splits off
was für	what kind of	question word	
verschicken	to send out, mail	verb	weak verb
Porto	postage	noun	neuter
Bildschirm	screen, monitor	noun	masculine; plural: Bildschirme
Seite	side, page	noun	feminine
gesamt	entire, total, overall	adjective & adverb	
passend	fitting, suitable	adjective & adverb	
Preis	price, prize	noun	masculine; plural: Preise
Rückgeld	change [money]	noun	neuter

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Vor dem Geschäft war eine lange Schlange.
Gehen Sie zum nächsten Schalter, ich habe
Feierabend.*

*Wo ist der nächste Geldautomat?
Heute ist viel zu viel Werbung in meinem
Briefkasten.*

*Diese Bäckerei hat eine große Auswahl an
leckeren Kuchen.*

*Was für ein Buch ist das?
Ich möchte heute noch diesen Brief verschicken.
Das Porto für Briefe ins Ausland kostet immer
mehr.*

*Der Bildschirm meines Computers ist kaputt.
Du musst auf der rechten Seite fahren.*

Die Seiten dieses Buches sind total verklebt.

*Es gibt immer zwei Seiten.
Insgesamt sind wir mit dem Ergebnis sehr
zufrieden.*

*Sie werden die gesamte Zeit unter Aufsicht stehen.
Mit seiner unpassenden Kleidung wirkt er überall
wie ein Exot.*

*Die Preise werden im Juni vergeben.
Die Nebenkosten sind noch nicht im Preis
enthalten.*

Das Rückgeld gebe ich Ihnen gleich.

In front of the shop there was a long line.
Go to the next counter, I'm off for the evening.

Where is the next ATM machine?
Today there is way too much advertisement in my
mailbox.

This bakery has a big selection of delicious cakes.

What kind of book is that?
I want to send out this letter today still.
The postage for letters going abroad costs more
and more.
The screen of my computer is broken.
You have to drive on the right side.
The pages of this books are sticking together really
hard.

There are always two sides.
In total we are very pleased with the result.

They will be under supervision the entire time.
With his improper clothing he always seems like
an exotic (creature).

The prizes are allocated in June.
Additional fees are not yet factored into the price.

I will give you your change in a moment.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. Macht nichts! = literally „Doesn't make anything!“ = Doesn't matter

2. Let's look at the compound nouns in today's vocabulary. „Briefkasten“ (mailbox) is a combination of „Brief“ (letter) and „Kasten“ (box). Logical, isn't it? „Bildschirm“ (screen) is less logical – a combination of „Bild“ (picture) and „Schirm“ (umbrella). However, I personally think that „Bildschirm“ is cute. Finally, „Rückgeld“ is a combination of „zurück“ (back) and „Geld“ (money), so money that you get back.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson are the numbers above 10.

Kann ich auch zwei Euro fünfzig einwerfen?

"Can I also throw in two Euros and fifty cents?"

This lesson is about higher numbers. We've seen a few, but now is the time to learn the rule.

We already talked about the numbers up to „zehn“ (10). Then there's

elf - 11

zwölf – 12

... and after that, just put the word for the German number and add „zehn“. Dreizehn, vierzehn, fünfzehn, sechzehn, siebzehn, achtzehn, neunzehn... actually, we make things a bit easier by saying „siebzehn“ rather than „siebenzehn“, and „sechzehn“ instead of „sechs-zehn“. I think the reason is obvious - do you really want to try to pronounce „sechszehn“?

20 is zwanzig. 30 is dreißig. 40 is vierzig and from then on the remaining numbers always consist of a base number you already know and the ending –zig: Fünfzig, sechzig, siebzig, achtzig, neunzig.

Counting with these is a bit weird, because Germans will say the equivalent of “one and twenty, two and twenty, three and twenty...” (einundzwanzig, zweiundzwanzig, dreiundzwanzig...) and so on – but actually, if you read Jane Austen, you will notice that old English was doing the same.

After 99, you will need the word “hundert” to continue – but that’s not hard, because it’s almost the same as in English. And “zweihundert” corresponds to “two hundred” and “vierhundert fünfzig” corresponds to “four hundred fifty”, and so on. Same for thousands, the German word is “tausend”. This way you can describe a lot of numbers, even “fünftausend vierhundert zwei und dreißig” – five thousand four hundred thirty-two, or should we say five thousand four hundred two-and-thirty.

Cultural Insight

Mail in Germany

How to address a letter to/within Germany; first name last name street and number postal code and city country

The postal code usually only specifies the city, not the street or block or anything. Only major cities

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(or cities that used to be several towns) may have a few different postal codes roughly specifying the area of town. Postal codes, like phone numbers, allow you to identify the region within Germany

If you want to send a postcard from Germany: you can get a postcard anywhere, but for stamps you usually have to go to a post office (bright yellow).

You can then send your card from there or you throw it into one of the bright yellow mail boxes anywhere around town.

Within Germany, a stamp for a postcard is 45 cents, and a standard letter is 55 cents.

To most places in Europe, a postcard is 65 cents and a standard letter is 70 cents

To the USA, a postcard is 1 Euro and a standard letter is € 1,70

Within Germany, your letters or parcels will probably be delivered around noon on the next day, or the day after at most. International mail takes longer of course.



Absolute Beginner S1

Turning Over a New Leaf in Germany

23

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Formal German

Anke Da sind wir. Das ist die Gedächtniskirche.
Joe Wow, die Kirche ist wirklich ... kaputt!
Anke Äh, ja.
Joe Und was ist das da?
Anke Was meinst du?
Joe Na der Turm, der da neben der Kirche steht.
Anke Ach so. Das ist auch die Gedächtniskirche.
Joe Hä? Es gibt also zwei Gedächtniskirchen?!Anke Ja. Der Turm, der da links steht, ist neu. Und die Kirche, die da ganz rechts steht, ist auch neu.

Joe Aaah.
Anke Und die Kirche, die hier vorn steht, ist alt.
Joe Kann man die alte Kirche auch besichtigen?
Anke Ja, und es gibt auch Führungen. Möchtest du eine Führung machen?
Joe Hmm, ich glaube nicht.
Anke Hmm, die nächste Führung ist auch erst in 30 Minuten. Aber wir können ja auch so hineingehen.

Joe Ja, und was kostet der Eintritt hier?
Anke Der Eintritt ist kostenlos.
Joe Oh, super.

...
Joe Wow. Die Kirche ist wirklich schön.
Anke Ja. Und das Kreuz ist interessant.
Joe Welches Kreuz?
Anke Na das Kreuz, das da vorn steht.
Joe Ach, da. Ja.
Anke Das Kreuz ist aus Coventry in England. Es ist ein Zeichen für den Frieden.

Joe Wow, du bist aber schlau!
Anke Haha, nein. So schlau bin ich nicht! Das steht hier auf dem Schild!
Joe Haha... ach so.

English

Anke Here we are. This is the Memorial Church.
Joe Wow, the church is really... broken!

Anke Umm, yes.
Joe And what is that?
Anke What do you mean?
Joe Well the tower, which is standing next to the church.
Anke Oh. That is also the Memorial Church.
Joe Wha? There are two memorial churches then?!
Anke Yes. The tower, which is standing on the left, is new. And the church, which is standing on the very right, is also new.
Joe Aaah.
Anke And the church, which is standing here in front, is old.
Joe Can you tour the old church?
Anke Yes, and there are also guided tours. Would you like to do a guided tour?
Joe Hmm, I don't think so.
Anke Hmm, plus the next guided tour is only in 30 minutes. But we can also enter just like that.
Joe Yes, and how much is the entry here?
Anke The entry is free.
Joe Oh, great.
...
Joe Wow. The church is really beautiful.
Anke Yes. And the cross is interesting.
Joe Which cross?
Anke Well the cross that is standing there in front.
Joe Ah, there. Yes.
Anke The cross is from Coventry in England. It's a sign for peace.
Joe Wow, you are smart!
Anke Haha, no. I'm not that smart! That's written on this sign!
Joe Haha.. ah that's it.

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
kaputt	broken, out of order, in pieces	adjective & adverb	
Turm	tower, spire	noun	masculine; plural: Türme
neben	next to	adjective	
stehen	to stand	verb	
neu	new	adjective	



ganz	whole, complete(ly), absolutely	adjective & adverb	
rechts	right, on the right	adverb	
alt	old	adjective	
Führung	guided tour; leadership; conduct	noun	feminine; plural: Führungen
Kreuz	cross; crux; clubs [as a card suit]	noun	neuter; plural: Kreuze
Zeichen	sign, signal	noun	neuter; plural is the same
Frieden	peace	noun	masculine
schlau	smart, clever	adjective	
Schild	sign	noun	neuter; plural: Schilder

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Der Bildschirm meines Computers ist kaputt.

The screen of my computer is broken.

Der Turm ist ziemlich hoch.

That tower is pretty high.

Mein Enkel baut gerne Türme aus Lego-Steinen.

My grandson likes to build towers of Lego-stones.

Sie befinden sich direkt nebeneinander.

They are directly next to each other.

Ich stehe am Fenster und warte auf dich.

I'm standing by the window and I'm waiting for you.

Ist der Pulli neu?

Is that pullover new?

Jetzt habe ich ein ganzes Set.

Now I have a complete set.

Privat ist er ganz anders.

In private he is completely different.

Links sehen Sie die berühmte Kathedrale und rechts das Geschichtsmuseum.

On the left you see the famous cathedral and on the right the museum of history.

Der Mann ist sehr alt.

The man is very old.

Dieses Gebäude ist 100 Jahre alt.

This building is 100 years old.

Sie war etwa 3 Jahre alt.

She was approximately 3 years old.

Im Zuge der Reise kriegen wir eine Führung durch das Schloss Neuschwanstein.

In the course of the trip we get a guided tour through the castle Neuschwanstein.

Viele Leute machen ein Kreuzzeichen, wenn sie in die Kirche hineinkommen.

Many people make the sign of a cross when they enter a church.

Bitte geben Sie mir ein Zeichen, wenn Sie fertig sind.

Please give me a signal when you're done.

Es geht um Krieg oder Frieden.

It's about war or peace. / It's a matter of war or peace.

Das hat er ganz schlau gelöst.

He solved that in a really smart way.

Dieses Schild bedeutet, dass du hier nicht

This sign means that you must not drive faster than



schneller als 60 km/h fahren darfst.

60 km/h here.

Ich habe das Preisschild entfernt, aber die Stelle klebt immer noch ein wenig.

I removed the price tag, but the spot is still a little sticky.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. stehen = to stand. The tower is standing next to the church. You will notice that Germans like to be specific. For example, we hardly ever say that the book IS on the table, but we say that the book is LYING on the table. Similarly, the cup isn't on the table, it's SITTING on the table, while the vase is STANDING on the table. It all depends on the shape that something presents. If something is as wide as it is tall, we say that it's sitting. If it's a lot taller, we say that it's standing. And if the biggest surface is touching the ground, we say that it's lying. In English it's often an acceptable alternative to say that something is lying, sitting or standing, but in German it's the most common thing to do. You will also need to think in these categories in order to be able to translate „to put“ - in German, there is no direct translation, you have to determine if you're making this thing lie, sit or stand.

2. Zeichen vs. Schild. Both of these can be translated as "sign". However, "Schild" has to be a physical object, while "Zeichen" is either a gesture, a sound or some action, nothing that you can touch.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson are simple relative clauses.

Die Kirche, die hier vorn steht, ist alt.

"The church, which is standing here in front, is old."

Relative clauses are subclauses that describe nouns in a more detailed way, when adjectives don't cut it anymore. In English, the introductory words for relative clauses are “who” or “which”. In German, we don't have a special word for them, we just use der / die / das, same as the articles. Just one word of precaution – if the noun is feminine, then the following relative clause must also start with a feminine word, so “die”. Some examples from the dialog below.

Der Turm, der da links steht, ist neu. (The tower, which is standing on the left, is new)

Und die Kirche, die da ganz rechts steht, ist auch neu. (And the church, which ...)

Similarly, we could have said “Das Kreuz, das da vorn steht, ist aus Coventry”. Or, to spice things up a bit more; “Das Kreuz, das ein Zeichen für den Frieden ist, kommt aus England”.

I think you got the idea. Simple relative clauses in German always follow the pattern “der NOUN der”, “die NOUN die” or “das NOUN das”, always repeating the article. There are times when the article in the relative sentence will be in a different case than the one preceding the noun. Don't worry about those sentences yet; we'll explain them in detail in the intermediate series, along with details on the case system itself.

Cultural Insight

Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church is a large neo-romanesque church in Berlin, which was originally built in the 1890s in order to honour Emperor William the first. It was irreparably damaged during a bomb raid in 1943, and only part of the tower and the entrance hall survived. After the war, impressive new church buildings were constructed around the tower, which are considered by some to be the most important monument of post-war modernism.

The new Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church is now a symbol of post-war reconciliation. The church itself contains a drawing made by a German soldier during the battle of Stalingrad as well as an icon of the Virgin Mary donated by the city of Stalingrad (Volgograd). The memorial hall contains a statue of Christ which was damaged during the Allied bombing, as well as a cross made of nails taken from roof timbers of the Coventry Cathedral, which had been damaged by German bombing. The Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church's tower can be seen as a symbol of post-war reconciliation as well, because a former British pilot who participated in the bombing now initiated a fund to help pay for the tower's repair.



Absolute Beginner S1

Hey Soccer Fans

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German

Joe Haha, guck mal die da!
Anke Wer?
Joe Die Männer da vorne!
Anke Ach die! Das sind Fußballfans!
Joe Haha, ja, das kann man nicht übersehen!
Anke Guckst du Fußball?
Joe Ja, manchmal. Wenn es Länderspiele sind, gucke ich gerne Fußball.
Anke Super! Ich hoffe, dass du heute Abend Zeit hast? Ich gucke Fußball mit Freunden bei mir zu Hause. Du musst auch kommen!
Joe Ich muss? Aber das mache ich doch gerne! Spielt Deutschland heute?
Anke Ja!
Joe Oh toll! Ein Deutschland-Spiel mit Deutschen gucken! Das wird sicher toll! Hast du einen Lieblingsspieler?
Anke Hmm, ich finde Michael Ballack toll.
Joe Oh, den kenne ich! Er ist Stürmer, oder?
Anke Nein! Er spielt im Mittelfeld! Aber er spielt jetzt nicht, weil er verletzt ist.
Joe Oh, schade. Hast du ein Trikot von Michael Ballack oder einen Schal?
Anke Hmm, nein.
Joe Was? Du musst doch ein Trikot haben, wenn du ein richtiger Fan bist!
Anke Ja, stimmt! Dann kaufen wir jetzt Trikots! Ich kaufe ein Trikot von Micheal Ballack! Und du?
Joe Hmm, ich will ein Trikot von dem Torwart!
Anke Gut, dann los! Da vorne ist ein Sportladen, der sicher Trikots hat.
Joe Na dann los! Oléeee, olé olé oléeeee, wir sind die Champions oléeeee!
Anke Haha, du bist jetzt schon ein richtiger Fan, auch wenn du noch kein Trikot hast!!!

English

Joe Haha, look at them over there!
Anke Who?
Joe The men up front!
Anke Oh them! They are soccer fans!
Joe Haha, yes, that can't be overlooked!
Anke Do you watch soccer?

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- Joe Yeah, sometimes. If there's a match between two countries, I'm happy to watch.
- Anke Great! I hope that you have time tonight? I am going to watch soccer with friends at my home. You must come as well!
- Joe I must? But I like doing that! Is Germany playing today?
- Anke Yes!
- Joe Oh cool! It'll definitely be cool to watch a Germany game with Germans! Do you have a favorite player?
- Anke Hmm, I think Michael Ballack is nice.
- Joe Oh, I know him! He's a forward, right?
- Anke No! He plays in midfield! But he's not playing now, because he's injured.
- Joe Oh, that's too bad. Do you have a Michael Ballack jersey or maybe a scarf?
- Anke Hmm, no.
- Joe What? You really must have a jersey if you're a real fan!
- Anke Yeah, true. Then let's buy jerseys! I'll buy a Michael Ballack jersey! And you?
- Joe Hmm, I want a jersey of the goalie!
- Anke Good, let's go! There up front is a sports store that certainly has jerseys.
- Joe Let's do then! Oléeee, olé olé oléeeee, we are the champions oléeeee!
- Anke Haha, you're already a real fan, even when you don't have a jersey yet!!!

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
gucken	to look, watch	verb	weak verb
wer	who	question word	
Fußball	soccer, soccer ball	noun	masculine; plural: Fußballer
Fan	fan	noun	masculine; plural: Fans
Land	country, land, countryside	noun	neuter; plural: Länder
übersehen	to overlook	verb	er übersieht, er übersah, er hat übersehen
Abend	evening	noun	
Lieblings-	favorite	prefix	
verletzt	injured, hurt	adjective & adverb	
Trikot	jersey	noun	neuter; plural: Trikots

Schal	scarf	noun	masculine; plural: Schals
Sport	sport	noun	masculine
Laden	shop	noun	masculine; plural: Läden

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Guck mal bitte, wer an der Tür ist.

Er guckt den ganzen Tag lang Fernsehen.

Wer ist das?

Wer hat wen beim Fußball besiegt?

Ich schaue gerade Fußball. Man sind die heute mies.

Ich bin ein Fan von Death Metal.

Ich fühle mich in diesem Land wie zuhause.

Der Mann übersah das Stoppschild.

Heute Abend werden wir auf der Terrasse grillen.

Was ist deine Lieblingsfarbe? Meine ist dunkelblau.

Ich freue mich auf mein Lieblingsessen.

Ich habe mich beim Tennis spielen verletzt.

Wer sind die Spieler in den gelb-grünen Trikots?

Es ist kalt, du solltest einen Schal anziehen.

Sport ist gut für deine Gesundheit.

Mittlerweile kann man wieder mehr Platten im Laden kaufen.

Der Laden befindet sich gleich um die Ecke.

Please have a look who is at the door.

He watches TV the whole day long.

Who is that?

Who vanquished whom at the Soccer match?

I am watching Soccer right now. Man, they are lame today.

I am a Fan of Death Metal.

I feel like at home in this country.

The man overlooked the stop sign.

Tonight we'll have a barbecue on the patio.

What is your favorite color? Mine is dark blue.

I am looking forward to my favorite dish.

I injured myself playing tennis.

Who are the players in the yellow-green jerseys?

It is cold, you should wear a scarf.

Sport is good for your health.

By now you can buy more vinyl in the stores again.

The store is just around the corner.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. Länderspiel = match between two countries

2. two new words based on the same root as "spielen" - "das Spiel" (game, match) and "der Spieler" (player)

3. "Das wird sicher toll!" is the same as saying "Das wird sicher toll sein!". The future tense of "sein" can be abbreviated like this in order to make the sentence shorter and more lively.



Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is forming nouns based on verbs in German.

Hast du einen Lieblingsspieler?

"Do you have a favorite player?"

The first way is by just capitalizing the verb. This may sound too easy, but it actually works. What you get is the grammatical form called the gerund. It is always neuter.

arbeiten (to work) – das Arbeiten (the working)

spielen (to play) – das Spielen (the playing)

This kind of form is used in phrases like “Das Spielen von Fußball ist sehr gesund” (The playing of soccer is very healthy), when you want to talk about the action.

Another way is by taking off the infinitive ending. This doesn't always work, but very often it will reveal another noun related to this verb.

arbeiten – die Arbeit (the work)

spielen – das Spiel (the game)

For more advanced vocabulary, you will often find nouns ending in -ung instead. These are always feminine and focus on the duration aspect.

besichtigen (to tour) – die Besichtigung (the tour)

bestellen (to order) – die Bestellung (the order)

erzählen (to tell) – die Erzählung (story)

Finally, when you want the word for somebody who is doing the action, use the ending -er. Words created this way are always masculine and don't change for plural.

arbeiten – der Arbeiter (the worker)

spielen – der Spieler (the player)

erzählen – der Erzähler (the narrator)

Cultural Insight

Culture: soccer



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Soccer is everywhere in Germany; it's our national sport. More than 6 million people are registered members of the *Deutsche Fußballbund (DFB)*, the German soccer association, and when Germany won a game, you will find it very hard to escape the euphoria. When Germany is involved in international matches, that is about the only time you can see German flags.

Soccer is played with 11 players on each side. There is one goalie (*Torwart*) and a variable number of defense players (*Abwehr*), midfielders (*Mittelfeld*) and forward players (*Stürmer*). As the game is called „Fußball“ (football) in German, players primarily use their feet to propell the water forward towards the goal. Except for the goalie, nobody is allowed to use his hands, however it's possible to move the ball a little with your upper body or with your head.

Unlike American football, the game is not violent. The focus is more on intercepting passes, being in your opponent's way or using technique to take the ball from him, and of course there's a science behind outsmarting the goalie and scoring a goal.

German kids grow up with soccer. Likely any random German can explain intricate soccer rules to you. This is why you should at least know some basics of soccer, and watch a game once.

To learn more about soccer, see our audioblog #6:

<http://www.germanpod101.com/2008/05/23/advanced-audio-blog-6-fusball-soccer/>



Absolute Beginner S1

German Practice Makes German Perfect

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Formal German

Anke Hallo Joe! Schön, dass du da bist!
Joe Hallo Anke! Danke für die Einladung!
Anke Kein Ding!
Joe Bin ich zu früh?
Anke Ach, nur zehn Minuten, kein Problem...
Joe Gut!
Anke Willst du was trinken?
Joe Ja, was hast du denn?
Anke Wasser, Apfelsaft oder willst du vielleicht ein Bier...
Joe Hmm, jetzt schon Bier?... Nee, ich glaub', ich nehm' erst mal 'n Wasser.
Anke Gut...hier bitte.
Joe Danke... Du, wer spielt heute noch mal?
Anke Deutschland gegen Australien.
Joe Oh, ja natürlich. 'n gutes Spiel. Und wann?
Anke Um 18 Uhr.
Joe Ah, ja, stimmt.
Anke Wie viele Tore es wohl gibt... Was meinst du?
Joe Hmm, ich sage zwei für Deutschland und eins für Australien. Und du?
Anke Hmm, zwei zu eins? Ich glaub', das is 'n guter Tipp.
Joe Anke, kann ich jetzt ein Bier haben?
Anke Ja, klar! ...
Joe Danke.....Man, Anke, dein Fernseher ist ja irre! So groß!
Anke Haha, ja, der ist neu! Cool oder?
Joe Ja, echt cool! So einen will ich auch haben!
Anke Hmm, wo bleiben nur meine Freunde? Gleich geht's doch los!
Joe Haha, gut so ... dann gibt's mehr Bier und Chips für mich!
Anke Haha!

English

Anke Hi Joe! Nice that you're here!
Joe Hi Anke! Thanks for the invitation!
Anke That was nothing!
Joe Am I too early?
Anke Ah, just ten minutes, no problem...
Joe Good!

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Anke Do you want something to drink?
Joe Yeah, what do you have?
Anke Water, Apple Spritzer, or maybe you want a beer...
Joe Hmm, already a beer now?... Nah, I believe I'll just first take water.
Anke Good....here it is.
Joe Thanks... hey, who's playing today again?
Anke Germany against Australia.
Joe Oh yes, of course. A good game. And when?
Anke At 6pm.
Joe Ah yes, right.
Anke How many goals will there be... what do you think?
Joe Hmm, I say two for Germany and one for Australia. And you?
Anke Hmm, two to one? I believe that's a good guess.
Joe Anke, can I have a beer now?
Anke Yes, of course! ...
Joe Thanks.....Man, Anke, your TV is insane! So big!
Anke Haha, yes, it's new! Cool, eh?
Joe Yeah, really cool! I want to have one of those too!
Anke Hmm, what's keeping my friends? It's about to start!
Joe Haha, good that way ... then there's more beer and chips for me!
Anke Haha!

Vocabulary

German	English		Notes
Einladung	invitation	noun	feminine; plural: Einladungen
Ding	thing	noun	neuter; plural: Dinge
früh	early	adjective & adverb	
Apfel	apple	noun	masculine; plural: Äpfel
Saft	juice	noun	masculine; plural: Säfte
Bier	beer	noun	neuter; plural: Biere; plural is only used when talking about different types of beer
gegen	against	preposition	
Tor	gate, door; goal	noun	neuter; plural: Tore
Tipp	tip, pointer, lead	noun	masculine; plural: Tipps
Fernseher	TV (the machine)	noun	masculine; plural is the

			same
irre	crazy, mad, great	adjective	
mehr	more	adverb	
Chips	chips [American], crisps [British]	noun	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Danke für die Einladung; ich komme gerne!</i>	Thank you for the invitation, I shall gladly come!
<i>Es gibt tausend Dinge, die man erledigen muss...</i>	There are thousands of things that you have to get done...
<i>Manche Dinge erlebt man nur einmal.</i>	Some things one only experiences once.
<i>Es ist früh am Morgen.</i>	It is early in the morning.
<i>Meine Mutter macht unglaublich leckere Apfelkuchen.</i>	My mother makes incredibly delicious apple pies.
<i>Möchtest du Orangensaft oder lieber Apfelsaft?</i>	Do you want orange juice or rather apple juice?
<i>Möchtest du Orangensaft oder lieber Apfelsaft?</i>	Do you want orange juice or rather apple juice?
<i>Ist Bier teuer in Deutschland?</i>	Is beer expensive in Germany?
<i>Ich hätte gern ein Bier.</i>	I would like a beer.
<i>Ich trinke kein Bier.</i>	I don't drink any beer.
<i>Jedenfalls habe ich mich gegen das Angebot entschieden.</i>	In any case, I decided against the offer.
<i>Am Brandenburger Tor sieht man immer viele Touristen.</i>	At the Brandenburg Gate you always see many tourists.
<i>Kannst du mir einen Tipp geben?</i>	Can you give me a pointer?
<i>Der Fernseher läuft bei manchen Leuten Tag und Nacht und ich habe seit gut zwei Jahren noch nicht mal mehr einen.</i>	Some people have the TV running day and night and I don't even have one anymore since a little over two years.
<i>Dein neuer Computer ist ja irre!</i>	Your new computer is crazy! [amazingly good]
<i>Möchtest du noch mehr?</i>	Would you like (even) more?
<i>Kannst du mir mal die Tüte mit den Chips geben?</i>	Can you hand me the bag of chips?

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

1. Kein Ding! = Not a big issue!

2. noch mal = once again; here: tell me once again, remind me

3. zwei zu eins = two to one (as a score)

4. so ein(en) = that kind of thing, such a...

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is colloquial German

Nee, ich glaub', ich nehm' erst mal 'n Wasser.

"No, I think I'll first have a water."

Grammar: colloquial German

Today I want us to look at cases where spoken German and written German don't match up. Quite apart from any dialects and sociolects, there are some things that can be noticed across Germany and across all generations.

For example, the final -e of verb forms is almost always dropped if the verb stem is short. People will say "ich denk" and not "ich denke", "ich nehm" and not "ich nehme", "ich hab" and not "ich habe" and so on. When writing down this form, for example in song lyrics or transcriptions of speech, Germans typically indicate this missing -e with an apostrophe in its place.

The apostrophe is also used when the E of "es" is missing in phrases like "Wie geht's?" or "Ich weiß nicht, ob ich's schaffe". "es" is very often shortened.

"Ein" and "eine" are similarly shortened to just "n" and "ne", and "etwas" is shortened to "was".

Also, the final T in second-person singular forms like "hast", "willst", "nimmst" and so on is often replaced by just a longer S sound.

The final T in "nicht" is also dropped in many parts of Germany. However, other parts pronounce it "nischt", "nisch" or "nech", and when staying in Germany, you should probably adopt whatever is the most common in your area.

These are really the most conservative things one can say about colloquial German, so you should probably adopt them and start to sound more natural this way!



Cultural Insight

Culture: Going out

1. Because of the climate, Germans are a lot less likely to go outside than people in Latin countries
2. People may sit outside in cafés or restaurants in the afternoons in summer, not much in the evenings
3. Most appointments are still for going inside, e. g. go to somebody's place, go to a club, go to the movies...
4. Appointments must have a purpose, there are few for just going around and seeing what's happening



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