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LEVEL

8



German

Upper Intermediate



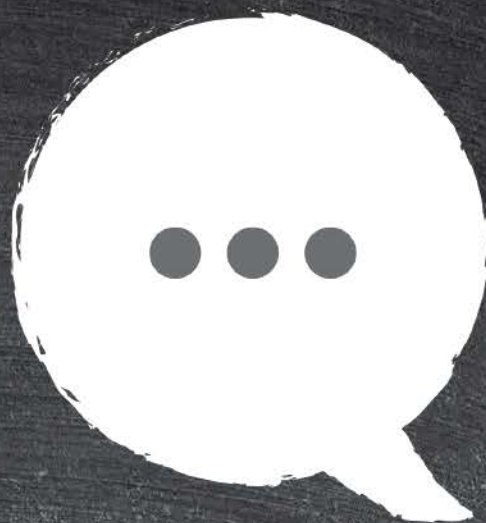
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LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #1 German Soccer Clubs: Goal!!

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1

GERMAN

1. Jones: Ah, endlich zu Hause! Ich bin so müde, dass ich im Bus fast eingeschlafen wäre! Mal sehen, was so im Fernsehen läuft...
2. TV: ...Und nun die Nachrichten....
3. Jones: Oh, Nachrichten. Hoffentlich sagen sie die WM-Ergebnisse von heute an! Ich glaube, Deutschland hat heute gespielt....
4. TV: Und nun zum Sport. Deutschland hat heute Spanien mit einem 2 zu 0 Sieg geschlagen und steht somit im Finale der Fußballweltmeisterschaft 2010.
5. Jones: Oh, wow. Das hätte ich ja nicht gedacht!
6. TV: Das Team von Trainer Jogi Löw überzeugte mit einer guten Leistung....
7. Jones: Hmm, ich wüsste gerne, wie Ballack sich jetzt wohl fühlt...
8. TV: Die deutschen Spieler zeigten sich für das Finale optimistisch, sie glauben fest daran, dass sie eine Chance auf den Titel haben...
9. Jones: Hmm und gegen wen spielen sie im Finale?
10. TV: Im Finale trifft die deutsche National-Elf auf die Mannschaft aus England....
11. Jones: Oh, das wird spannend!!
12. TV: Die Mannschaft aus England gilt ebenso wie Deutschland als Favorit für den Weltmeister-Titel. Sie ist ohne Beckham und Owen jedoch sehr geschwächt....

CONT'D OVER

13. Jones: Stimmt...Das könnte schwer werden für England....
14. TV: Für England wäre es der zweite WM-Titel, Deutschland wäre bei einem Sieg im Finale zum vierten Mal Weltmeister.
15. Jones: Also...Ginge es nach mir, würde ich sagen Deutschland gewinnt... aber man kann ja nie wissen....

ENGLISH

1. Jones: Ah, finally home! I'm so tired, that I almost fell asleep in the bus! Let's see what's on TV...
2. TV: ...And now the news...
3. Jones: Oh, news. Hopefully they'll talk about the World Cup events from today! I believe that Germany played today...
4. TV: And now the Sports. Germany beat Spain 2 to 0 and is now in the World Cup 2010 Finale.
5. Jones: Oh, wow. I hadn't thought about that!
6. TV: Coach Jogi Löw's team convinced us with a good performance...
7. Jones: Hmm, it would be a pleasure to know how Ballack feels now...
8. TV: The German players are optimistic about the finale. They strongly believe that they have a chance at the title...
9. Jones: Hmm and who do they play against in the finale?

CONT'D OVER

10. TV: German's Eleven will play England's team for the finale...
11. Jones: Oh, that will be exciting!!
12. TV: England's team is as much of a favorite as Germany for the World Cup title. They're very weakened without Beckham and Owen...
13. Jones: That's right... That could be difficult for England...
14. TV: For England that would be the second World Cup title, Germany would be the world champions for the fourth time with a victory.
15. Jones: So... if it were up to me... but one can never know...

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
einschlafen	to fall asleep	verb	er schläft ein, er schlief ein, er ist eingeschlafen
schwächen	to weaken	verb	weak verb
gelten	to be considered	verb	es gilt, es galt, es hat gegolten
spannend	thrilling		
fest	solid	adjective	
optimistisch	optimistic	adjective	
Leistung	performance	noun; feminine, die	plural: Leistungen
überzeugen	to convince	verb	non-separable über-; er überzeugt, er überzeugte, er hat überzeugt

Meisterschaft	championship	noun; feminine, die	plural: Meisterschaften
somit	hence	conjunction	
schlagen	to beat, hit, defeat	verb	er schlägt, er schlug, er hat geschlagen
Sieg	victory	noun; masculine, der	plural: Siege
Ergebnis	result	noun; neuter, das	plural: Ergebnisse
Weltmeisterschaft (WM)	world championship, world soccer championship	noun; feminine, die	plural: Weltmeisterschaften

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ist er eingeschlafen?</p> <p>Did he fall asleep?</p>	<p>Wenn ich zu viel Kaffee trinke, schlafe ich immer so schlecht ein.</p> <p>If I drink too much coffee I always have a hard time to fall asleep.</p>
<p>Der Unfall dieses Spielers wird die Nationalmannschaft schwächen.</p> <p>This player's accident will weaken the national team.</p>	<p>Er gilt als ein vertrauenswürdiges Mitglied unserer Gemeinde.</p> <p>He is valued as a reliable member of our community.</p>
<p>Ich fand den Film sehr spannend.</p> <p>I found the movie to be very thrilling.</p>	<p>Der Nagel sitzt nicht ganz fest, bring mir mal einen Hammer.</p> <p>The nail isn't quite firmly attached, fetch me a hammer.</p>
<p>Er kann mehrere Tage jetzt keine feste Nahrung zu sich nehmen.</p> <p>He can't eat any solid foods for several days starting now.</p>	<p>Ich bin da optimistisch.</p> <p>I am optimistic about that.</p>

<p>Seine Leistungen sind in allen Fächern sehr schwach.</p> <p>His performance is very weak in all (school) subjects.</p>	<p>Ich habe sie überzeugt, es doch noch einmal zu versuchen.</p> <p>I convinced her to try it yet another time.</p>
<p>Aufgrund Ihres überzeugenden Lebenslaufes, laden wir Sie jetzt zum Vorstellungsgespräch ein.</p> <p>Because of your compelling CV, we are now inviting you to a job interview.</p>	<p>Dieses Jahr wird Moskau die Schach-Weltmeisterschaft ausrichten.</p> <p>This year, Moscow will organize the world chess championship.</p>
<p>Der Schiri (Schiedsrichter) kommt aus einem anderen Land, somit ist das Spiel fair für beide Mannschaften.</p> <p>The referee comes from a different country, hence the game is fair for both teams.</p>	<p>Wenn man ihn ärgert, schlägt er leicht zu.</p> <p>When you annoy him, he's quick to start hitting you.</p>
<p>Alle Mannschaften wollen den Sieg.</p> <p>All teams want the victory.</p>	<p>Ich kenne noch keine Einzelheiten, nur das Endergebnis.</p> <p>I don't know any details yet, just the final result.</p>

Insgesamt sind wir mit dem Ergebnis sehr zufrieden.

In total we are very pleased with the result.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. WM = Weltmeisterschaft = World Championship (of soccer if not otherwise indicated)
2. „Das Team von Trainer Jogi Löw überzeugte mit einer guten Leistung“ („Coach Jogi Löw's team convinced with a good performance“) = they gave a convincing performance.

3. Ginge es nach mir = If it were up to me

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Konjunktiv II

Er sagte, dass er um vier Uhr käme

"He said that he would come at 4 o'clock"

The German "Konjunktiv"(Conjunctive) is a cross between conditional mood and subjunctive as you might know it from French or Spanish. It is used to express wishes or doubts, especially about future events, and it is also used in reported speech.

There are two types of Conjunctive forms, labeled I and II in Roman numerals. Both are used for the exact same purposes. Type one is only ever used in literature nowadays, so we'll skip it for now. Type two is used more commonly.

To form a Type two Conjunctive, take the past tense form of any verb and add an Umlaut. Also, the "ich" and "er" forms should end in -e.

Here are the forms of kommen (to come)

ich kam

So in proper German, you'd say "Er sagte, dass er um vier Uhr käme" (He said that he would come at 4 o'clock). However, you'll find that there are few proper Germans left. For the most part, especially in spoken German, people take the easy way out and just use the Conjunctive of a few chosen words – forms like wäre (would be), hätte (would have), könnte (could), müsste (would have to) and möchte (would like). Then, there are a few verbs whose Conjunctive forms are only used when they're part of an expression, for example wüsste (would know) and ginge (would go). At all other times, the modern Conjunctive is formed using "würde" (Conjunctive II of "werden") and the infinitive of whichever verb you were planning to use. So "würde gehen", "würde wissen", and so on.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Culture: German soccer

Soccer is everywhere in Germany; it's our national sport. More than 6 million people are

registered members of the *DFB (Deutscher Fußballbund)*, the German soccer association, and when Germany won a game, you will find it very hard to escape the euphoria. It's the only time you can see German flags.

The *Bundesliga*, the federal league, consists of the top 18 soccer clubs. The majority of good clubs come from North-Rhine Westphalia, because of its many big cities, and also because the coal and steel industry there used to have company soccer teams, laying the groundwork for home-grown soccer talents. Nowadays the majority of players is imported though.

Bayern München is probably the best or at least the most famous soccer club. It has fans all over the country and even abroad, while the fans of other clubs usually have ties to the city or the region their club comes from. To learn more about soccer, see our audioblog #6: <http://www.germanpod101.com/2008/05/23/advanced-audio-blog-6-fusball-soccer/>

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #2 Finding Pride in Germany!

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2

GERMAN

1. Jones: Guten Morgen, Frau Bayer!
2. Bayer: Guten Morgen, Herr Jones!
3. Jones: Und, haben Sie gestern Abend das Spiel Deutschland gegen Spanien noch gesehen?
4. Bayer: Ja natürlich! Sie nicht?
5. Jones: Nein, ich war doch noch im Fitnessstudio wegen dem Probetraining. Ich habe nur das Ergebnis in den Nachrichten gehört.
6. Bayer: Klasse, oder?! 2 zu 0! Die Begegnung war echt spannend!
7. Jones: Wirklich?
8. Bayer: Ja, die Spanier hatten viele Möglichkeiten, Tore zu schießen, aber sie hatten kein Glück.
9. Jones: Gut für Deutschland, würde ich sagen! ...Gucken Sie jedes WM-Spiel?
10. Bayer: Hmm, ich versuche es...
11. Jones: Dann haben Sie sicher viel Ahnung von Fußball?
12. Bayer: Hmm, na ja, meine Fußballkenntnisse halten sich in Grenzen... Aber ich weiß, was ein Abseits ist!
13. Jones: Haha, das ist immer gut!
14. Bayer: Und Sie? Kennen Sie sich mit Fußball aus?

CONT'D OVER

15. Jones: Ach, ein wenig. Aber alle Einzelheiten der Regeln kenne ich nicht. Mit Basketball und Football kenne ich mich besser aus...
16. Bayer: Hmm, wollen Sie nicht das Finale mit meinem Mann und mir gucken? Das Spiel wird sicher ein Erlebnis!
17. Jones: Oh ja, das wäre super! Wann ist das Finale denn?
18. Bayer: Am Sonntag. Was meinen Sie, gewinnt Deutschland wohl?
19. Jones: Hmm, ich denke, Deutschland könnte es schaffen...
20. Bayer: Ja, denke ich auch...Qualität setzt sich schließlich immer durch!
21. Jones: Haha, sagen Sie das mal den Engländern!

ENGLISH

1. Jones: Good morning Mrs Bayer!
2. Bayer: Good morning Mr Jones!
3. Jones: So, did you watch the game Germany against Spain last night?
4. Bayer: Yes of course! You didn't?
5. Jones: No, I was at the gym because of the trial workout. I only heard about the result in the news.
6. Bayer: Awesome, isn't it?! 2 to 0! The meet-up was really thrilling!

CONT'D OVER

7. Jones: I'd say that's good for Germany! ... Do you watch every world championship match?
8. Bayer: Hmm, I try to...
9. Jones: Then you probably know a lot about soccer?
10. Bayer: Hmm, well, my knowledge of soccer is limited... But I know what 'offside' is!
11. Jones: Haha, that's always good!
12. Bayer: And you? Do you know your soccer?
13. Jones: Oh, a little. I don't know all the details of the rules. I'm more knowledgeable about basketball and football...
14. Bayer: Hmm, wouldn't you like to watch the final with my husband and I? The game will surely be a great experience!
15. Jones: Oh yes, that would be great! When is the final?
16. Bayer: On Sunday. What do you think, will Germany win?
17. Jones: Hmm, I think Germany could manage to do it...
18. Bayer: Yes, I think so too... Quality always prevails after all!
19. Jones: Haha, tell that to the English!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
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wegen	because of	preposition	either used with Dative or Genitive (older usage)
Erlebnis	experience (one particular thing that is experienced)	noun; neuter, das	plural: Erlebnisse
Regel	rule	noun; feminine, die	plural: Regeln
Einzelheit	detail	noun; feminine, die	plural: Einzelheiten
Abseits	aside, offside, aloof, apart		noun if capitalized, adverb if not
Grenze	border	noun; feminine, die	plural: Grenzen
Kenntnis	knowledge (one particular thing that is known)	noun; feminine, die	plural: Kenntnisse
Ahnung	foreboding, hunch; knowledge (colloquially)	noun; feminine, die	plural: Ahnungen
schießen	to shoot	verb	er schießt, er schoss, er hat geschossen
Möglichkeit	possibility	noun; feminine, die	plural: Möglichkeiten
Begegnung	encounter, meeting	noun; feminine, die	plural: Begegnungen
klasse	awesome, great, neat		
durchsetzen	to enforce; [+sich] to prevail	verb	"durch" splits off

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Wegen der Vogelgrippe sind viele Leute nicht nach Asien gereist.</p> <p>Because of the bird flu many people didn't travel to Asia.</p>	<p>Es war ein Erlebnis.</p> <p>It was a (thrilling) experience.</p>
<p>Er hat die Regeln gebrochen.</p> <p>He broke the rules.</p>	<p>Ich kenne noch keine Einzelheiten, nur das Endergebnis.</p> <p>I don't know any details yet, just the final result.</p>
<p>Er stand im Abseits.</p> <p>He was standing offside.</p>	<p>Die Grenze ist nur zwanzig Kilometer östlich von hier.</p> <p>The border is only 20 kilometers east of here.</p>
<p>Du solltest deine Computerkenntnisse unterstreichen.</p> <p>You should highlight your computer knowledge.</p>	<p>Ich habe da so eine Ahnung, wer das sein könnte...</p> <p>I have a hunch about who it could be...</p>
<p>Hast du das auch gehört? Es klang so, als ob jemand draußen schießt.</p> <p>Did you hear that as well? It sounded like someone was shooting outside.</p>	<p>Die Stürmer sind dazu da, Tore zu schießen.</p> <p>The purpose of forwards is to shoot goals.</p>
<p>Wir haben alle Möglichkeiten ausgeschöpft.</p> <p>We exhausted all possibilities.</p>	<p>Die Begegnung mit dem berühmten Musiker war wirklich spannend.</p> <p>Meeting the famous musician was really thrilling.</p>
<p>Sie sieht heute klasse aus, findest du nicht?</p> <p>She's looking great today, don't you think so?</p>	<p>Der Kanzler setzte das neue Regierungsprogramm durch.</p> <p>The chancellor enforced the new government program.</p>

Du musst lernen, dich besser durchzusetzen!

You have to learn to prevail!

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. wegen = because of. Traditionally, this preposition required the following noun to be in the Genitive case, but nowadays most people use the Dative, especially in speaking. The Genitive is slowly going out of usage.
2. sich in Grenzen halten = to keep within a limit, to be limited. "Meine Fußballkenntnisse halten sich in Grenzen" = My knowledge of soccer is limited.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson are that make nouns what they are.

Qualität setzt sich schließlich immer durch.

"Quality always prevails after all."

In this lesson, we've encountered 5 different endings that can be used to create nouns in German. Almost all of them result in the noun being feminine.

The easiest ending is -tät, as in "die Qualität" (quality). This is literally just the equivalent of the English -ty, so you can usually replace -tät with -ty to get the translation. However, it doesn't work the other way round, because German likes to translate the Latin roots, for example saying "Freiheit" for "liberty".

Which brings us to the next ending, -heit, as in "die Freiheit" or "die Einzelheit" (detail). -heit is very often used to turn an adjective into a feminine noun. Same for -keit, which is more rarely used and only for longer words, like "die Möglichkeit" (possibility).

Then, there's the ending -ung, as in "die Begegnung" (encounter) or "die Ahnung" (foreboding). This one turns verbs into nouns, not adjectives. The key aspect is one of duration.

If you need a noun for a one-time thing, then the noun is more likely to use the ending -nis in German. This is the only ending out of today's list that creates neuter nouns, for example "Ergebnis" (result), "Erlebnis" (experience – not your work experience (that would be Erfahrung, with -ung for the duration) but one particular experience) or "Kenntnis" (knowledge

as in one thing or one subject area that you know).

That's enough for today. There are more noun endings, which we'll cover at a later point.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Pride & Modesty in Germany

“Dann haben Sie sicher viel Ahnung von Fußball?”

“Ein wenig. Aber alle Einzelheiten der Regeln kenne ich nicht. Mit Basketball und Football kenne ich mich besser aus”

In Germany, people are not as overly modest as the Chinese, but neither are they as easy to praise themselves as many Americans. Here's a rough guide of how not to sound too full of yourself.

When it comes to talking about money, lay low. Don't tell people in any way that you're rich or poor, because Germans don't like to show that off and it won't improve people's opinion of you. Also avoid putting a price on things you bought. People will learn about your financial situation through other means, for example by seeing your home or the clothes you wear.

When it comes to your country, you will also make a lot more friends if you don't express pride in so many words. Because of history, you will be hard pressed to find a German who is proud of his country, and those who are, are likely for the wrong reasons. This is re-inforced by education, to the point that some Germans find it excessively strange to be proud of any country – after all, being born in this country or that is just a matter of chance, it's not a personal achievement.

When it comes to talking about abilities and accomplishments, present them in an objective way. For example, in German I would tell people that I speak English fluently. There's no need to understate it as I would when speaking Chinese, but you also shouldn't elaborate unless asked, that would be boasting.

Germans generally give a lot less compliments than Americans do, and most of the compliments are honest observations rather than an effort to be nice; except if they're talking to foreigners and aware of cultural differences. This means that when a German compliments you and you think what he said is true, you can accept the compliment matter-of-factly or treat it as you would any understandable interjection; there's no need to say thanks or to downplay the compliment.

When it comes to talking about your career and your work, you can show pride in that and praise yourself a bit or embellish stories, it's very common and won't be held against you.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #3 Everyone's Lighter in Germany

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GERMAN

1. Jones: Hallo.
2. Fitness: Hallo.
3. Jones: Ich habe heute ein Probetraining.
4. Fitness: Ah okay. ... Sind Sie Herr Brecht?
5. Jones: Nein, ich heie Jones, Frank Jones.
6. Fitness: Ah, Herr Jones. Mein Name ist Sabine Schiller. Ich bin heute Ihre Trainerin.
7. Jones: Ah, schn. Freut mich.
8. Fitness: Gut. Dann ziehen Sie sich doch erst mal um. Dort vorn sind die Umkleidekabinen. Wenn Sie fertig sind, kommen Sie einfach wieder her. Ich warte hier auf Sie.
9. Jones: In Ordnung.
10. ...
11. Jones: So, da bin ich.
12. Fitness: Super. Kommen Sie mit. Wenn Sie nichts dagegen haben, werden wir Sie jetzt erst einmal wiegen und Ihre Gre messen.
13. Jones: Oh, okay.
14. Fitness: ... Okaaay... Sie sind 1 Meter 87 gro und wiegen 91 Kilogramm...

CONT'D OVER

15. Jones: Hmm ist das gut?
16. Fitness: Na ja... 85kg wären besser.... Aber so schlimm sind 91kg nicht.
17. Jones: Hmm, dann sollte ich vielleicht ein paar Kilo abnehmen....
18. Fitness: Ja, das wäre nicht schlecht. Wenn Sie möchten, gebe ich Ihnen ein paar Tipps.
19. Jones: Ja, gerne...
20. Fitness: Gut. Dann würde ich sagen, fangen wir mit dem Training an!
21. ...
22. Jones: Puuh, das war anstrengend!
23. Fitness: Das soll es ja auch sein! Aber ich hoffe, es hat Ihnen trotzdem Spaß gemacht?
24. Jones: Ja, auf jeden Fall.
25. Fitness: Freut mich. Wenn Sie möchten, können wir dann gleich über eine Mitgliedschaft sprechen. Aber am besten ziehen Sie sich erst mal um....
26. Jones: Gut, ich komme dann zur Rezeption, wenn ich fertig bin.
27. Fitness: Ja, bis gleich....

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Jones: Hello.
2. Fitness: Hello.
3. Jones: I have a trial workout today.
4. Fitness: Ah okay. ... Are you Mr Brecht?
5. Jones: No, my name is Jones, Frank Jones.
6. Fitness: Ah, Mr Jones. My name is Sabine Schiller. I am your trainer today.
7. Jones: Ah, nice. Pleased [to meet you].
8. Fitness: Good. Then start by changing. The changing rooms are over there. When you're ready, just come back here. I shall wait here for you.
9. Jones: Okay.
10. ...
11. Jones: So, there I am.
12. Fitness: Great. Come with me. If you don't mind, we shall weigh you first and measure your height.
13. Jones: Oh, okay.
14. Fitness: ... Okaaay... You are 1.87 metres tall and weigh 91 kilograms...
15. Jones: Hmm is that good?

CONT'D OVER

16. Fitness: Well... 85kg would be better... But 91kg aren't that bad.
17. Jones: Hmm, then I should maybe lose a few kilos...
18. Fitness: Yes, that wouldn't be bad. If you want, I shall give you a few tips.
19. Jones: Yes, I'd like that...
20. Fitness: Good. Then I'd say we shall start with the workout!
21. ...
22. Jones: Pooh, that was exhausting!
23. Fitness: It should be like that! But I hope that you enjoyed it anyway?
24. Jones: Yes, definitely.
25. Fitness: I'm glad. If you want, we can then talk about a membership. But it would be best if you first changed...
26. Jones: Good, I shall come to the reception when I'm done.
27. Fitness: Yes, see you soon...

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
sich umziehen	to change clothes	verb	er zieht sich um, er zog sich um, er hat sich umgezogen
Rezeption	reception	noun	plural: Rezeptionen

auf jeden Fall	anyway; definitely	expression	
abnehmen	to decrease; lose weight	verb	er nimmt ab, er nahm ab, er hat abgenommen
messen	to measure	verb	er misst, er maß, er hat gemessen
Kilo(gramm)	kilogram (1000 grams)	noun; neuter, das	plural: Kilos or Kilogramm
wiegen	to weigh	verb	er wiegt, er wog, er hat gewogen
dagegen	against it, against that	adverb	
Kabine	cabin	noun; feminine, die	plural: Kabinen
Umkleide(kabine)	changing room	noun; feminine, die	plural: Umkleide (kabine)n
Ordnung	order	noun; feminine, die	plural: Ordnungen

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Oh Mann, die Gäste kommen gleich und ich muss mich noch umziehen!</p> <p>Oh man, the guests are coming soon and I have to change still!</p>	<p>Können sie dir an der Rezeption nicht weiterhelfen?</p> <p>Can't they help you out at the reception?</p>
<p>Wenn sich die Chance bietet, dann werde ich sie auf jeden Fall ergreifen.</p> <p>If the opportunity presents itself I'll most definitely take it out.</p>	<p>Die Arbeitslosenzahl hat im März erneut abgenommen.</p> <p>The amount of unemployed people has decreased again in March.</p>

<p>Ich muss dringend bis zum Sommer noch mindestens drei Kilo abnehmen!</p> <p>I urgently need to lose at least three kilos before the summer!</p>	<p>Misst du jeden Tag, wie viel du wiegst?</p> <p>Do you measure how much you weigh every day?</p>
<p>Hast du schon 275 Gramm Mehl abgemessen? Das brauchen wir noch für den Teig.</p> <p>Have you already measured 275 grams of flour? We need that for the dough.</p>	<p>Ich hab neulich gelesen, dass jeder Deutsche im Durchschnitt drei Kilo Lasagne pro Jahr isst. Irgendwie habe ich das Gefühl, dass ich mindestens noch die Portionen meiner Eltern mitesse.</p> <p>Recently I read that every German eats an average of three Kilo of Lasagne per year. Somehow I have the feeling that I at least eat my parents servings as well.</p>
<p>Ich wiege heute schon wieder mehr als gestern!</p> <p>Again I weigh more today than I did yesterday!</p>	<p>Vor einer Woche warst du noch dagegen.</p> <p>A week ago you were still against it.</p>
<p>Er wird nichts dagegen haben.</p> <p>He won't have anything against it. He won't be opposed.</p>	<p>Wenn der Druck in der Kabine abfällt, fallen automatisch Sauerstoffmasken herunter.</p> <p>If the pressure in the cabin should drop, oxygen masks will automatically fall down.</p>
<p>Wo befinden sich die Umkleidekabinen auf dieser Etage?</p> <p>Where are the changing rooms on this floor?</p>	<p>Er kann in seinem Zimmer nie Ordnung halten!</p> <p>He can't maintain order in his room! / He can't keep his room tidy!</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. sich umziehen = to change clothes, that is, to take off your current clothes and put on others. However, without the „sich“, „umziehen“ means to relocate, to move to a different home.

2. auf jeden Fall = anyway, definitely. The opposite is „auf keinen Fall“ - no way, definitely not.

3. in Ordnung = in order. Some people use this expression instead of „okay“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the conditional sentence, type 1

Wenn Sie möchten, gebe ich Ihnen ein paar Tipps.

"If you like, I shall give you a few tips."

In this and the following few lessons, we shall have a closer look at conditional sentences. In German, just like in English, there are three types of conditional sentences. They are classified according to the likelihood that the condition will be met.

If it's pretty likely that the condition will be met, you need type I. This type is pretty much like a normal sentence. Here you may use either the present tense or the future tense, even though the things haven't taken place yet and may never happen.

Examples from this dialog

Wenn Sie nichts dagegen haben, werden wir Sie jetzt erst einmal wiegen und Ihre Größe messen. (present tense would also work)

Wenn Sie möchten, gebe ich Ihnen ein paar Tipps. (future tense would also work)

Wenn Sie möchten, können wir dann gleich über eine Mitgliedschaft sprechen. (future tense only works if you get rid of "können", "werden können" is too weird)

Note however that the German word "wenn" can also mean "when" for sentences that are not conditions. We saw this in the dialog as well.

Wenn Sie fertig sind, kommen Sie einfach wieder her.

ich komme dann zur Rezeption, wenn ich fertig bin.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Metric System

Germany has been using metric system units for over 200 years. As a result, people are uniquely unfamiliar with any other measuring system. Some don't even know that there is, say, another way to measure weight other than grams and kilograms. People sometimes refer to "Pfund", which literally translates to "pound"... however, what they mean is 500 grams, half a kilogram.

So for weight Germans use grams and kilograms.

For temperatures, everybody thinks in Celsius, without even indicating so, so be careful when Germans tell you a temperature.

For distances the most common measurements are centimeters, meters and kilometers.

By the same token, areas are measured in square metres or square kilometers. And volumes are measured in cubic metres... the litre is just the thousandth part of a cubic meter, so a cubic decimetre really. The litre replaces gallons in every situation.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #4 Signing a Contract: German Contract Questions

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- 2 German
- 3 English
- 5 Vocabulary
- 6 Sample Sentences
- 7 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 7 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

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GERMAN

1. Fitness: Ah, Herr Jones, da sind Sie ja.
2. Jones: Ja. Entschuldigung, dass es etwas länger gedauert hat...
3. Fitness: Kein Problem.... Setzen Sie sich. Und, wie sieht es aus? Möchten Sie Mitglied bei uns werden?
4. Jones: Ja, ich denke, ich möchte einen Vertrag abschließen.
5. Fitness: Schön. Es wird Ihnen hier sicher gefallen.
6. Jones: Ja, glaube ich auch.... Können Sie mir den Vertrag noch mal genau erklären?
7. Fitness: Ja, gerne.
8. Jones: Also ich zahle jeden Monat 25 Euro, richtig?
9. Fitness: Kommt darauf an. Sie können auch 30 Euro zahlen. Dann können Sie die Sauna und das Schwimmbad auch nutzen.
10. Jones: Ach ja... Okay, ich glaube, dann tue ich das.
11. Fitness: Ja, wenn ich Sie wäre, täte ich das auch. Es sind ja auch nur 5 Euro.
12. Jones: Ja. Und das Geld wird jeden Monat von meinem Konto abgebucht?
13. Fitness: Ja.
14. Jones: Bekäme ich Rabatt, wenn ich alles auf einmal zahlen würde?

CONT'D OVER

15. Fitness: Nein, tut mir leid. Das gibt es bei uns nicht.
16. Jones: Ach so. Okay. Und der Vertrag gilt 1 Jahr?
17. Fitness: Genau.
18. Jones: Verlängert er sich automatisch?
19. Fitness: Nein, aber wir erinnern Sie rechtzeitig daran, den Vertrag zu verlängern.
20. Jones: Und wie oft kann ich in der Woche trainieren?
21. Fitness: So oft Sie möchten.
22. Jones: Und was wäre am besten?
23. Fitness: Also, am besten wäre es natürlich, wenn sie drei- bis viermal die Woche hierherkämen. Aber wenn Sie nur zwei- bis dreimal trainieren, ist das auch in Ordnung.
24. Jones: Okay, gut. Wo soll ich unterschreiben?

ENGLISH

1. Fitness: Ah, Mr Jones, there you are.
2. Jones: Yes. I'm sorry for taking a bit longer...
3. Fitness: No problem... Sit down. ... So, how is it looking? Would you like to become a member here?

CONT'D OVER

4. Jones: Yes, I think I want to conclude a contract.
5. Fitness: Nice. You are certainly going to like it here.
6. Jones: Yes, I believe so, too... Can you explain the contract to me once again, in detail?
7. Fitness: Yes, gladly.
8. Jones: So I pay 25 euros every month, right?
9. Fitness: It depends. You can also pay 30 euros. Then you can also take advantage of the sauna and the swimming-pool.
10. Jones: Ah yes... Okay, I believe I shall do that then.
11. Fitness: Yes, if I were you, I would do that, too. Also, it's only 5 euros.
12. Jones: Yes. And the money will be transferred from my account every month?
13. Fitness: Yes.
14. Jones: Would I get a discount, if I paid everything at once?
15. Fitness: No, I'm sorry. We don't have that.
16. Jones: Ah. Okay. And the contract is valid for one year?
17. Fitness: Exactly.
18. Jones: Does it renew automatically?

CONT'D OVER

19. Fitness: No, but we shall remind you in time to renew the contract.
20. Jones: And how often can I exercise per week?
21. Fitness: As often as you like.
22. Jones: And what would be best?
23. Fitness: Well, it would of course be best if you came here 3 to 4 times a week. But if you only exercise 2 to 3 times, that's also okay.
24. Jones: Okay, good. Where shall I sign?

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
dauern	to last, to take (a certain amount of time)	verb	weak verb
rechtzeitig	in time, early enough, punctual		
erinnern	to remind	verb	not the same as "sich erinnern" (to remember)
automatisch	automatical(ly)		
verlängern	to lengthen, expand	verb	weak verb
gelten	to be considered	verb	es gilt, es galt, es hat gegolten
auf einmal	at once, immediately	expression	
Rabatt	rebate, discount	noun	plural: Rabatte

nutzen	to utilize, employ something	verb	weak verb
zahlen	to pay	verb	weak verb
unterschreiben	to sign	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Warum dauert das so lange?</p> <p>Why is this taking so long?</p>	<p>Bitte sag mir rechtzeitig Bescheid, wann du deinen Geburtstag feiern willst, damit ich mir frei nehmen kann.</p> <p>Please tell me in good time when you want to celebrate your birthday, so that I can request leave.</p>
<p>Überall in Berlin gibt es Gedenktafeln, die an die Opfer des Dritten Reiches erinnern.</p> <p>Throughout Berlin there are memorial tablets reminding people of the victims of the Third Reich.</p>	<p>Wenn der Druck in der Kabine abfällt, fallen automatisch Sauerstoffmasken herunter.</p> <p>If the pressure in the cabin should drop, oxygen masks will automatically fall down.</p>
<p>Wurde dein Antrag auf Verlängerung schon genehmigt?</p> <p>Was your application for an extension approved already?</p>	<p>Er gilt als ein vertrauenswürdiges Mitglied unserer Gemeinde.</p> <p>He is valued as a reliable member of our community.</p>
<p>Ich muss doch nicht alles auf einmal bezahlen, oder?</p> <p>But I don't have to pay everything at once, do I?</p>	<p>Heute gibt es 10 Prozent Rabatt auf jede Bestellung.</p> <p>Today there's a 10 percent rebate on every order.</p>

**Dieses Zimmer wurde als
Schlafzimmer genutzt.**

This room was utilized as a bedroom.

Ich möchte bitte zahlen.

I would like to pay please.

Bitte unterschreiben Sie diesen Vertrag.

Please sign this contract.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Wie sieht es aus? = How is it looking? What do you think? What's the situation? 2. zahlen vs. bezahlen – the prefix „be“ always implies that there's another object implied. „zahlen“ is to pay, „bezahlen“ is to pay for something. Hence, if the mafia asks you to pay, they'd use the word „zahlen“. If they used „bezahlen“, they'd have to say what you're paying for, either in this sentence or a previous one. 3. Es kommt darauf an = It depends. You can also make phrases like „Es kommt auf die Hundesorte an.“ (It depends on the type of dog). 4. verlängern is an important word, it allows you to understand German spam... you know, the kind that promises you to enlarge your... neck.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the conditional sentence, type 2

Also, am besten wäre es natürlich, wenn sie drei- bis viermal die Woche hierherkämen.

"Well, it would be best if you came her 3 to 4 times a week."

In the last lesson we started to look at conditional sentences in German. Last time we had the conditional sentence type 1. "Type 1" means that the proposed event is likely to occur, and this is also expressed by choosing the present tense or future tense for this kind of sentence.

Today, we shall look at Type 2. We use this type for conditions that are unlikely to come true. For this kind of sentence, you have to use the Konjunktiv (Conjunctive) form of verbs. This form makes it clear that what you're saying is conditional. When talking about the Conjunctive, we already mentioned that there's an old kind of Conjunctive based on the past tense of the verb, and a new kind formed using "würde". When making Type 2 conditional sentences, you can form the Conjunctive either way.

Examples from this dialog

Wenn ich Sie wäre, täte ich das auch. = If I were you, I would do that as well. (“würde ich das auch tun” would also work)

Bekäme ich Rabatt, wenn ich alles auf einmal zahlen würde? = Would I get a rebate if I paid everything at once? (“würde ich Rabatt bekommen” would also work)

Also pay attention to what the trainer says at the end. “Also, am besten wäre es natürlich, wenn sie drei- bis viermal die Woche hier her kämen. Aber wenn Sie nur zwei- bis dreimal trainieren, ist das auch in Ordnung.” Here, she chose the Type 2 conditional sentence for the first part, and Type 1 for the second part. This reflects her estimation that it's unlikely that Frank will be exercising 3 to 4 times a week. On the other hand, she thinks it likely that he will exercise twice or three times a week.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Contracts ... often automatically take money from your bank account, as it's more convenient ... often auto-renew, be careful to cancel at least 3 months in advance in order to avoid this pitfall ... can be signed over the phone, but the company needs to record the pertinent parts of the conversation and send you the contract in writing anyway. Once you receive the contract in writing, you have two weeks to declare it void without repercussions if you didn't mean to sign it.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #5 If We Had Told You Sooner, You Wouldn't Have Made This Mistake in Germany!

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- 2 German
- 3 English
- 5 Vocabulary
- 6 Sample Sentences
- 7 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 7 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

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GERMAN

1. Jones: Jones hier, hallo.
2. Manuela: Hallo Frank, hier ist Manuela.
3. Jones: Ach hallo Manuela.
4. Manuela: Hey, sag mal, bist du gar nicht zu Hause?
5. Jones: Äh, nein. Ich bin noch unterwegs. Ich war im Fitness-Studio und habe ein Probetraining gemacht.
6. Manuela: Oh, ach so.... Hmm... Du bist sonst immer um die Zeit zu Hause....Wenn ich das gewusst hätte...
7. Jones: Wieso, was ist los?
8. Manuela: Hmm... na ja...bist du denn bald da?
9. Jones: Äh, ja. Ich denke, ich bin etwa in 20 Minuten da. Wieso denn?
10. Manuela: Na, wenn ich das gewusst hätte, wäre ich später gekommen.
11. Jones: Wohin denn?
12. Manuela: Na, zu dir...
13. Jones: Hä? Wie... zu mir?
14. Manuela: Ich stehe vor deiner Haustür...
15. Jones: Oh.

CONT'D OVER

16. **Manuela:** Ja, ich hatte Lust, eine DVD zu gucken. Und deshalb habe ich auf dem Weg von der Arbeit nach Hause in der Videothek eine DVD ausgeliehen. Und deine Wohnung liegt ja auf dem Weg....Wenn ich dich vorher gefragt hätte, dann hättest du sicher „Nein“ gesagt. Deswegen dachte ich, dass es besser ist, wenn ich dich überrasche.
17. **Jones:** Die Überraschung ist dir gelungen!
18. **Manuela:** Hmm, ja.
19. **Jones:** Na dann warte doch im Cafe an der Ecke und ich hole dich dort ab....
20. **Manuela:** Okay. Entschuldige, dass ich dich so überrumpele...
21. **Jones:** Ach, kein Problem... Nur, wenn du früher Bescheid gesagt hättest, hätte ich noch Chips und Gummibärchen gekauft....
22. **Manuela:** Keine Sorge! Die habe ich dabei!

ENGLISH

1. **Jones:** Jones here, hello.
2. **Manuela:** Hello Frank, here is Manuela.
3. **Jones:** Oh, hello Manuela.
4. **Manuela:** Hey, say, are you not at home?
5. **Jones:** Uh, no. I'm still on the road. I was in the gym for a trial training.

CONT'D OVER

6. **Manuela:** Oh, I see... Hmm... you're otherwise always at home at that time... if I were to know that...
7. **Jones:** Why, what's up?
8. **Manuela:** Hmm... oh well... are you then soon there?
9. **Jones:** Uh, yeah. I think I'll be there in 20 minutes. Why?
10. **Manuela:** Well, if I had known that, I would've come later.
11. **Jones:** Where to then?
12. **Manuela:** Well, to your place...
13. **Jones:** Huh? How... to my place?
14. **Manuela:** I'm standing at your door.
15. **Jones:** Oh.
16. **Manuela:** Yeah, I felt like watching a DVD. And that's why I was on the way home from work and rented a DVD from the video store. And your apartment is indeed on the way... if I had asked you in advance, you certainly would've said "no". That's why I thought it was better to surprise you.
17. **Jones:** The surprise is for you!
18. **Manuela:** Hmm, yeah.
19. **Jones:** Well then, just wait at the cafe on the corner and I'll pick you right up...

CONT'D OVER

20. Manuela: Ok. Sorry that I took you by surprise...
21. Jones: Ah, no problem... if only you had given me earlier notice, I could've bought chips and gummi bears.
22. Manuela: No worries! I have them here!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
unterwegs	on the go	adverb	
Gummibärchen	gummi bear(s)	noun; neuter, das	plural is the same
Chips	chips [American], crisps [British]	noun; plural, die	singular: Chip
früher	earlier	adverb	
überrumpeln	to take someone by surprise	verb	ex: er überrumpelt sie - he takes her by surprise
gelingen	to succeed	verb	ihm gelingt etwas, ihm gelang etwas, ihm ist etwas gelingen
überraschen	to surprise	verb	weak verb
ausleihen	to borrow out, lend out, rent (small items)	verb	er leiht aus, er lieh aus, er hat ausgeliehen; means "lend out" when another person is mentioned in the Dative
Videothek	video rental store	noun; feminine, die	plural: Videotheken

dabei haben

to have brought
along

verb

er hat dabei, er hatte
dabei, er hat
dabeigehabt

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Lass uns ein bisschen früher gehen, dann können wir unterwegs noch Brötchen kaufen!

Let's go a little bit earlier, then we can buy some rolls on the way!

Ich muss unbedingt heute Abend noch ein paar Gummibärchen naschen.

I absolutely have to snack on a few gummi bears tonight.

Kannst du mir mal die Tüte mit den Chips geben?

Can you hand me the bag of chips?

Heutzutage kaufen einige im Internet ein, aber früher ging das nicht.

Nowadays many people shop online, but that wasn't possible before.

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

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

Früher war alles besser.

Everything was better in the good old days.

Wir wollen ihn nicht mit unserem Besuch direkt am ersten Tag überrumpeln.

We don't want to overwhelm him by visiting right on the first day.

Wenn es dir nicht beim ersten Versuch gelingt, probier' es einfach nochmal.

If you don't succeed on the first try, just try again.

<p>Er will nicht? Das überrascht mich aber.</p> <p>He doesn't want that? That does surprise me.</p>	<p>Ich besitze keine Schlittschuhe, also muss ich mir welche ausleihen.</p> <p>I don't own any skates, so I have to borrow some.</p>
<p>Gibt es in dieser Videothek eine gute Auswahl an Komödien?</p> <p>Is there a good selection of comedies in this video rental store?</p>	<p>Hast du das Buch dabei, wie verabredet?</p> <p>Did you bring along the book, as we agreed?</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. vorher vs. früher. Both can be translated as „before“, in the sense of „beforehand“, before something else. However, „vorher“ is more recent than „früher“. „früher“ can be anything reaching back to your great-grandparents' generation. You will often see it in the phrase „Früher war alles besser!“ (In earlier times, everything was better!) 2. die Überraschung = surprise (based on the verb "überraschen") 3. Keine Sorge! = Don't worry! It's not a problem!

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Konditionalsatz III

Na, wenn ich das gewusst hätte, wäre ich später gekommen.

"Well, if I had known that, I would have come later."

In the last two lessons we looked at conditional sentences in German. So far, we had type 1 and type 2. Type 1 is for events that are likely to occur, and that's why we use the present tense or future tense for it, same as if it were certain. Type 2 is for unlikely events, and we express our doubt by using the Konjunktiv (Conjunctive) form of verbs. This shows anyone that what we're saying is conditional and may not happen.

There is only one more type of conditional sentence, type 3. Type 3 is for conditions that are impossible to meet. Really impossible. If you're talking about possibly winning the lottery, then that's still a type 2 sentence, because it's unlikely but not entirely impossible. For something to be really impossible, the condition has already not been met. For example, take the English phrase "If I had known that". The thing is, you did not know that, so it's an impossible condition.

In German, impossible conditions are expressed using the Conjunctive of the pluperfect tense. This sounds complicated, but it's not. To form the Conjunctive of the pluperfect tense, just take a regular pluperfect form such as "ich hatte gedacht" (I had thought) and then change the auxiliary into its Conjunctive equivalent. Typically you only need to add an Umlaut for that. "ich hatte gedacht" becomes "ich hätte gedacht". For verbs using "sein", the Conjunctive of the pluperfect tense involves a form of "wäre". For example, "ich war gegangen" becomes "ich wäre gegangen".

Both clauses of type 3 conditional sentences use the Conjunctive of the pluperfect tense.

Examples from this dialog

Wenn ich das gewusst hätte, wäre ich später gekommen. (If I had known that, I would have come later)

Wenn ich dich vorher gefragt hätte, dann hättest du sicher „Nein“ gesagt. (If I had asked you beforehand, you would have certainly said "No")

Wenn du früher Bescheid gesagt hättest, hätte ich noch Chips und Gummibärchen gekauft. (If you had told me in advance, I would have bought chips and gummi bears)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Culture: Appointments and punctuality • inviting yourself, like Manuela did, should only be done if the other person invited you to do so, if they said something like „come by whenever you want“ • cancel a long time ahead • be punctual! • more than 5 minutes late is frowned upon • more than 30 minutes late is inexcusable; call if you know you'll be delayed • hairdressers and doctors often only accept people with appointment, especially on busy days • appointments with the doctor: you may still have to wait a long time; if you're not there when your name is called, you lost your chance • appointments with the authorities: calling them and making an appointment can save you a lot of waiting time; many many people just go there and wait; number-drawing system if you're lucky

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #6 Sometime, Somehow, Somewhere, Somebody is Going to Watch a German Movie Something Like This!

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- 2 German
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 6 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

6

GERMAN

1. Manuela: Schön, dass du doch so schnell zu Hause warst...
2. Jones: Ja. Zum Glück stand der Bus nicht im Stau oder so...
3. Manuela: Oh ja....
4. Jones: Möchtest du irgendwas trinken?
5. Manuela: Ja, gerne. Hast du Sprudel?
6. Jones: Sprudel? Was ist das?
7. Manuela: Na, Wasser mit Kohlensäure...
8. Jones: Aah, ja natürlich. Ich hole es aus der Küche.
9. Manuela: Bringst du auch eine Schüssel für die Chips mit.
10. Jones: Ja, klar. Du kannst ja schon mal den Fernseher anmachen und die DVD einlegen.
11. Manuela: Okay....Mensch, dein Fernseher ist aber schon alt! Du musst dir irgendwann mal einen neuen Fernseher kaufen...
12. Jones: Ja, irgendwann. Aber noch funktioniert er sehr gut. ...Hier ist dein Wasser und die Schüssel....
13. Manuela: Danke....Hmm, ich kann die DVD nicht finden....
14. Jones: Hast du sie zu Hause vergessen?

CONT'D OVER

15. **Manuela:** Nein, sie muss hier irgendwo in meiner Tasche sein. Ich habe sie ja eben erst aus der Videothek ausgeliehen....Ah, hier ist sie!
16. **Jones:** Na dann mal los mit.... Was gucken wir eigentlich?
17. **Manuela:** Eine Komödie...Sie heißt "Eine Nacht bei McCools"...kennst du den Film?
18. **Jones:** Hmm, der Titel kommt mir irgendwie bekannt vor...mal schauen....
19.
20. **Jones:** Hmm, das sieht aber nach einem Horrorfilm aus. Ich dachte, es ist eine Komödie?
21. **Manuela:** Äh, ja....ich glaube, das ist der falsche Film!

ENGLISH

1. **Manuela:** Nice, that you came home so quickly...
2. **Jones:** Yes. Luckily the bus didn't get stuck in traffic or anything like that...
3. **Manuela:** Oh yeah...
4. **Jones:** Would you like to drink something?
5. **Manuela:** Yes, gladly. Do you have Sprudel?
6. **Jones:** Sprudel? What's that?
7. **Manuela:** Well, water with carbonation...

CONT'D OVER

8. Jones: Aah, of course. I'll pick some up from the kitchen.
9. Manuela: Could you bring a bowl for the chips too?
10. Jones: Yes, of course. You can already turn on the TV and put in the DVD.
11. Manuela: Ok... man, but your TV is old! You must buy yourself a new TV sometime...
12. Jones: Yeah, sometime. But it still works very well. ...Here is your water and the bowl...
13. Manuela: Thanks... Hmm, I can't find the DVD...
14. Jones: Did you forget it at home?
15. Manuela: No, it must be somewhere in my bag. I just rented it from the video store... ah, here it is!
16. Jones: Well then, let's get started with it... What are we watching, in fact?
17. Manuela: A comedy... it's called "A night at McCools"... do you know the movie?
18. Jones: Hmm, the title sounds familiar to me... we'll see...
19.
20. Jones: Hmm, that looks like a horror film. I think, is it a comedy?
21. Manuela: Uh, yeah... I believe it's the wrong movie!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Sprudel	carbonated water	noun; masculine, der	no plural; in some regions the noun is neuter: das Sprudel
Kohlensäure	carbonation	noun; feminine, die	no plural
Schüssel	bowl	noun	plural: Schüsseln
einlegen	to put in	verb	weak verb, "ein" splits off
Titel	title	noun; masculine, der	plural: the same
bekannt	known, well-known		
Horrorfilm	horror movie	noun; masculine, der	plural: Horrorfilme
Komödie	comedy	noun	plural: Komödien
falsch	wrong	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Kauf bitte noch eine Flasche Sprudel.</p> <p>Please buy another bottle of mineral water.</p>	<p>Ein Glas Wasser ohne Kohlensäure bitte!</p> <p>A glass of water without carbonation please!</p>
<p>Hast du die Schüssel mit dem Kartoffelsalat gesehen?</p> <p>Have you seen the bowl of potato salad?</p>	<p>Kannst du eine andere CD einlegen? Diese hier ist doof.</p> <p>Can you put in a different CD? This one is stupid.</p>
<p>Kannst du dich an den Titel des Buches erinnern?</p> <p>Can you recall the title of the book?</p>	<p>Er wird von allen als Favorit für den Weltmeistertitel gehandelt.</p> <p>He's commonly considered a favorite to gain the title of world champion.</p>

<p>Deutsche sind bekannt im Ausland für ihre Biederkeit.</p> <p>Germans are well-known abroad for their conventionality.</p>	<p>Claudia Schiffer ist ein bekanntes deutsches Model.</p> <p>Claudia Schiffer is a famous German model.</p>
<p>Die Jungfrau von Orléans ist eine bekannte historische Person, der jede Menge Bücher und Lieder gewidmet sind.</p> <p>The Maiden of Orleans is a very well known historical figure, with many books and songs dedicated to her.</p>	<p>Wenn ich abends Horrorfilme gucke, kann ich danach nicht einschlafen.</p> <p>If I watch horror movies in the evening, I can't fall asleep afterwards.</p>
<p>Hast du Lust auf ein Drama oder lieber eine Komödie?</p> <p>Are you in the mood for a drama or rather a comedy?</p>	<p>Dieser Satz ist falsch. Soll ich ihn korrigieren?</p> <p>This sentence is wrong. Shall I correct it?</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Word usage: 1. eben erst = only just now

2. not in the dialog, but also a nice expression; "Ich glaube, ich bin im falschen Film!" (This can't be happening)

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is irgend-

Die DVD muss hier irgendwo in meiner Tasche sein.

"The DVD has to be somewhere in my bag."

When talking about somebody, something, some time and somewhere in German, or anywhere in Germany, you need the prefix irgend-. This prefix combines with various question words to form indefinite words that can save you when you don't remember enough German words.

There are

irgendjemand (colloquially „irgendwer“) - somebody
irgendetwas (colloquially „irgendwas“) - something
irgendwo – somewhere
irgendwohin – to some place
irgendwann – some time
irgendwie – somehow

This is not the end of it though. This dialog featured „irgendwelche“ (some; any), which is the plural of „irgendein“ (some; any). These words have to be used as follows

Irgendein Dummer wird sich schon finden lassen. - Some stupid person [to heap this unwanted task on] will be found.

Irgendwelche Dummen werden sich schon finden lassen. - Some stupid people will be found.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Culture: German movies

Chuck's and my short list of German movies you need to watch. Discuss and share more at <http://www.germanpod101.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=27> . Entertaining movies

- Lola rennt
- Goodbye Lenin
- Viktor Vogel - commercial man
- Der Schuh des Manitu (actors often speak dialect for comedic effect, so be sure to keep subtitles on)

Serious movies

- Der Untergang - Das Experiment

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #7

Nothing is Ever Eerie in German Movies!

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- 3 English
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- 5 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

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GERMAN

1. Jones: Hmm, irgendwie unheimlich...hier ist ja niemand mehr!
2. Manuela: Quatsch. Hier muss jemand sein! Die Videothek ist ja noch offen...
3. Video-Typ: Hey, kann ich Ihnen helfen?
4. Manuela: Ah, siehst du Frank. Da ist jemand.Ja, hallo. Also, ich war vorhin hier und wollte die DVD „Eine Nacht bei McCool's“ ausleihen.
5. Video: Ja, ich erinnere mich. Gibt es ein Problem mit der DVD?
6. Jones: Äh ja, es ist die falsche DVD...
7. Video: Oh, wirklich? Ich schaue mal nach...Ja, da habe ich wohl den falschen Film eingepackt... Moment, ich hole die richtige DVD...
8. Manuela: Super.
9. Jones: Manuela, meinst du, wir müssen für die neue DVD noch etwas zahlen? Ich habe nämlich kein Geld dabei....
10. Manuela: Nein, wir müssen sicher nichts mehr zahlen.
11. Video: So, da bin ich wieder... Es gibt aber ein Problem....ich kann den Film leider nirgendwo finden... Wollt ihr euch vielleicht einen anderen Film aussuchen?
12. Manuela: Hmm, okay. Frank, wie wäre es mit Keinohrhasen oder Zweiohrküken?
13. Jones: Hmm, nein. Ich mag eigentlich keinen von beiden. Wie wäre es mit „Hangover“? Der ist sehr lustig!

CONT'D OVER

14. Manuela: Okay!
15. Video: Gut...Hier bitte. Und natürlich ist der Film kostenlos!
16. Manuela: Danke!
17. Jones: Bis bald!

ENGLISH

1. Jones: Hmm, this is eerie somehow...nobody is here anymore!
2. Manuela: Nonsense. Someone must be here! The video store is indeed still open...
3. Video Guy: Hey, can I help you?
4. Manuela: Ah, see Frank. There is someone.Yes, hi. So, I was here earlier and wanted to rent the DVD „One Night at McCool's“.
5. Video: Yes, I remember. Is there a problem with the DVD?
6. Jones: Uh yes, it's the wrong DVD...
7. Video: Oh, really? I'll take a look... Yes, I seem to have packed in the wrong film... one moment, I'll pick up the right DVD...
8. Manuela: Great.
9. Jones: Manuela, do you think, we'll still have to pay something for the new DVD? That is to say, I don't have any money on me...

CONT'D OVER

10. Manuela: No, we'll surely not have to pay anymore.
11. Video: So, I'm back... there's however a problem... I can't find the movie anywhere... Would you maybe like to select another movie?
12. Manuela: Hmm, ok. Frank, what would you think about Rabbit Without Ears or Chicken With Two Ears?
13. Jones: Hmm, no. I'd like neither of both of those. What about "Hangover"? That's really funny!
14. Manuela: Okay!
15. Video: Good...Here. And, of course the movie is free!
16. Manuela: Thanks!
17. Jones: See you soon!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
unheimlich	erie, weird	adjective	
niemand	nobody	pronoun	
Quatsch	nonsense	noun; masculine, der	no plural
jemand	someone	pronoun	
nachschauen	check out	verb	weak verb, "nach" splits off
nämlich	namely, that is to say	adverb	
irgendwo	somewhere	adverb; irgend- is a prefix like some-	irgend- is a prefix like some-

aussuchen	to select, choose	verb; "aus" splits off	"aus" splits off
lustig	funny	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Dieser dunkle Pfad durch den Wald ist unheimlich.</p> <p>This dark path through the woods is eerie.</p>	<p>Unser Hund bellt alle Leute an, aber er beißt niemanden.</p> <p>Our dog barks at everybody, but he doesn't bite anyone.</p>
<p>Das ist Quatsch!</p> <p>That's nonsense!</p>	<p>Sobald mich jemand fragt, ob ich den Ententanz tanzen möchte, ergreife ich die Flucht.</p> <p>As soon as someone asks me if I want to dance the funky chicken I take flight.</p>
<p>Ich brauche jemanden, der mich einarbeitet.</p> <p>I need somebody to show me the ropes.</p>	<p>Könntest du nachschauen, ob wir im Keller noch Zwiebeln haben?</p> <p>Could you check if we have any more onions in the basement?</p>
<p>Ich würde 3 Euro Trinkgeld geben, das ist nämlich die Norm.</p> <p>I would give 3 euros as a tip, as it is the norm.</p>	<p>Es muss doch hier irgendwo sein.</p> <p>It has to be here somewhere.</p>
<p>Haben Sie sich schon entschieden, oder suchen Sie noch etwas aus der Karte aus?</p> <p>Did you make up your mind or are you still selecting something from the menu?</p>	<p>Er hat sich ein rotes Auto ausgesucht.</p> <p>He selected/ chose a red car.</p>
<p>Hör auf damit! Das ist nicht lustig!</p> <p>Stop it! It's not funny!</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Word usage:

1. nachschauen vs. nachsehen. The video rental store employee could actually use either, in the context of looking for that DVD in the back. There is a slight difference between the words as „schauen“ takes more time than „sehen“.
2. „mehr“ in the phrases „nichts mehr“ or „kein ... mehr“ means „anymore“.
3. Wie wäre es mit... ? = How'bout ... ?
4. Keinohrhasen is a 2007 German movie with Til Schweiger. Zweiohrküken is the sequel.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is more corelatives

Ich kann den Film leider nirgendwo finden.

"Unfortunately I can't find the movie anywhere."

Last week we covered all those words with irgend-... now let's look at some words that fall into the same category.

Firstly, you saw „jemand“ and „etwas“ in this lesson. These are just shortened versions of „irgendjemand“ and „irgendetwas“.

Then, we had „niemand“ and „nichts“. These are negative versions, the equivalent English words are created using the prefix no-. Here's the complete list.

niemand – nobody

nichts – nothing

nirgendwo – nowhere

nirgendwohin – to nowhere

nie – never

There is no equivalent to „irgendwie“ (somehow)... you can't say „no-how“, you have to say „auf keine Weise“ (in no way).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

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Entertaining movies - Lola rennt

- Goodbye Lenin
- Viktor Vogel
- commercial man
- Der Schuh des Manitu (actors often speak dialect for comedic effect, so be sure to keep subtitles on)

Serious movies

- Der Untergang
- Das Experiment

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #8 What Do You Know About the Singing Hippo in Germany?

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GERMAN

1. Jones: So. Jetzt können wir endlich den Film gucken!
2. Manuela: Ja! Ich gehe noch mal kurz auf die Toilette... du kannst ja schon mal die DVD einlegen...
3. Jones: Okay.....
4. Jones: Oh ooooh.... Manuelaaa.....
5. Manuela: Was ist los?
6. Jones: Es passiert nichts!
7. Manuela: Wie...es passiert nichts?
8. Jones: Es tut sich nichts! Der DVD-Spieler geht nicht an....
9. Manuela: Nein! Ist der Stecker in der Steckdose?
10. Jones: Ja.
11. Manuela: Hmm. Hast du mal die Anleitung von dem Gerät?
12. Jones: Ja... aber die wird dir nicht helfen. Ich finde sie sehr verwirrend.
13. Manuela: Na mal schauen...Hmm, du hast Recht. Das ist eine sehr verwirrende Anleitung. Jetzt bin ich auch nicht schlauer als vorher...
14. Jones: Und nun?
15. Manuela: Also, ich glaube, dein DVD-Spieler ist kaputt.

CONT'D OVER

16. Jones: Na klasse. Jetzt haben wir die richtige DVD, aber keinen funktionierenden DVD-Spieler!
17. Manuela: Und was machen wir nun?
18. Jones: Hmm, möchtest du Fernsehen?
19. Manuela: Hmm, nein. Wollen wir nicht etwas spielen?
20. Jones: Okay. Aber ich habe nicht viele Spiele...
21. Manuela: Hm, was hast du denn?
22. Jones: Also, ich habe „Das singende Nilpferd“, „Wer weckt den schlafenden Hund?“ und ein Kartenspiel.
23. Manuela: Haha, die Spiele hören sich ja lustig an. Hast du ein Lieblingsspiel?
24. Jones: Ja, ich spiele gerne „Das singende Nilpferd“.
25. Manuela: Na dann los!

ENGLISH

1. Jones: OK, now we can finally watch this movie!
2. Manuela: Ya, let me just go to the bathroom...you can put the DVD in.
3. Jones: OK
4. Jones: Uh-oh....Manuela!

CONT'D OVER

5. **Manuela:** What's wrong?
6. **Jones:** It's not working!
7. **Manuela:** What do you mean it's not working?
8. **Jones:** It's not doing anything. The DVD-player won't start.
9. **Manuela:** Is it plugged in?
10. **Jones:** Yes
11. **Manuela:** Hmm, do you have the manual for it?
12. **Jones:** Ya, but it won't help you much. It's so confusing.
13. **Manuela:** Let me take a look...hmm, you were right. This is a really confusing manual. I haven't learned anything new.
14. **Jones:** What now?
15. **Manuela:** Well, I think your DVD-player is busted.
16. **Jones:** Just great. Now we have the right DVD, but no working DVD-player!
17. **Manuela:** What do we do now?
18. **Jones:** Hmm, do you want to watch TV?
19. **Manuela:** Not really. What about playing a game?
20. **Jones:** OK, but I don't have many games.

CONT'D OVER

21. Manuela: What do you have?
22. Jones: Well, I have "The singing hippo", "Who woke up the sleeping dog?", and a card game.
23. Manuela: Haha, those games sound hilarious. Which one's your favourite?
24. Jones: I really like playing "The singing hippo"
25. Manuela: Great, let's do that!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
passieren	to happen	verb	weak verb
Nilpferd	hippo	noun; neuter, das	plural: Nilpferde
funktionieren	to function, work	verb	weak verb
kaputt	broken, out of order, in pieces		
schlau	smart, clever	adjective	
verwirrend	confusing	adjective	
Gerät	machine, tool	noun; neuter, das	plural: Geräte
Anleitung	tutorial, instruction manual	noun; feminine, die	plural: Anleitungen
Steckdose	electrical outlet	noun; feminine, die	plural: Steckdosen
Stecker	plug	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same
DVD-Spieler	DVD-player	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same
wecken	to wake someone up	verb	weak verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ein paar Leute wissen immer noch nicht, was passiert ist.</p> <p>A few people still don't know what happened.</p>	<p>Das Nilpferd ist ein afrikanisches Tier.</p> <p>The hippo is an African animal.</p>
<p>Seit heute Morgen funktioniert mein Computer nicht mehr. Ich vermisse ihn so sehr!</p> <p>My computer hasn't been working since this morning. I miss it so much!</p>	<p>Der Bildschirm meines Computers ist kaputt.</p> <p>My computer screen is broken.</p>
<p>Das hat er ganz schlau gelöst.</p> <p>He solved that in a really clever way.</p>	<p>Ich finde es sehr verwirrend.</p> <p>I find it very confusing</p>
<p>Sie können alle Geräte in unserem Fitnessstudio kostenlos benutzen.</p> <p>You can use all machines in our gym free of charge.</p>	<p>Ihr solltet die Webseite intuitiver gestalten, damit man keine Anleitung braucht, um Sachen darauf zu finden!</p> <p>You should design the website in a more intuitive way, so that people won't need a tutorial to find stuff.</p>
<p>Ist der Stecker in der Steckdose?</p> <p>Is the plug plugged into the electrical outlet?</p>	<p>Ich glaube, dein DVD-Spieler ist kaputt.</p> <p>I think your DVD-player is busted.</p>
<p>Kannst du mich morgen um sieben Uhr wecken?</p> <p>Can you wake me up at 7am tomorrow?</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Es passiert nichts! = Nothing is happening! Do not confuse this with the common expression "Nichts passiert!" (Nothing happened, no big deal, as an answer if someone apologized for bumping you or the like)

2. Ich bin nicht schlauer als vorher. = I haven't learned anything new.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the present participle

Ich finde sie sehr verwirrend.

"I find it very confusing."

The present participle is a verb form like "laughing" in the phrase "The laughing children rushed

out of the classroom". So it is a verb that has been turned into an adjective.

In German, the present participle is formed by adding -d to the infinitive, so you always get a form

that ends in -end, very recognizable. For example, "to laugh" in German is "lachen" and "laughing"

is "lachend".

This is the time when German is more annoying than English again. Since this form is used like an

adjective, it also has to get endings like an adjective. So in the phrase "The laughing children" we

don't have "Die lachend Kinder" but "Die lachenden Kinder".

Actually we had another kind of participle in lessons 2 and 3. There it was the past participle. Compared to the present participle, there is not just the obvious difference in when something happened, but also the perpetrator of the action changes.

Let's use the example of „verwirren“ (to confuse). The past participle is „verwirrt“. For example „die verwirrte Frau“ (the confused woman). The present participle would be „verwirrend“,

so „die verwirrende Frau“ (the confusing woman). In the case of „die verwirrte Frau“, the woman

WAS CONFUSED by something in the past. On the other hand, in „die verwirrende Frau“, the woman IS CONFUSING someone else, so she is active and the action is happening right now. This

is the difference between the past participle and the present participle.

Be sure to review this grammar point using the lesson PDF!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

- Board games are much more mainstream in Germany than the USA
- German board games typically require more strategy and are in no

means mostly just for kids.

- Essen hosts the largest board game fair in the world with 150,000 visitors every year!

- Some good games to try out: Settlers of Catan, Dominion, Carcassonne

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #9 Don't You Need to Review Your German Soon?

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GERMAN

1. Manuela: So, ich glaube, ich gehe dann mal nach Hause....
2. Frank: Ja, es ist ja auch schon spät. Musst du morgen auch früh raus?
3. Manuela: Nein, ich muss nicht so früh raus.
4. Frank: Oh echt? Musst du denn gar nicht arbeiten?
5. Manuela: Doch doch. Aber wir haben doch Gleitzeit....
6. Frank: Gleitzeit? Was ist das?
7. Manuela: Gleitzeit heißt, dass man keine feste Zeit hat, wann man auf der Arbeit sein muss.
8. Frank: Was? Na, dann kommt doch sicher niemand zur Arbeit!
9. Manuela: Nein, natürlich muss man zur Arbeit kommen. Aber man muss nicht um Punkt 8 Uhr da sein, sondern kann selber entscheiden, wann man kommt. Hauptsache, man ist spätestens um 9 Uhr 30 da und geht nicht vor 15 Uhr 30.
10. Frank: Ach so. Hmm, ich glaube, ich hätte auch nichts gegen Gleitzeit. Und das funktioniert wirklich?
11. Manuela: Ja, soweit ich weiß....ich glaube, in meiner Firma gab es noch nie Probleme.
12. Frank: Mensch, dann könnte ich immer erst um 9 Uhr 30 zur Arbeit gehen! Das heißt, jeden Tag ausschlafen!
13. Manuela: Haha, ja. Aber dafür bist du dann auch bis abends spät im Büro....

CONT'D OVER

14. Frank: Hmm, stimmt. Da hast du Recht. Dann stehe ich lieber etwas früher auf!

ENGLISH

1. Manuela: Well, I think I should go home
2. Frank: Ya, it's getting late. Do you have get up early tomorrow?
3. Manuela: No, I don't have to get up that early.
4. Frank: Oh really? Don't you have to go to work?
5. Manuela: Certainly, but we have flex-time.
6. Frank: Flex-time? What's that?
7. Manuela: Flex-time means that you don't have a specific time that you have to be at work.
8. Frank: What? Then nobody would come to work at all!
9. Manuela: No, of course you have to show up, but you just don't have to be there exactly at 8am. You can decide for yourself what the best time is. All that's important is that you don't get there later than 9.30am, and you don't leave before 3.30pm.
10. Frank: Hmm, I think I wouldn't mind flex-time. And it really works?
11. Manuela: Ya, as far as I know. I think there haven't been any problems at my company.

CONT'D OVER

12. Frank: Man, then I could show up to work at 9.30am all the time. I could sleep in every day!
13. Manuela: Haha, ya, but then you'd have to stay at the office later in the evening.
14. Frank: Hmm, you're right. I think I'd rather get up a bit earlier.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
gleiten	to glide, slide	verb	er gleitet, er glitt, er ist geglitten
ausschlafen	to sleep in	verb	er schläft aus, er schlief aus, er hat ausgeschlafen. Note: er ist ausgeschlafen = he is smart (colloquial).
soweit	as far as	conjunction	
spätestens	at the latest	adverb	
Hauptsache	the main thing, most important point	noun, feminine, die	feminine
selber	(do something) oneself	adverb	
sondern	but	conjunction	only when mentioning an alternative - "not A but B"
Punkt	dot, point	noun; masculine, der	plural: Punkte
fest	solid	adjective	

aufstehen

to stand up, get up

verb

"auf" splits off; er
steht auf, er stand
auf, er ist
aufgestanden

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ich konnte in den Ferien jeden Tag ausschlafen. An diesen Luxus könnte ich mich echt gewöhnen.

On vacation I could sleep in every day. I could really get used to this luxury.

Soweit Ihnen keine anderen Fehler unterlaufen...

As long as you won't commit any other mistakes...

Hauptsache, man ist spätestens um 9:30 da und geht nicht vor 15:30.

The main idea is that you're there at 9:30am at the latest, and you don't leave before 3:30pm

Hauptsache, du bist jetzt hier.

Most important thing is that you're here now.

Man kann es selber entscheiden.

You can decide for yourself.

Ich nehme keine kleine Cola, sondern eine große.

I'm not taking a small coke but a big one.

Die Einschaltquoten werden nach einer bestimmten Formel berechnet. Nur ein paar Haushalte werden überwacht. Dann wird prozentual hochgerechnet, wie viele Leute zu einem bestimmten Zeitpunkt eine Sendung verfolgt haben.

The viewing figures are calculated according to a certain formula. Only a few households get monitored. Then they extrapolate how many people have been watching a show at a given moment.

Hast du den Treffpunkt gut gefunden?

Did you easily find the meeting-point?

<p>Der Nagel sitzt nicht ganz fest, bring mir mal einen Hammer.</p> <p>The nail isn't quite firmly attached, fetch me a hammer.</p>	<p>Er kann mehrere Tage jetzt keine feste Nahrung zu sich nehmen.</p> <p>He can't eat any solid foods for several days starting now.</p>
<p>Steh endlich auf, du kommst noch zu spät zur Schule!</p> <p>Get up already, you'll be late for school!</p>	<p>Meine Damen und Herren, bitte stehen Sie auf für die Nationalhymne.</p> <p>Ladies and gentlemen, please stand up for the national anthem.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Musst du morgen auch früh raus?

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is negation
Musst du denn gar nicht arbeiten?
"Don't you have to work at all?"

This lesson is a review lesson, but we should have something to talk about in the grammar section.

So let's review the various ways of making a sentence negative in German.

The most obvious way is using „nicht“ (not), as in „Ich kenne ihn nicht“ (I don't know him). You could strengthen the negation by adding „gar“ in front of the „nicht“ - „gar nicht“ is „not at all“.

Sometimes it's not possible to use „nicht“ though. When you would have the combination „nicht ein“, or „nicht“ with a noun immediately following, you have to use „kein“ (no, not any) instead.

For example „Ich kenne keinen guten Arzt“ (I don't know a good doctor) or „Ich kenne keinen Markus Schulz“ (I don't know any Markus Schulz). This is very important, so let's repeat the rule.

When you would have the combination „nicht ein“ or „nicht“ with a noun immediately following,

you have to use „kein“ instead. And again, you can strengthen the negation with „gar“ - „gar kein“

is „any at all“.

Then, there are the words that we looked at two lessons ago, words like „niemand“ or „nie“, or

also „nichts“. These replace the negation. In German, you don't say „I don't know anyone“, you say

the equivalent of „I know no-one“ (Ich kenne niemanden). Similarly, it's not possible to say „I don't

know anything“, you say „I know nothing“ (Ich weiß nichts).

Note that „nichts“ can again be combined with „gar“ - „gar nichts“ is „nothing at all“.

However, „niemand“ and „nie“ cannot combine with „gar“, that would sound weird to us.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

- law guarantees 4 weeks of movable holidays, so that translates to 20 days if you have a 5-day

work week or 24 days if you have a 6-day work week.

- young workers (up to 18 years old) get more, but keep in mind that your choice of work and your amount of weekly work hours are restricted when you're young, to prevent child labor

- additionally there 9 to 13 non-moveable public holidays. The exact amount depends on the state, because some states recognize different religious holidays than others, depending on the

state's prevalent confession (Catholic or Protestant).

- you typically don't have to worry about running out of paid sick days or losing your job because

of sickness unless you're missing for more than a few months. However, to prevent abuse, you

need to see a doctor and have him certify that you're actually sick.

- it's impossible to get out of health insurance unless you're filthy rich. You can choose your health insurance company, but you have to be insured. The money for the insurance goes straight out of your salary and your employer contributes half. If you're not employed, your health insurance is covered by the state, and non-working family members are covered by the working parent's health insurance.

- if you're an employee, it's also impossible to opt out of the national pension system. As a freelancer

you're responsible for that yourself.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #10 If You Don't Start Now, It Soon Will Have Been Too Late to Study German!

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GERMAN

1. Jones: Oh, hallo Frau Bayer....
2. Bayer: Ah, Herr Jones. Sie kommen heute auch etwas zu spät...Dann bin ich wenigstens nicht die Einzige!
3. Jones: Haha....Ja, ich habe zehn Minuten verschlafen und habe meinen Bus verpasst... Und Sie?
4. Bayer: Ich komme ja mit dem Auto und die Hauptstraße ist wegen eines Unfalls gesperrt, sodass ich eine Umleitung fahren musste
5. Jones: Ach so...Na vielleicht kommt unser Chef ja auch zu spät!
6. Bayer: Hmm, ich glaube nicht. Herr Müller wird bestimmt pünktlich gekommen sein.
7. Jones: Oh, wirklich!? Was meinen Sie, was Herr Müller zu uns sagen wird?
8. Bayer: Ach, ich glaube nicht, dass er viel dazu sagt. Wir sind ja nur 10 Minuten zu spät... Aber er wird sich sicherlich gewundert haben, dass wir beide zu spät kommen...
9. Jones: Ja, stimmt. Wir sind ja noch nie zu spät gekommen...
10. Bayer: Ja, deswegen ist es ja auch nicht so schlimm...
11. Jones: Ach, ich mag so einen hektischen Morgen gar nicht. Das ist kein guter Start in einen Tag...
12. Bayer: Ja, da haben Sie Recht. Denken Sie immer daran, in acht Stunden werden Sie es geschafft haben! Dann ist der Tag endlich vorbei!

CONT'D OVER

13. Jones: Haha, ja... Aber so schlimm ist die Arbeit ja nicht.

ENGLISH

1. Jones: Oh, hello Mrs. Bayer.

2. Bayer: Ah, Mr. Jones. You're a bit late today too...at least I'm not the only one!

3. Jones: Haha...Ya, I overslept by ten minutes and missed my bus. And you?

4. Bayer: Well, I come by car and Main street was blocked by an accident, so I had to take a detour.

5. Jones: Oh ya...well maybe our boss will also be late!

6. Bayer: Hmm, I don't think so. Mr. Muller will certainly have arrived right on time.

7. Jones: Oh really? What do you think Mr. Muller will say to us?

8. Bayer: Oh, I don't think he'll have much to say. We're only 10 minutes late after all. But he will certainly have been surprised that we're both late.

9. Jones: Ya, true. We never really came late before, anyway.

10. Bayer: Ya, that's why it won't be so bad...

11. Jones: Boy, I don't like having such hectic mornings. It's not a good way to start the day.

CONT'D OVER

12. Bayer: Ya, you're right. Just remember that in eight hours it'll all be over!
Then the day will finally be done!
13. Jones: Haha, ya...but work's not that bad, anyway.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
einzig	sole(ly), exclusive (ly), unique(ly)		
sich wundern	to wonder	verb	weak verb
sicherlich	surely, certainly	adverb	
pünktlich	punctual		
Umleitung	redirection, alternative route, detour	noun; feminine, die	plural: Umleitungen
sperrern	to bar, to block [area or street]	verb	weak verb
Unfall	accident	noun	plural: Unfälle
verpassen	to miss [a scheduled connection]	verb	weak verb
verschlafen	to oversleep	verb	er verschläft, er verschlief, er hat verschlafen
hektisch	hectic, fast-paced		

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Das ist einzig und allein deine Schuld.</p> <p>That's solely and only your fault.</p>	<p>Ich wundere mich schon seit längerem, warum er nie mit uns schwimmen gehen will.</p> <p>I've wondered for a long time why he never wants to go swimming with us.</p>
<p>Er kommt sicherlich.</p> <p>He's certain to come.</p>	<p>Seid bitte pünktlich.</p> <p>Please be punctual. (to several people)</p>
<p>Ich musste eine Umleitung fahren.</p> <p>I had to take a detour.</p>	<p>Die Straße ist wegen eines Unfalls gesperrt.</p> <p>The street is blocked because of an accident.</p>
<p>Wenn ich den Zug nicht verpasst hätte, wäre ich jetzt schon in München!</p> <p>If I hadn't missed the train, I would now already be in Munich!</p>	<p>Entschuldigen Sie, dass ich zu spät komme; ich habe verschlafen.</p> <p>Please excuse my coming late; I overslept.</p>
<p>Ich lebe zurzeit hektisch.</p> <p>My life is very hectic just now.</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Let's look at the usage of the particle „ja“. The purpose of the „ja“ is to establish agreement between the people in a conversation. For example, in „Na vielleicht kommt unser Chef ja auch zu spät!“, the partner should agree that there is a possibility that the boss will be late as well. And in „Wir sind ja nur 10 Minuten zu spät“, „deswegen ist es ja auch nicht so schlimm...“ and „Wir sind ja noch nie zu spät gekommen...“ the two employees are affirming to each other that it's not going to be a big deal. Without the „ja“, one of them might say „actually we were late a couple times this year“, but the „ja“ inhibits such a response. The message is „agree with me here“, „accept the statement for the purpose of this discussion“ and especially „don't split hairs“.

Sometimes the „ja“ can be translated as „you know“. For example the „Ich komme ja mit dem Auto“ - „you know I'm coming by car“. We're establishing mutual understanding here, making sure that Mr Jones knows about the car now, even if he managed to miss that detail before.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the future perfect

Herr Müller wird bestimmt pünktlich gekommen sein.

"Mr. Muller will certainly have arrived right on time."

The future perfect, Futur II in German, is used when something will already have happened at a certain point in the future. When you're describing a series of things in the future, for example inviting guests, cleaning the house and the guests arriving, then these would all be listed using the regular future tense, Futur I. The future perfect comes into play when you've already talked about the guests arriving and you have something that was supposed to go earlier in your plans. For example if you remember that by the time the guests arrive, you must have finished baking a cake.

In German this would be „Wenn die Gäste ankommen (werden), werde ich einen Kuchen gebacken haben.“ (When the guests arrive, I will have baked a cake.)

So the way to construct this tense is to combine the verb „werden“ with the perfect tense of the verb. „werden“ is conjugated and the „haben“ or „sein“ is left as an infinitive. It's just like in English actually, except for the word order. Some examples below.

ich werde (etwas) gebacken haben - I will have baked (something)

du wirst (etwas) getrunken haben – you will have drunk (something)

er wird gekommen sein – he will have come

wir werden (etwas) geschafft haben – we will have achieved (something)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Stereotypical Germans are...

... punctual. Yes they are, and they expect you to be, too, as a matter of common courtesy. If you are more than 5 minutes late, call them and apologize profusely.

... workaholics. Not quite. Germany is one of the countries with the least amount of work hours per week. The maximum is less than 40 hours per week, but in addition there are also a ton of public holidays and of course your legally guaranteed 4 weeks of vacation. In my experience, Germans actually want to work hard during work hours. On the other hand, they

are also acutely aware of Feierabend (end of workday) and may just drop whatever they were doing and go home then.

... drinking a lot of beer. Yes. Germany is only outdone by the Czech Republic when it comes to per-capita beer consumption. Yet there are quite a few Germans who don't like beer, or prefer wine, so don't take it as a given. It's those men who regularly drink 6-7 bottles of beer a night who are influencing the statistics.

... wearing lederhosen. No. This is very annoying for the average German, because only Bavarians wear lederhosen, and even there it's part of their folklore, not something you'd necessarily wear every day.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #11 Coming And Going, There and Back in Germany

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- 4 Sample Sentences
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GERMAN

1. Bayer: So, heute fangen wir mal wieder mit einer etwas langweiligen Aufgabe an. Wir müssen diese Akten neu ordnen.
2. Jones: Na, das ist wirklich nicht sehr spannend.
3. Bayer: Ja.....Die Akten sind alphabetisch nach den Namen der Kunden geordnet, aber jetzt sollen wir sie nach Jahreszahlen ordnen.
4. Jones: Was? Wir sollen die Akten alphabetisch nach Jahreszahlen ordnen?
5. Bayer: Nein, entschuldigen Sie, das war wohl etwas schnell. Wir sollen die Akten nach Jahreszahlen ordnen.
6. Jones: Ach so. Okay.
7. Bayer: Also, nehmen Sie die Akten aus diesem Schrank heraus und ordnen Sie sie nach dem Datum.
8. Jones: Okay, und wohin soll ich sie dann stellen?
9. Bayer: Die sortierten Akten kommen dann einfach wieder in den Schrank hinein.
10. Jones: Ach so. Erst heraus, dann wieder hinein.
11. Bayer: Genau. Oh, ich vergaß...Bevor Sie anfangen, fahren Sie doch am besten mit dem Fahrstuhl ins Archiv hinunter und fragen Sie, ob dort etwas Platz für alte Akten ist. Und wenn Sie wieder herauf kommen, bringen Sie einen Rollwagen mit.
12. Jones: Einen Rollwagen?

CONT'D OVER

13. Bayer: Ja. Mit dem Rollwagen können Sie später die alten Akten leichter hinunter ins Archiv bringen.
14. Jones: Ach so! Mensch, ist das ein Hin und Her!

ENGLISH

1. Bayer: So, today we'll start with a somewhat boring task. We need to sort these files in a new order.
2. Jones: Ya, that really doesn't sound very exciting.
3. Bayer: Indeed. The files are alphabetically sorted by customer name, but we'll be sorting them by date now.
4. Jones: What? We're sorting the files alphabetically by date?
5. Bayer: No, sorry, perhaps I said that too fast. We need to sort the files by date.
6. Jones: Ahh, ok.
7. Bayer: So, take the files out of this cabinet and sort them all by date.
8. Jones: Ok, and where do I put them afterwards?
9. Bayer: The sorted files simply go back into the cabinet.
10. Jones: Ok. Out first, and then back in.

CONT'D OVER

11. Bayer: Exactly. Oh, I forgot...before you start, it'd be best if you took the elevator down to the archive and ask whether there's room there for old files. And on your way back up, bring a cart with you.
12. Jones: A cart?
13. Bayer: Yes. With a cart, it'll be easier for you to bring the old files down to the archive later.
14. Jones: Oh man, what a lot of coming and going.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
anfangen	to begin, start	verb	"an" splits off; er fängt an, er fing an, er hat angefangen
Archiv	archive	noun; neuter, das	plural: Archive
Fahrstuhl	elevator	noun	plural: Fahrstühle
bevor	before	adverb	always starts a subclause
sortieren	to sort, arrange, classify	verb	weak verb
Schrank	cupboard, wardrobe	noun; masculine, der	plural: Schränke
Zahl	number	noun; feminine, die	plural: Zahlen
alphabetisch	alphabetical(ly)	adverb	
ordnen	to arrange, sort	verb	weak verb
Akte	dossier, record	noun; feminine, die	plural: Akten
langweilig	boring	adjective	
Rollwagen	dolly, cart	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Wann soll ich anfangen, den Ofen vorzuheizen?</p> <p>When shall I start to pre-heat the oven?</p>	<p>Viele Märchen fangen mit "Es war einmal" an.</p> <p>Many fairy tales start off with "Once upon a time".</p>
<p>Fahren Sie mit dem Fahrstuhl hinunter.</p> <p>Take the elevator down.</p>	<p>Die Grundschülerin liest gerne Bücher, bevor sie ins Bett geht.</p> <p>The elementary school student likes to read books before going to bed.</p>
<p>Bitte sortiere die Rechnungen nach Datum.</p> <p>Please sort the invoices by date.</p>	<p>Die übrigen Gläser kannst du wieder in den Schrank stellen.</p> <p>You can put the remaining glasses back into the cupboard.</p>
<p>Der Schrank ist schwer.</p> <p>The wardrobe is heavy.</p>	<p>Wir sollen die Akten alphabetisch ordnen.</p> <p>We'll sort the records alphabetically.</p>

Ich finde dieses Lied wirklich langweilig.

I find this song to be really boring.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. die Jahreszahl = literally „year-number“ = date
2. „der Fahrstuhl“ is just another word for „der Aufzug“; these words are synonyms, that means there is no difference whatsoever between them.
3. hin und her = to and fro, in and out, back and forth...

GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is hin- and her-
Erst heraus, dann wieder hinein.
"Out first, and then back in."**

A lot of German verbs are prefaced with the prefixes „hin“ or „her“ for no apparent reason. If you

don't understand these, it greatly increases the amount of verbs you have to learn.

The usage can be a bit tricky, but her- is generally used for an action in the direction of the speaker

and hin- is used for an action in another direction.

herkommen – come to the speaker

hinkommen – come elsewhere (e. g. a place the speaker will be in the future)

hingehen – to go there (hergehen does not exist, and gehen does not imply the target)

hersehen – to look towards the speaker

hinsehen – to look at it (sehen does not imply the target)

her- and hin- combine with other spatial preposition. For example, „herein“ is a combination of „her“ and „ein“, so it means „into and towards the speaker“, for example if the speaker is inside

the building and tells you „Komm herein!“. „hinein“ means „into and away from the speaker“, as in

this dialog, where Frank has to put the documents into the closet, he puts them „hinein“.

„heraus“ is a combination of „her“ and „aus“, so it means „out of and towards the speaker“, whereas „hinaus“ would be „out of and away from the speaker“. „hinunter“ is a combination of „hin“ and „unter“, so it means „down and away from the speaker“. The opposite is „herauf“, „up

and towards the speaker“.

Practice will help you become more comfortable with those distinctions and use them in your own speech.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

In Germany, you will be confronted with a lot of bureaucracy. Everything is documented, and in

turn, people expect you to document everything. For example, you have to regularly draw your

bank statements, put them into a folder and keep them for at least five years. No joke – the German tax authorities can really demand to see your bank statements from five years ago. If you want to get anything done with the authorities, my tip is always to bring as much documentation as you can. Not just your passport and some extra passport photos, but also whatever might even potentially relate to your situation, for example your social security and income tax numbers, your university registration, your apartment rental contract, your driver's license, your vehicle papers, your certificate of health insurance, whatever. The more you

bring,

the less likely it is that they'll tell you to come back another day with more documents. Also look online and see if you can already print and fill out whatever form they may ask you to fill out – otherwise they may give you that form, have you leave their office to fill it out and then get back in line to hand it in.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #12

Office Gossip in German

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GERMAN

1. Bayer: Herr Jones!
2. Jones: Ja, was gibt es?
3. Bayer: Haben Sie schon das Neuste gehört?
4. Jones: Hmm, nein. Worum geht es denn?
5. Bayer: Nächste Woche machen wir doch einen Betriebsausflug...
6. Jones: Oh wirklich? Das wusste ich gar nicht....
7. Bayer: Oh, hat Ihnen das niemand gesagt? Einmal im Jahr lädt uns Herr Müller zu einem Ausflug ein...Letztes Jahr waren wir im Musical und das Jahr davor sind wir ins Kino gegangen....
8. Jones: Oh toll.
9. Bayer: Ja...und ich habe gerade mit Frau Schilling gesprochen und sie hat gesagt, sie wisse, wo wir dieses Jahr hingehen, aber sie dürfe noch nichts verraten, denn Herr Müller wolle uns überraschen!
10. Jones: Oh, das ist aber gemein!
11. Bayer: Ja! Das habe ich auch gesagt! Daraufhin meinte sie, sie gebe mir einen Tipp.
12. Jones: Oh, ein Rätsel also?
13. Bayer: Haha, ja genau...
14. Jones: Okay... und was ist der Tipp?

CONT'D OVER

15. Bayer: Frau Schilling meinte, es seien nicht die Schlümpfe, die wir angucken...
16. Jones: Hä? Nicht die Schlümpfe?
17. Bayer: Ja. Das war alles.
18. Jones: Hmm. Und wissen Sie, was Frau Schilling damit meint?
19. Bayer: Also, ehrlich gesagt, nicht so wirklich....Ich hatte gehofft, Sie hätten eine Idee...
20. Jones: Hmm, nein. Irgendwie fällt mir dazu nichts ein....Nicht die Schlümpfe....Was soll das denn sein?

ENGLISH

1. Bayer: Mr. Jones!
2. Jones: Yes, what is it?
3. Bayer: Have you heard the news?
4. Jones: Hmm, no. What's it about?
5. Bayer: Next week we're having a staff outing...
6. Jones: Oh really? I wasn't aware of that...
7. Bayer: Oh, didn't anyone mention it? Once a year, Mr. Müller invites us on an excursion. Last year, we went to see a musical, and the year before we went to a movie.

CONT'D OVER

8. Jones: Oh, that's great!
9. Bayer: Yes...and I just spoke with Mrs. Schilling, and she said that she knows where we're going this year, but she's not allowed to give it away because Mr. Müller wants to surprise us!
10. Jones: Oh, but that's so mean!
11. Bayer: Yeah! That's what I said! So then she said she'd give me a hint.
12. Jones: Oh, so it's a riddle?
13. Bayer: Haha, yes, exactly.
14. Jones: Okay...and what's the hint?
15. Bayer: Mrs. Schilling said that it's not the Smurfs that we'll be watching...
16. Jones: Huh? Not the Smurfs?
17. Bayer: Yes, that's all she said.
18. Jones: Hmm. And do we know what she meant by that?
19. Bayer: Honestly, not really...I had hoped that you would have an idea.
20. Jones: Hmm, no. Somehow nothing is coming to me....Not the Smurfs...What the heck could it be?

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Ausflug	excursion	noun; masculine, der	plural: Ausflüge

Rätsel	enigma, riddle, puzzle	noun; neuter, das	plural is the same
daraufhin	thereupon, hereupon	adverb	
gemein	mean	adjective	
Musical	musical	noun	plural: Musicals
Betrieb	enterprise	noun; masculine, der	plural: Betriebe
worum	about what	question word	
ehrlich	honest, truthful; honestly	adjective	
verraten	to betray	verb; ich verrate, ich verriet, ich habe verraten	er verrät, er verriet, er hat verraten
Schlumpf	smurf	proper name; masculine, der	plural: Schlümpfe

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Für diesen Ausflug sollten Sie widerstandsfähige Kleidung tragen.</p> <p>You should wear resistant, as in resistant to wind or rain, clothing for this excursion.</p>	<p>Es war wirklich gemein von ihm, mich daran zu erinnern.</p> <p>It was really mean of him to remind me of that.</p>
<p>Sein Kommentar war wirklich gemein.</p> <p>His comment was really mean.</p>	<p>Im Betrieb sieht die Welt ganz anders aus, als man es sich im Studium vorgestellt hat.</p> <p>The world looks very different in the companies than you had imagined when still studying.</p>
<p>Der Fahrstuhl ist außer Betrieb.</p> <p>The elevator is out of order.</p>	<p>Ich studiere Betriebswirtschaft.</p> <p>I study business management.</p>

Er ist ein ehrlicher Mensch.

He is an honest person.

Das meinst du nicht ehrlich, oder?

You don't seriously mean that, do you?

Du darfst mein Geheimnis keinem verraten!

You mustn't betray my secret to anybody!

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Worum geht es? = What is it about?
2. Ehrlich gesagt = to be honest
3. Was soll das denn sein? = What is that supposed to be?

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Konjunktiv I

Sie hat gesagt, sie wisse, wo wir dieses Jahr hingehen

"She said she knew where we are going this year"

In the first lesson of this series, we introduced the German Conjunctive. At that time we said that there were two types of Conjunctive in German, labelled one and two. We learned the second type first because it's the most pervasive one nowadays. However, the first type of Conjunctive is still used in writing, and by people who want to speak very correctly. In today's dialog, we've assumed that Mrs Bayer is one of those people, so she's using the Conjunctive I when reporting what people said.

While the Conjunctive II is based on the past tense, the Conjunctive I is formed based on the infinitive. Simply take off the -en and add the Conjunctive endings, which you've already seen for Conjunctive II. As an example, we can give you the verb „wissen“ with its Conjunctive I and Conjunctive II forms. Pay particular attention to the extra E's in the second person forms.
ich weiß

CULTURAL INSIGHT

German TV programs are not considerably better than American ones. Very often it's the same series, just dubbed into German, and the same kind of talk shows and game shows, just with German moderators. There are two major differences. One is that if you want to watch a good movie, you pretty much have to tune in at 8.15pm. That's the traditional starting time for good movies; they don't start layered like in the states. The reason is that almost everyone will be watching the news at 8pm sharp, and these are over at 8.15, so that's when all stations will launch their movies. There are also movies later at night of course, typically the more violent ones, and kids movies are aired earlier. But we talked of two major differences. The other difference is that there are several German public TV stations (ARD, ZDF and stations with regional programming like WDR) and these rely on taxes for their funding – they will never call for donations. Public TV stations will criticize the commercial TV stations' lack of standards, and they will claim to provide higher-quality entertainment themselves. That's why the public TV stations air operas, theatre plays, orchestra concerts, more serious political debates and some programs made for schools. It's not all they air though – you can also find German movies, shows and even live popular soccer games on the public channels.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #13 Cute German Actors Solving An Enigma

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GERMAN

1. Jones: Frau Bayer!
2. Bayer: Ja?
3. Jones: Es gibt Neuigkeiten!
4. Bayer: Neuigkeiten worüber?
5. Jones: Na über den Betriebsausflug!
6. Bayer: Oh! Das will ich natürlich hören!
7. Jones: Ich habe eben Frau Schilling am Kopierer getroffen und sie einfach gefragt, ob sie etwas über den Ausflug wisse....
8. Bayer: Oh, nein! Sie haben ihr doch nicht gesagt, dass ich Ihnen davon erzählt habe?
9. Jones: Nein, natürlich nicht! Ich habe ihr gesagt, dass es mein erster Betriebsausflug ist und ich deswegen neugierig sei....
10. Bayer: Ah super....Und was hat Frau Schilling erzählt?
11. Jones: Sie sagte mir, Herr Müller habe schon die Karten besorgt und er werde uns heute Abend oder morgen im Laufe des Tages das Ziel des Ausflugs verkünden....
12. Bayer: Oh! Und hat sie noch etwas dazu gesagt, wohin wir gehen?
13. Jones: Nein. Sie meinte, sie habe schon zu viel erzählt und werde nicht mehr dazu sagen.

CONT'D OVER

14. Bayer: Schade!
15. Jones: Ja... Ich möchte gerne wissen, was es ist...
16. Bayer: Ja, ich überlege auch schon die ganze Zeit, was die Schlümpfe wohl damit zu tun haben.
17. Jones: Ja, die Schlümpfe gehen mir auch nicht aus dem Kopf... Ich kann mich gar nicht richtig konzentrieren.
18. Bayer: Haha, wir haben nur Schlümpfe im Kopf!

ENGLISH

1. Jones: Mrs. Bayer!
2. Bayer: Yes?
3. Jones: I have news!
4. Bayer: About what?
5. Jones: About the company outing!
6. Bayer: Oh! I'd certainly like to hear it!
7. Jones: I just ran into Mrs. Schilling at the photocopier, and I asked her if she knew anything about the outing...
8. Bayer: Oh no! You didn't tell her that I told you anything about that, did you?

CONT'D OVER

9. Jones: No, of course not. I told her that it's my first company outing, and therefore I was curious.
10. Bayer: Ah, great. And what did Mrs. Schilling tell you?
11. Jones: She told me that Mr. Müller had already acquired the tickets and he would announce the destination this evening, or tomorrow during the day.
12. Bayer: Oh! and did she say anything further about where we're going?
13. Jones: No. She figured she had already said too much and wouldn't have anything else to add.
14. Bayer: That's too bad!
15. Jones: Yeah, I would like to know what it is...
16. Bayer: Yes, I've been thinking the whole time about what the Smurfs have to do with it.
17. Jones: Yeah, the Smurfs have been on my mind too...I can't concentrate properly at all.
18. Bayer: Haha, we're Smurf-obsessed!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
ob	whether	conjunction	
besorgen	to obtain, procure	verb	
Ziel	destination, goal, target	noun; neuter, das	plural: Ziele

Neuigkeit	piece of news	noun; feminine, die	plural: Neuigkeiten
worüber	about what	question word	
Lauf	run, course	noun; masculine, der	plural: Läufe
verkünden	to announce, proclaim	verb	weak verb
konzentrieren	to concentrate	verb	weak verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ich weiß nicht, ob das so richtig ist. I don't know if it's right like this.</p>	<p>Kannst du mir Zigaretten besorgen? Can you procure cigarettes for me?</p>
<p>Sie haben das Ziel erreicht. You have reached the destination .</p>	<p>Gibt es schon Neuigkeiten über deinen Visumsantrag? Are there already news about your application for a visa?</p>
<p>Worüber habt ihr euch unterhalten? What did you talk about?</p>	<p>Wann ist der Marathonlauf? When is the marathon run?</p>
<p>Ein Engel verkündete die Geburt Jesu. An angel announced the birth of Jesus.</p>	<p>Bitte störe mich nicht; ich muss mich konzentrieren. Please don't disturb me; I have to concentrate.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. im Laufe des Tages = set expression meaning "in the course of the day"
2. die ganze Zeit = all this time
3. Die Schlümpfe gehen mir nicht aus dem Kopf = "The smurfs are not leaving my head" = I can't stop thinking about the smurfs.

4. Nur X im Kopf haben = to always think about X or always do X. For example, it's very common

to say "Dieser Junge hat nur Flausen im Kopf" - this boy has nothing but crazy ideas.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the usage of Conjunctive Forms

Sie sagte mir, Herr Müller habe schon die Karten besorgt

"She told me that Mr. Müller had already acquired the tickets"

Now that you know how to form the Conjunctive II and the Conjunctive I, and even the form with „würde“, let's talk about when to use each.

The Conjunctive is most often used in reported speech, that is when telling someone what someone

else had said. Traditionally, you are supposed to try the Conjunctive I first, and only switch to the

Conjunctive II form if you notice that the Conjunctive I is identical to the regular present tense.

So if there's a possibility of confusing what someone said with what you are saying, then the Conjunctive II is essential. The Conjunctive II is also preferred when you yourself want to distance

yourself from what has been said, for example if you don't believe it.

Consider the following example.

20h. Peter ruft Claudia an. „Es tut mir leid, aber ich bin spät dran. Ich komme heute Abend aber definitiv noch.“

21h. Maïke fragt Claudia, ob Peter noch kommen werde. Claudia sagt „Ja, er sagte, dass er heute Abend definitiv noch komme“

22h. Andy fragt Claudia, ob Peter noch kommen werde. Claudia sagt „Ich weiß nicht. Er sagte zwar, dass er definitiv noch käme, aber das war vor zwei Stunden.“

In colloquial spoken German, „er sagte, dass er definitiv noch kommen würde“ is commonly heard

as well. So in case of doubt, you can fall back on the „würde“ forms – just try to avoid them in writing. And avoid them when talking to a strict defender of the German language, because German

teachers' ears hurt when they hear that.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Germany has its share of great and good-looking actors, but not many are known outside of Germany. Some that you may have heard of are

1 . Marlene Dietrich, the earliest German actress to make it abroad and one of the American Film Institute's best actresses of all times. She starred in „The Blue Angel“

2 . Til Schweiger, a good-looking male German actor. Americans mostly know him through his role in „Lara Croft – Tombraider“, but he really appeared in lots of contemporary German movies, to the point that you might ask if he starred in all of them.

3 . Moritz Bleibtreu, best known for his role in „Knockin' on heaven's door“

4 . Claudia Schiffer, a German top model who starred in „Richie Rich“. She was born in Rheinberg, few kilometers from where Judith was born actually.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #14 Listen Up, Da Boss is Speaking German!

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GERMAN

1. Müller: Hallo, liebe Mitarbeiter. Darf ich Sie alle kurz um Ihre Aufmerksamkeit bitten. Sie haben sich sicherlich schon gefragt, wo unser Ausflug nächste Woche hingeht.....
2. Bayer: Nach Schlumpfhausen?
3. Müller: Haha, nein. Wir fahren nicht nach Schlumpfhausen. Wir gehen zur Blue Man Group!
4. Bayer: Oh super! Damit habe ich nicht gerechnet!
5. Jones: Blue Man Group? Das kenne ich gar nicht. Kein Wunder, dass ich darauf nicht gekommen bin...
6. Bayer: Die Blue Man Group ist so etwas wie ein Theaterstück mit Musik und drei Männern, die blau angemalt sind.
7. Jones: Drei blaue Männer? Waren Sie schon einmal da und haben sich die Blaumänner angeguckt?
8. Bayer: Nein, gesehen habe ich die Blue Man Group noch nicht....
9. Jones: Stellen die irgendetwas dar? Oder soll das lustig sein?
10. Bayer: Hmm, lustig....ich weiß nicht genau. Aber es soll sehr unterhaltsam sein.
11. Jones: Hmm, na da bin ich ja mal gespannt...Momentan kann ich mir nicht viel darunter vorstellen...
12. Bayer: Sie können sich ja im Internet mal Videos anschauen, dann wissen Sie schon mal, was Sie erwartet.

CONT'D OVER

13. Jones: Ja, das ist eine gute Idee. Wie heißen die noch mal? Blues Group?
14. Bayer: Nein, mit dem Blues haben die nichts zu tun...
15. Jones: Haha, schade, dabei mag ich Blues!

ENGLISH

1. Müller: Hello, my dear co-workers. May I have your attention please? You have all certainly been wondering where we'll be going for our outing next week.
2. Bayer: To Smurf Village?
3. Müller: Haha, no. We're not going to Smurf Village. We're going to Blue Man Group!
4. Bayer: Oh, great! I didn't expect that!
5. Jones: Blue Man Group? I don't recognize that name at all. No wonder I never thought of it.
6. Bayer: The Blue Man Group is something like a play with music and three men that are all painted blue.
7. Jones: Three blue men? Have you already been once to see these guys?
8. Bayer: No, I haven't seen the Blue Man Group yet.
9. Jones: Does it represent something? Or is it supposed to be funny?

CONT'D OVER

10. Bayer: Funny, I think. I don't know exactly. But it should be quite entertaining.
11. Jones: I'm actually quite curious...currently I can't quite imagine it.
12. Bayer: You can check out their videos on the Internet, and then you'll have a better idea of what to expect.
13. Jones: Good idea. What are they called again? Blues Group?
14. Bayer: No, they have nothing to do with the blues.
15. Jones: Haha, too bad, I actually quite like the blues.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Mitarbeiter	employee, staffer, co-worker	noun	plural is the same; feminine: Mitarbeiterin
gespannt	tense, curious	adjective	
unterhaltsam	entertaining	adjective	
darstellen	to portray, depict	verb	„dar“ splits off
Blaumann	boiler suit, (blue) coveralls	noun; masculine, der	plural: Blaumänner
(an)malen	to paint	verb	weak verb; "an" splits off
Theaterstück	Theater play	noun; neuter, das	plural: Theaterstücke
rechnen	to calculate	verb	weak verb
bitten	to request, beg	verb	er bittet, er bat, er hat gebeten

Aufmerksamkeit	attention, a little gift one can give to someone	noun; feminine, die	plural: Aufmerksamkeiten (only used when giving gifts to somebody, for example co-workers)
erwarten	expect, await	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Das Benefizkonzert wird bestimmt ein unterhaltsamer Abend.</p> <p>The concert for charity will surely be an entertaining evening.</p>	<p>Habe ich Ihre volle Aufmerksamkeit?</p> <p>Do I have your full attention?</p>
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<p>Ich erwarte noch einen Brief.</p> <p>I'm still awaiting a letter.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Word usage:

1. mit etwas rechnen = to expect something
2. auf etwas kommen = to guess
3. mit etwas nichts zu tun haben = not have anything to do with

German words starting with da- or dar- are often a problem area for English speakers. There are lots of them. Not just “dafür” and “darüber”, which you've seen before, but this will go for every preposition. The “da” part always means “that”. So “dafür” is “for that”, “darüber” is “about that”...

and similarly you can form words based on every preposition.

The recipe is: if the preposition starts with a consonant, add “da” in front. If it starts with a vowel, you need an additional R, so the prefix becomes “dar”. Let's have some examples!

darauf - on that
daran – at that
davon – of that
dagegen – against that
dazu – to that

These words replace sentence parts, e. g.

Ich weiß nichts von dem Unfall. (I don't know anything about the accident)

= Ich weiß nichts davon. (I don't know anything about that)

As you can see, we chose “davon”(of that) instead of the “darüber”(about that), which the English

would imply. This is because you always have to choose the word that contains the preposition that you are replacing.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is da- words

Damit habe ich nicht gerechnet!

"I didn't expect that!"

German words starting with da- or dar- are often a problem area for English speakers. There are

lots of them. Not just “dafür” and “darüber”, which you've seen before, but this will go for every preposition. The “da” part always means “that”. So “dafür” is “for that”, “darüber” is “about that”...

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English

would imply. This is because you always have to choose the word that contains the preposition that you are replacing.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Jones was inadvertently being funny calling that group „Blaumänner“, because that word is usually reserved for boiler suits. Let's look at other expressions with colors.

blau sein = to be drunk; NOT to be blue as in sad

blau machen = to skip work or school

blauäugig = naive

rot werden = to blush

rot sehen = to get aggravated

schwarz sehen = to be pessimistic

schwarz fahren = to take public transport without a valid ticket

schwarz arbeiten = to moonlight

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #15 Transferring German Money Because It's Fun

CONTENTS

- 2 German
- 3 English
- 5 Vocabulary
- 6 Sample Sentences
- 6 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

15

GERMAN

1. Jones: Entschuldigung.... Ich möchte Geld überweisen, aber irgendwie geht das nicht...
2. Bank: Ja, das geht nicht, weil der Automat kaputt ist.
3. Jones: Hmm, aber ich muss die Überweisung unbedingt heute machen, da sonst mein Strom abgestellt wird
4. Bank: Sie können die Überweisung auch schriftlich machen....
5. Jones: Schriftlich? Was heißt das?
6. Bank: Ich gebe Ihnen einen Überweisungsträger. Den füllen Sie aus und geben ihn bei mir ab....
7. Jones: Okay, dann mache ich das. Können Sie mir dabei helfen, denn ich habe noch nie so einen...äh...Träger ausgefüllt ...
8. Bank: Ja, natürlich.
9. Bank: Also, zuerst der Name des Empfängers, darunter seine Kontonummer und die Bankleitzahl....
10. Jones: Okay, weiter...
11. Bank: Jetzt das Kreditinstitut...
12. Jones: Das was?
13. Bank: Das ist die Bank des Empfängers...
14. Jones: Ach so...wieso steht dann da nicht einfach „Bank“ ...

CONT'D OVER

15. Bank: Jetzt der Geldbetrag.
16. Jones: Ah, das Wort kenne ich!
17. Bank: Äh, aber Sie müssen die Zahl mit einem Komma schreiben!
18. Jones: Oh, stimmt. Daran habe ich jetzt nicht gedacht...
19. Bank: Jetzt der Verwendungszweck ...Haben Sie eine Rechnungsnummer oder eine Kundennummer?
20. Jones: Ja, beides.
21. Bank: Dann schreiben Sie das dort hin.
22. Jones: Okay.
23. Bank: So, und jetzt noch Ihren Namen und Kontonummer. Nicht das Datum und Ihre Unterschrift vergessen, weil ich die Überweisung sonst nicht ausführen kann
24. Jones: So, geschafft! Vielen Dank für Ihre Hilfe!
25. Bank: Kein Problem!

ENGLISH

1. Jones: Excuse me...I'd like to transfer some money, but somehow it's not working.
2. Bank: Yes, it's not working because the machine is busted.

CONT'D OVER

3. Jones: Hmm, but I really need to make this transfer today, otherwise my electricity's getting shut off.
4. Bank: You can do the transfer on paper instead.
5. Jones: On paper? What does that mean?
6. Bank: I'll give you a transfer form. Just fill it out, and give it back to me.
7. Jones: Okay, I'll do that. Can you help me with it? I've never filled out such a form before.
8. Bank: Yes, of course
9. Bank: First, the recipient's name, and then his account number under that, and the Bank number.
10. Jones: Ok, what's next?
11. Bank: Now the financial institution.
12. Jones: The what?
13. Bank: That's the bank of the recipient.
14. Jones: Ahh, why doesn't it simply say "Bank" then...
15. Bank: Now the amount.
16. Jones: Oh, I know that word!
17. Bank: Ah, but you have to write the number with a comma!

CONT'D OVER

18. Jones: Oh, that's right. I hadn't thought of that...
19. Bank: Now the purpose of the transfer. Do you have a bill number or an account number?
20. Jones: Yes, both.
21. Bank: Then write them there.
22. Jones: Okay.
23. Bank: So, now your name and account number. Don't forget the date and your signature, because otherwise I can't perform the transfer.
24. Jones: Ok, done! Thanks for your help!
25. Bank: No problem!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
überweisen	to transfer, refer	verb	er überweist, er überwies, er hat überwiesen
Verwendung	usage	noun; feminine, die	plural: Verwendungen
Komma	comma	noun; neuter, das	plural: Kommata
Betrag	figure, sum	noun; masculine, der	plural: Beträge
ausführen	to execute, do	verb	„aus“ splits off
Zweck	purpose	noun; masculine, der	plural: Zwecke

Bankleitzahl	bank code, bank number	noun; feminine, die	plural: Bankleitzahlen
Empfänger	recipient, receiver	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same
Träger	carrier, porter	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same
schriftlich	written, in writing	adverb	
abstellen	to put down; to shut down	verb	„ab“ splits off
Strom	electricity; stream	noun; masculine, der	plural: Ströme (streams)
Automat	automat, machine	noun; masculine, der	plural: Automaten
Kreditinstitut	financial institution	noun; neuter, das	plural: Kreditinstitute

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Was ist der Zweck dieser Formulierung?</p> <p>What is the purpose of this wording?</p>	<p>Wo ist der nächste Geldautomat?</p> <p>Where is the nearest ATM?</p>
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VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Word usage:

1. die Überweisung is of course the noun based on „überweisen“. „überweisen“ means „to transfer“ and it's used in the sense „to wire money“ here. „die Überweisung“ is one wire transfer.

2. der Träger can be any person or thing that carries something. This could be vastly different things, for example a person offering to carry your luggage, a „carrying“ beam that holds up the ceiling, a foundation offering to „carry“ the cost of a construction, or – as here – a piece of paper that „carries“ the information on this wire transfer.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is subclauses

...da sonst mein Strom abgestellt wird.

"...because otherwise my electricity will get shut off"

This lesson is mostly a review lesson, but I also want to draw your attention to the subclauses in

today's dialog. We see three different ways of introducing a reason - „da“, „weil“ and „denn“.

These

three German words are almost synonymous.

„weil“ is the most common. Like „because“, it is usually found in the middle of a sentence though,

not so much at the beginning. „Da“ is what you'd often find at the beginning of a sentence, but not exclusively there. „Denn“ is less common and mostly used for inherently logical arguments.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

checks – not used anymore; cost a lot to cash in

wire transfer – standard method of giving larger sums of money to friends, or to stores who sent

you their product along with an invoice. You only need to know their bank account number and

bank number for this. Note that transferring money like this is either free or very cheap within all of

Europe, depending on your bank.

wire drawing – alternative to wire transfers, you can allow businesses to just draw the money from your account. For this they only need to know your bank account number and bank number,

however, to prevent abuse, not everyone can draw money like that; smaller businesses probably

won't be able to offer that service, but for large online businesses it's essential.

credit card – credit cards are a lot less common than in the states, however some people have them

for the purpose of buying from North American sellers, or for when they go abroad.

debit card – everyone has one or several debit cards. They come with your bank account, and

they

are used much like credit cards are used in the states, e. g. to pay your purchase at a store. Or also to get money anywhere in Europe of course.

cash – cash is still the most common way to pay and everyone has to accept it. Germans typically carry around 100-200 euros worth of cash in their wallet. It's particularly important to have cash for some restaurants or cafés that may not accept debit cards, and also for small purchases, because a lot of places don't allow debit card payments for a purchase of less than 10 EUR, to avoid fees.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #16 Is Your German Kaputt?

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- 2 German
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 6 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

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GERMAN

1. Bayer: Hallo Herr Jones... Ich habe Sie in der Mittagspause gar nicht in der Kantine gesehen...
2. Jones: Ja, das kann sein. Ich war bei der Bank. Ich musste lange am Automaten anstehen, und als ich dann an der Reihe war, war der Automat kaputt!
3. Bayer: Oh, das ist ja ärgerlich!
4. Jones: Ja. Und dann musste ich die Überweisung mit so einem Überweisungsträger machen.....Haben Sie das schon einmal gemacht?
5. Bayer: Ja, aber erst ein paar Mal. Ich mache normalerweise immer alles per Online-Banking.
6. Jones: Hmm. Ja, als ich noch in den USA gelebt habe, habe ich auch viel Online-Banking gemacht...Vielleicht sollte ich das hier auch machen.
7. Bayer: Na, wenn Sie das nächste Mal zur Bank gehen, können Sie doch Online-Banking beantragen.
8. Jones: Ja, das werde ich tun. Ich muss eh morgen noch einmal dorthin.
9. Bayer: Haha, gehen Sie jeden Tag zur Bank?
10. Jones: Haha, nein. Mir ist aber erst als ich wieder hier war, eingefallen, dass ich ja auch noch einen Kontoauszug für diesen Monat holen muss.
11. Bayer: Ach so.

CONT'D OVER

12. Jones: Und ich habe auch noch vergessen, meine zweite Überweisung zu machen...

13. Bayer: Haha, der kaputte Automat hat Sie aber ganz schön durcheinandergebracht!

ENGLISH

1. Bayer: Hello Mr. Jones...I didn't see you at all in the lunchroom during lunch...

2. Jones: Yes, that's quite possible. I was at the bank. I had to wait in line for the bank machine, and then just as it was my turn, the machine broke!

3. Bayer: Oh, that's so annoying!

4. Jones: Yeah, and then I had to do a bank transfer with one of those bank transfer forms...Have you ever done that?

5. Bayer: Yes, but only a few times. I normally do everything through online banking.

6. Jones: Hmm. Yes, when I was still living in the USA, I also did a lot of online banking. Maybe I should do that here too.

7. Bayer: Well, next time you go to the bank, you can sign up for online banking.

8. Jones: Yeah, I'll do that. I have to go back there again tomorrow anyway.

9. Bayer: Haha, do you go to the bank every day?

CONT'D OVER

10. Jones: Haha, no. It just occurred to me once I got back here, that I still need to make a withdrawal for this month.
11. Bayer: Ahh, okay.
12. Jones: And I still forgot to do my second bank transfer...
13. Bayer: Haha, the broken bank machine really got you mixed up!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
durcheinander bringen	to make a mess, confuse	expression; verb	er bringt durcheinander, er brachte durcheinander, er hat durcheinander gebracht
Reihe	row, line	noun; feminine, die	plural: Reihen
so ein	such a	expression	
normalerweise	normally	adverb	-weise can turn a lot of words into adverbs
beantragen	to apply for, petition, request	verb	weak verb
eh	anyway	adverb	
Auszug	excerpt, (excerpted) statement	noun; masculine, der	plural: Auszüge
etwas fällt jdm. ein	to have an idea	verb	es fällt ihm etwas ein, es fiel ihm etwas ein, es ist ihm etwas eingefallen

einfallen	to tumble down, become sunken, foray	verb	er fällt ein, er fiel ein, er ist eingefallen
durcheinander	messy, disordered	adverb	
anstehen	to stand in line; be supposed to take place	verb	"an" splits off

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Die tobenden Hunde brachten das Zimmer ganz durcheinander.</p> <p>The rioting dogs made a mess of the room.</p>	<p>Du bringst mich ganz durcheinander mit deiner Zählerei!</p> <p>You're confusing me with your counting!</p>
<p>Sie sind als Nächstes an der Reihe.</p> <p>It will be your turn next.</p>	<p>Merken Sie sich diese Zahlenreihe.</p> <p>Memorize this row of numbers.</p>
<p>Hast du schon einmal so einen hässlichen Köter gesehen?</p> <p>Have you ever seen such an ugly dog?</p>	<p>So ein Pech aber auch!</p> <p>What bad luck!</p>
<p>So ein Unsinn. Wann soll ich das denn gesagt haben?</p> <p>Such a nonsense. When did I supposedly say that?</p>	<p>Normalerweise würde ich das nicht tun, aber für dich mache ich eine Ausnahme.</p> <p>Normally I wouldn't do this, but for you I'll make an exception.</p>
<p>Beantragen Sie eine Aufenthaltsgenehmigung.</p> <p>Apply for a residence permit.</p>	<p>Willst du nicht mehr zum Konzert? - Ach nein, wenn ich da ankomme, ist es eh schon fast vorbei.</p> <p>Don't you want to go to the concert anymore? - Nah, by the time I arrive there, it will be almost over anyway.</p>

<p>Ich lese Ihnen einen Auszug aus diesem Buch vor.</p> <p>I shall read an excerpt of this book to you.</p>	<p>Ah, da fällt mir gerade ein, dass ich vergessen habe, das Licht auszuschalten.</p> <p>Ah, I just remembered that I forgot to switch off the light.</p>
<p>Ihr Gesicht ist eingefallen.</p> <p>Her face has become sunken.</p>	<p>Die Wikinger fielen in Deutschland ein.</p> <p>The Vikings forayed into Germany.</p>
<p>Der Schnee fällt in den Wald hinein.</p> <p>The snow is falling in the woods.</p>	<p>Deine Papiere sind ganz durcheinander.</p> <p>All your papers are in disorder.</p>

Einige stehen schon seit heute Morgen an.

Some have already been waiting in line since the morning.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Word usage:

1. an der Reihe sein = it's one's turn. For example „Du bist an der Reihe“ is the same as saying „Du bist dran“.

2. mir fällt ein = "something falls into me" = I remember; I have an idea. For example „Es fällt mir gerade nichts ein“ (I currently don't have any idea).

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is noch/erst, als/wenn

Mir ist aber erst als ich wieder hier war, eingefallen

"I only thought of it once I was back here"

For temporal subclauses, subclauses that describe a time, there is a distinction that you have

to master in German – the distinction of „wenn“ and „als“. Both of these would be translated as „when“ in English, however in German these words are not interchangeable. So, when to use one and when to use the other?

The rule is actually simple, though it will probably take some time until it's completely natural for you. The rule is that when you're talking about something that already happened, you have to use "als". When you're talking about something that hasn't happened yet however, you have to use "wenn". "wenn" also means "if", not just "when", so maybe see it as a sign of German skepticism - even talking about the sun rising tomorrow, you have to say "Wenn die Sonne morgen aufgeht", "if and when the sun rises tomorrow". This is always, always the case; you can't use anything other than "wenn".

Let's also look at another important distinction in this context, the distinction between "erst" and "noch". Combined with another temporal word like e. g. "gestern", both can be translated as "only", "only yesterday". However, "erst" is used when the focus is on a new time period starting, e.g. if you just started being able to do something, if you just met someone or if something finally happened. If "erst" is about a new time period starting, then "noch" places the focus on an old time period ending. For example, "noch" is used for things you used to be able to do but can't do now, or if something stopped happening.

In English, "noch" can be translated as "only; still" and "erst" can be translated as "only; just". Some examples below.

Ich habe ihn gestern erst gesehen. = I saw him only yesterday (finally!)

Ich habe ihn gestern noch gesehen. = I saw him only yesterday (yesterday he was still okay)

Er hat das Buch erst heute zurückgebracht. = He brought back the book only today. (finally, after renting it for a long time)

Er hat das Buch noch heute zurückgebracht. = He brought back the book today still. (earlier than expected, maybe he borrowed it this morning)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

In Germany, the following regulations govern breaks during worktime.

1. if you're working at least 6 hours, you are entitled to a 30-minute work break for lunch or the like
2. if you're working at least 9 hours, this work break needs to be at least 45 minutes
3. work breaks can also be divided into several segments, but each needs to be at least 15 minutes
4. breaks of less than 15 minutes do not count as breaks, so you can have an unlimited number of cigarette or loo breaks

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #17

Can You Write a Formal German Letter?

CONTENTS

- 2 German
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 7 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 7 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

17

GERMAN

1. Jones: Frau Bayer, können Sie mir in der Mittagspause kurz helfen? Ich möchte ein Zeitschriften-Abo kündigen und ich weiß nicht genau, wie ich das formulieren muss.
2. Bayer: Ja, kein Problem. Wir formulieren den Brief, bevor wir in die Mensa gehen.
3. Jones: Super, vielen Dank.
4.
5. Bayer: Herr Jones, wollen wir jetzt kurz die Kündigung schreiben?
6. Jones: Ja, bitte! Ich habe auch schon etwas vorbereitet...
7. Bayer: Ah, gut. Dann lesen Sie doch mal vor....
8. Jones: Okay.... Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,....
9. Bayer: Die Anrede ist schon mal gut....
10. Jones: Ich möchte mein Abo von „Haus und Hund“ kündigen. Bitte sagen Sie mir, wann ich dies tun kann. Mit freundlichen Grüßen, Frank Jones.
11. Bayer: Hmm, also die Anrede und die Verabschiedung sind richtig, aber den Text dazwischen müssen wir etwas verändern.
12. Jones: Okay. Gibt es da besondere Formulierungen?

CONT'D OVER

13. Bayer: Ja. Normalerweise schreibt man „Hiermit möchte ich mein Abonnement der Zeitschrift 'Haus und Hund' zum nächstmöglichen Zeitpunkt kündigen.“
14. Jones: Ja, das hört sich viel besser an.
15. Bayer: Außerdem sollten Sie noch schreiben „Bitte senden Sie mir eine Bestätigung der Kündigung zu und teilen Sie mir das Datum des Vertragsendes mit.“ Und dann kommt die Verabschiedung...
16. Jones: Okay.....Danke für Ihre Hilfe!

ENGLISH

1. Jones: Mrs. Bayer, could you help me a little during lunch? I would like to cancel my subscription to a magazine, and I don't quite know how to phrase it.
2. Bayer: Sure, no problem. We'll compose the letter before we go to the lunchroom.
3. Jones: Great, thanks.
4. ...
5. Bayer: Mr. Jones, shall we write that cancellation letter now?
6. Jones: Yes, please! I already have something prepared...
7. Bayer: Oh, good, then read it out for me.
8. Jones: Okay...Dear Sir or Madam, ...

CONT'D OVER

9. Bayer: The salutation is already pretty good.
10. Jones: I would like to cancel my subscription to "House and Dog". Please let me know when I can do this. Yours truly, Frank Jones.
11. Bayer: Hmm, so the start and the end are correct, but we need to change the text in between.
12. Jones: Okay, is there a certain way to say it?
13. Bayer: Yes. Normally one writes "I would like to hereby cancel my subscription to the magazine 'House and Dog' at the earliest possible convenience"
14. Jones: Yes, that sounds much better.
15. Bayer: Besides that, you should also write "Please send me confirmation of the cancellation and the date at which the contract will end." And then you put the conclusion of the letter.
16. Jones: Okay, thanks for your help!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
kündigen	to cancel; to give notice	verb	weak verb
mitteilen	to inform, communicate sth.	verb	„mit“ splits off
Vertragsende	expiration of the contract	noun; neuter, das	plural: Vertragsenden
zusenden	to send to	verb	„zu“ splits off

Bestätigung	confirmation	noun; feminine, die	plural: Bestätigungen
Zeitpunkt	point of time, date, moment	noun; masculine, der	plural: Zeitpunkte
nächstmöglich	earliest possible, next possible	adjective	
hiermit	herewith, hereby	conjunction	
verändern	to change	verb	weak verb
Text	text	noun; masculine, der	plural: Texte
vorbereiten	to prepare	verb	"vor" splits off
formulieren	to phrase, word, formulate	verb	weak verb
Abonnement = Abo	subscription, standing order	noun; neuter, das	plural: Abonnements / Abos
sich verabschieden	to say goodbye, take leave	verb	weak verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Sie können diesen Vertrag jeweils zum Quartalsende kündigen.</p> <p>You can terminate this contract at the end of each quarter.</p>	<p>Bitte teilen Sie mir den Grund Ihrer Kündigung mit.</p> <p>Please communicate the reason of your cancellation to me.</p>
<p>Wenn Sie 6 Wochen vor Vertragsende noch nicht gekündigt haben, verlängert sich der Vertrag automatisch um ein Jahr.</p> <p>If you haven't cancelled the contract 6 weeks before the official end date, the contract will automatically be extended by one year.</p>	<p>Wenn Sie wollen, schicken wir Ihnen kostenlos unseren Katalog zu.</p> <p>If you want, we will send you our catalog for free.</p>

<p>Bitte schicken Sie mir eine Bestätigung.</p> <p>Please send me a confirmation.</p>	<p>Auf dem Parteitag der CDU wurde er als Kanzlerkandidat bestätigt.</p> <p>On the Christian Democrats' party convention he was confirmed as the candidate for chancellor.</p>
<p>Die Schwierigkeit liegt darin, den richtigen Zeitpunkt zu finden.</p> <p>The difficulty lies in finding the right time.</p>	<p>Hiermit kündige ich den Vertrag zum nächstmöglichen Zeitpunkt.</p> <p>Herewith I'm cancelling the contract as soon as possible. / at the next possible date.</p>
<p>In Antwort auf Ihre Stellenanzeige vom 8. Juni aus der FAZ, schicke ich Ihnen hiermit meine Bewerbung.</p> <p>In reply to your job ad, which was published on June 8th in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, I am sending you this application.</p>	<p>Du hast dich ganz schön verändert! Ich habe dich zuerst nicht erkannt.</p> <p>You changed a lot! I didn't recognize you at first.</p>
<p>Unterstreichen Sie alle Verben in diesem Text.</p> <p>Underline all verbs in this text.</p>	<p>Kannst du diesen Text für mich übersetzen?</p> <p>Can you translate this text for me?</p>
<p>Die Texte dieses Sängers sind Poesie.</p> <p>This singer's texts are poetry.</p>	<p>Sie bereitet Häppchen vor für die Party.</p> <p>She is preparing appetizers for the party.</p>
<p>Die Karnevalsvereine bereiten sich ein ganzes Jahr lang auf die Karnevalszeit vor.</p> <p>Carnival clubs spend a whole year preparing for the Carnival season.</p>	<p>Ich weiß nicht, wie ich diese Kündigung formulieren soll.</p> <p>I don't know how I should phrase this cancellation letter.</p>

<p>Was ist der Zweck dieser Formulierung?</p> <p>What is the purpose of this wording?</p>	<p>Möchten Sie ein Zeitschriftsabo testen?</p> <p>Would you like to test a subscription to a magazine?</p>
<p>Ich abonniere Ihre Zeitung schon seit zehn Jahren.</p> <p>I have already been subscribed to your newspaper for 10 years.</p>	<p>Er hat sich nicht einmal von uns verabschiedet!</p> <p>He didn't even say goodbye to us!</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "die Kündigung" (cancellation; notice of cancellation) is of course the noun related to "kündigen" (to cancel)
2. Wollen wir...? = "Do we want to...?" = Shall we? For example in the dialog we had "Wollen wir jetzt kurz die Kündigung schreiben? = Shall we quickly write that cancellation notice now?"
3. "die Formulierung" (phrasing) is of course the noun related to "formulieren" (to phrase) and "die Verabschiedung" (leave-taking, discharge) is the noun related to "sich verabschieden" (to take one's leave, say goodbye)

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is formal language

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren

"Dear Sir or Madam / To whom it may concern"

Like any language, there are different registers of language in German. At the very least there is informal spoken German, formal spoken German, informal written German and formal written German. Each of these sounds more formal than the previous, so spoken German is almost always less formal-sounding than written German. There are only a few rare occasions where spoken German can be more formal than written German – for example when someone is making a speech at a public ceremony.

The first thing that comes to mind thinking about informal and formal German are of course the forms „du“ versus „Sie“. These are by far not the only thing that changes though. Let's look at some other indicators for a more formal kind of German.

1. more frequent use of the Conjunctive / more frequent use of the Conjunctive I

2. more frequent use of the Genitive (to replace „von“ and also simply more Genitive phrasings)
3. more frequent use of the Passive or less personal constructions, especially when it comes to setting up rules
4. use of nouns instead of verbs / instead of subclauses
5. use of less common words, which are usually more specific to a situation

In the examples below we have the most formal phrasing first and then less formal phrasings with the same meaning afterwards.

1 . „Bitte veranlassen Sie die Kündigung dieses Vertrags“ instead of „Bitte sorgen Sie dafür, dass dieser Vertrag gekündigt wird“ instead of „Bitte sagen Sie Ihrer Sekretärin, dass sie diesen Vertrag kündigen soll“

2 . „Eine Änderung ist dem Vertragspartner sofort mitzuteilen.“ instead of „Wenn sich etwas ändert, müssen Sie uns dies sofort sagen“

CULTURAL INSIGHT

In Germany, people plan ahead more, and this is reflected in the contracts. Very often contracts can only be cancelled 3 months in advance or „zum Quartalsende“ (at the end of each quarter). Penalties are harsh, for example phone contracts tend to automatically extend by a full year if you don't cancel in time, and the companies have big stakes in not being nice, not letting you cancel a day after the deadline, because they give you free or cheap equipment with each new contract.

When signing a contract, be sure to look for the cancellation and auto-renewal clauses. The key word is „verlängern“, which means „to extend“ in this context. If you find that you have to cancel some months in advance, put a sticker in your agenda maybe a week before the deadline so that you have time to send out the letter. Very often the key date is the one when your cancellation letter actually arrives at the company, not when you send it off. For this reason you also probably want to send any cancellation letter as „Einschreiben“ (registered mail), so that companies can't claim to have received your letter late or not at all. Registered mail costs a bit more to send, but it will save you a lot of money if the contract doesn't auto-renew.

If you're not sure when you can cancel your contract, just write „zum nächstmöglichen Zeitpunkt“, which is a more formal way of saying „so bald wie möglich“, and send of the cancellation notice with plenty of time to spare.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #18 Sushi Which Improves Your German

CONTENTS

- 2 German
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 6 Cultural Insight

18

GERMAN

1. Bayer: Oh, sehen Sie Herr Jones, es sind Japan-Wochen in der Mensa!
2. Jones: Und was heißt das?
3. Bayer: Das heißt, es gibt japanische Gerichte zu essen.
4. Jones: Hmm, Sie meinen Sushi?
5. Bayer: Ja, zum Beispiel. Aber es gibt ja noch anderes Essen in Japan als Sushi.
6. Jones: Na da bin ich ja froh, denn Sushi mag ich gar nicht...
7. Bayer: Was? Sie mögen kein Sushi? Ich liebe Sushi!
8. Jones: Igitt, nein! Ich mag es nicht, wenn der Fisch, den man isst, so glitschig ist.
9. Bayer: Hmm, und wie ist es mit Miso-Suppe?
10. Jones: In Miso-Suppe schwimmen doch Tofu und Algen, oder?
11. Bayer: Ja genau.
12. Jones: Hm, nein danke. Das ist auch nichts für mich.
13. Bayer: Hmm, na dann gibt es hoffentlich noch andere Gerichte, die Sie mögen!
14.
15. Bayer: Sehen Sie Herr Jones, es gibt auch gegrillten Aal mit Reis.

CONT'D OVER

16. Jones: Hmm, Aal mag ich aber auch nicht besonders gerne...
17. Bayer: Was mögen Sie denn überhaupt für Essen?
18. Jones: Lachs mag ich zum Beispiel sehr gerne.
19. Bayer: Na Sie Glückspilz. Es gibt auch gegrillten Lachs mit Reis.
20. Jones: Ha, und ich dachte schon, ich müsste mich heute von den Schokoriegeln ernähren, die bei uns im Büro liegen!

ENGLISH

1. Bayer: Oh, take a look Mr. Jones, it's Japan-week in the cafeteria!
2. Jones: And what does that mean?
3. Bayer: It means that there's Japanese food to eat.
4. Jones: Hmm, you mean sushi?
5. Bayer: Yes, that's one example. But there are actually other types of food in Japan besides Sushi.
6. Jones: Well, that makes me happy, because I really don't like sushi.
7. Bayer: What? You don't like sushi? I love sushi!
8. Jones: Yuck, no! I don't like it when the fish that one eats is so slippery.
9. Bayer: Hmm, what about miso soup?

CONT'D OVER

10. Jones: That's the soup with the tofu and seaweed, right?
11. Bayer: Yes, exactly
12. Jones: Hm, no thanks. That's just not my thing.
13. Bayer: Hmm, well then hopefully there's some other dish that you like!
14. ...
15. Bayer: Look, Mr. Jones, there's also barbecued eel with rice.
16. Jones: Hmm, I don't really like eel that much either.
17. Bayer: What do you like to eat, then?
18. Jones: I like salmon quite a lot, for example.
19. Bayer: You lucky devil, there's also barbecued salmon with rice.
20. Jones: Ha, for a minute there I thought I'd have to live on the chocolate bars in our office!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
froh	glad		
Schokoriegel	chocolate bar, candy bar	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same
Glückspilz	lucky bastard; lucky devil	noun; masculine, der	plural: Glückspilze
Lachs	salmon	noun	plural: Lachse

Aal	eel	noun; masculine, der	plural: Aale
grillen	to grill, have a barbecue	verb	weak verb
hoffentlich	hopefully	adverb	
Alge	alga, algae	noun; feminine, die	plural: Algen
Tofu	tofu	noun; neuter, das	no plural
glitschig	slick, slippery, greasy	adjective	
Fisch	fish	noun	plural: Fische
igitt	yuck, eww	interjection	
ernähren	to nourish; subsist, live off of	verb	weak verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ich bin froh, dass es nicht so weit gekommen ist.</p> <p>I am glad that it hasn't come to that.</p>	<p>Heute Abend werden wir auf der Terrasse grillen.</p> <p>Tonight we'll have a barbecue on the patio.</p>
<p>Hoffentlich kriegen wir den jungen, kranken Vogel, den wir gefunden haben, wieder aufpäppelt.</p> <p>Hopefully we'll be able to coddle up the young, sick bird that we found.</p>	<p>In Japan und Korea isst man viele Algen.</p> <p>In Japan and Korea, people eat a lot of algae.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Das ist nichts für mich. = That's not my thing.
2. Glückspilz = "lucky mushroom" = lucky devil
3. ernähren exists in two forms. With an object, it means to nourish someone, but with a reflexive pronoun it means to subsist, or live off of.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Relative Clauses (part 1)

Ich mag es nicht, wenn der Fisch, den man isst, so glitschig ist

"I don't like it when the fish that one eats is so slippery"

German relative clauses are formed with either the relative pronouns „welcher, welche, welches“, or the plain definite articles, which have acquired the same function. In fact, the vast majority of relative clauses are now formed with „der, die, das“ acting as relative pronouns.

The clauses work in the same way as they do in English. The only difficulty is that the relative pronoun must show the same case as the word that it replaces.

Example

„Das ist der Mann, den ich liebe.“ This relative clause could be written as a full sentence as „Ich liebe den Mann.“ . „den Mann“ is Accusative, so the relative pronoun („den“ in this case) has to be Accusative as well. Hence it is „der Mann, DEN ich liebe“ instead of „der Mann, DER ich liebe“. In English, this is the distinction between „WHO I love“ and „WHOM I love“, but in German these relative pronouns can match have any case and any gender that a definite article can match.

Some more examples below.

1 . Ich kenne den Mann. Der Mann singt dieses Lied.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Foreign foods in Berlin

1. Sushi is perhaps the most common Japanese food in Berlin.
2. It's true that there are lots and lots of foreign restaurants in Berlin, including some really exotic ones, for example offering Cuban, Sri Lankan, Nepali or Georgian food. There are also several Japanese restaurants you can find in the city, but Sushi places can be found all over the place, for example in shopping malls.
3. Mexican food is chic and readily available, but not authentic at all, because it's mostly Germans or Turks preparing the food. There are not nearly enough Mexicans in Germany to fuel the demand for tacos, burritos, nachos and salsa, as these have become the fashion.
4. Thai food is so popular in Berlin that even your neighbourhood europeanized Chinese restaurant will probably offer a few Thai dishes and you will find frozen ready-made Thai dishes in your supermarket.

5. Mango Lassi, an Indian kind of mango milkshake, is available not just at Indian restaurants but at just about every Asian restaurant and some Turkish ones.
6. All of these trends are specific to Berlin, or big cities at least. In other parts of Germany, particularly smaller towns, Italian, Turkish and europeanized Chinese are the only foreign foods you can easily get.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #19

A Night Out in Germany

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- 2 German
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 6 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 7 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

19

GERMAN

1. Bayer: Und, Herr Jones, freuen Sie sich schon auf den Betriebsausflug morgen?
2. Jones: Morgen?! Oh, das hatte ich ganz vergessen!
3. Bayer: Was? Mensch, wie kann man das vergessen! Ich freue mich schon die ganze Woche darauf!
4. Jones: Wann ist die Show noch mal?
5. Bayer: Die Show beginnt um 18 Uhr, aber wir müssen natürlich schon früher da sein.
6. Jones: Und treffen wir uns alle hier oder vor dem Theater, in dem die Show stattfindet?
7. Bayer: Haben Sie die Mail nicht bekommen, die Herr Müller der ganzen Abteilung geschickt hat?
8. Jones: Hmm doch, aber irgendwie habe ich mir den Inhalt nicht wirklich gemerkt...
9. Bayer: Haha...Ja, das merke ich. Also wir treffen uns um 17 Uhr 15 am Eingang.
10. Jones: Äh und in welchem Theater?
11. Bayer: Das Theater ist am Potsdamer Platz.
12. Jones: Ach.. Ist es das Gebäude, auf dem auch der Name der Show steht?

CONT'D OVER

13. Bayer: Ja, genau. Das Theater, dessen Show wir uns angucken, war früher ein Kino und wurde extra für die Show umgebaut.
14. Jones: Gut, dann kann ich das Theater ja nicht verfehlen.
15. Bayer: Ja, passen Sie nur auf, dass Sie auch an dem Eingang stehen, an dem wir uns treffen.
16. Jones: Oh, gibt es mehrere Eingänge?
17. Bayer: Haha, nein! Das war nur ein Scherz!

ENGLISH

1. Bayer: And, Mr. Jones, are you looking forward to the office excursion tomorrow?
2. Jones: Tomorrow?! Oh, I totally forgot about that!
3. Bayer: What? Man, how can you forget that? I've been looking forward to it all week!
4. Jones: When is the show, again?
5. Bayer: The show starts at 6pm, but we'll have to be there a bit earlier, of course.
6. Jones: And are we meeting here, or in front of the theater where it's happening?
7. Bayer: Didn't you get the email that Mr. Müller sent to the whole department?

CONT'D OVER

8. Jones: Hmm, I did, but somehow I didn't remember the contents of it.
9. Bayer: Haha...Yes, I noticed. So, we're meeting at 5.15pm at the entrance.
10. Jones: Ahh, and which theater?
11. Bayer: The theater is at Potsdamer Platz.
12. Jones: Oh...is it the building that has the name of the show on it?
13. Bayer: Yes, exactly. The theater whose show we're watching was previously a movie theater and was renovated specifically for this show.
14. Jones: Great, then I can't miss it.
15. Bayer: Yes, just make sure that you're waiting at the same entrance as us.
16. Jones: Oh, there are multiple entrances?
17. Bayer: Haha, no! That was just a joke.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
stattfinden	to take place	verb	"statt" splits off; es findet statt, es fand statt, es hat stattgefunden
aufpassen	to pay attention; watch out; look after	verb	"auf" splits off
verfehlen	to miss [a target or goal]	verb	weak verb

umbauen	to remodel	verb	"um" splits off
Kino	cinema, movie theater	noun; neuter, das	plural: Kinos
angucken	to look at	verb	"an" splits off
Gebäude	building	noun	Neuter; plural is the same.
Eingang	entrance	noun	plural: Eingänge
sich merken	to memorize	verb	weak verb
merken	to notice	verb	weak verb
Inhalt	content	noun; masculine, der	plural: Inhalte
schicken	to send	verb	weak verb
Mail	e-mail	noun; feminine, die	plural: Mails
Scherz	joke	noun; masculine, der	masculine; plural: Scherze

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Wo findet hier das Nachtleben statt?</p> <p>Where is the night life happening around here?</p>	<p>Wahlen finden in Deutschland immer sonntags statt.</p> <p>German elections always take place on Sundays.</p>
<p>Passen Sie auf, dass der Gefangene nicht entkommt!</p> <p>Be careful that the prisoner doesn't escape!</p>	<p>Pass auf, dass du von den Mücken nicht gestochen wirst.</p> <p>Be careful not to be stung by the gnats.</p>
<p>Er hat das Ziel knapp verfehlt.</p> <p>He missed the target by little.</p>	<p>Nächstes Jahr werden wir unser Haus umbauen.</p> <p>Next year we'll remodel our house.</p>

<p>Ich habe gar keine Lust auf Kino. I'm in absolutely no mood for the movies.</p>	<p>Lass uns ins Kino gehen. Let's go to the movies.</p>
<p>Gehst du morgen ins Kino? Are you going to the movies tomorrow?</p>	<p>Kommst du mit, um dir die neue Wohnung anzugucken? Are you coming along in order to look at the new apartment?</p>
<p>Dieses Gebäude ist 100 Jahre alt. This building is 100 years old.</p>	<p>Bitte geben Sie am Eingang Ihre Taschen ab. Please give away your bags at the entrance.</p>
<p>Merken Sie sich diese Zahlenreihe. Memorize this row of numbers.</p>	<p>Merken Sie den Unterschied? Do you notice the difference?</p>
<p>Dieses Buch hat kein Inhaltsverzeichnis. This book doesn't have a table of contents.</p>	<p>An diesem Produkt ist mehr Verpackung als Inhalt. This product consists of more packaging than content.</p>
<p>Wenn ich ihn sehe, schicke ich ihn zu dir. When I see him, I'll send him to you.</p>	<p>Schick mir einfach eine Mail, wenn du weißt, wann du Zeit hast. Just send me an e-mail when you know when you have time.</p>
<p>Das war nur ein Witz. That was just a joke.</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "noch mal" means "again", but in the question "Wann ist die Show noch mal?" you shouldn't take it literally. It's like asking someone to remind you.
2. "extra" doesn't necessarily mean the same as the English "extra" either. For example in

"Das Kino wurde extra für die Show umgebaut" I'd translate "extra" as "specifically", "specifically or just for that show".

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Relative Clauses (part 2)
vor dem Theater, in dem die Show stattfindet
"In front of the theater in which the show takes place"

In the previous lesson we already looked at relative clauses. In those, the relative pronoun was always the same as the article.

Now there are two more things you should be aware of. One is that if there is a preposition in front of the article in the one sentence, then the same preposition will also appear in front of the relative pronoun. Just like in English actually.

Ich gehe in den Park. Ein Kind spielt in dem Park. Ich gehe in den Park, in dem ein Kind spielt. (I walk into the park, in which a child is playing.)

The other thing you should be aware of is that some relative pronouns are not the same as the articles. This mostly concerns the Genitive. For masculine and neuter words, the Genitive relative pronoun is „dessen“, as the dialog showed. For feminine words and all plurals, the Genitive relative pronoun is „deren“. Apart from these Genitives, only one other relative pronoun is irregular – the Dative plural one. It's „denen“, across all genders. If you look carefully, you'll notice that „dessen“, „deren“ and „denen“ are not taken out of thin air. Instead, they are almost the same as the article you expected to see, just with an extra -en.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Culture: Potsdamer Platz

- historically one of the most famous and most lively squares in Berlin, a meeting point for everyone looking to have fun, before it became part of the border between East and West Berlin
- nowadays, home to several theatres, including musicals and cinemas
- there's an ultra-modern building there, the Sony Center. The architecture is stunning. Inside there are water fountains and several cafés and restaurants arranged in a round, with a semi-open ceiling. This is also where you can find the Cinestar Original, a cinema showing American movies in the original, without dubbing and even without subs which is rare in Germany.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #20 You Have A Package From Germany!

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- 2 German
- 3 English
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- 5 Sample Sentences
- 6 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

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GERMAN

1. Jones: Guten Tag, ich möchte gerne diese zwei Pakete verschicken....
2. Post: Kein Problem. Wo sollen die Pakete denn hin?
3. Jones: Das erste Paket soll nach München und das zweite Paket nach New York.
4. Post: Okay.....Dann machen wir erst mal die Sendung nach München fertig....Oh, das wiegt ja nur 1,5kg. Dann ist es sogar noch ein Päckchen...
5. Jones: Päckchen? Ist das nicht ein Paket?
6. Post: Ja...äh nein....Also, es gibt zwei Sendungsarten bei der Post. Die eine heißt Paket und die andere nennt sich Päckchen.
7. Jones: Hmm und wo ist der Unterschied?
8. Post: Ein Päckchen ist billiger als ein Paket.
9. Jones: Hmm, aber wieso schickt man dann nicht immer alles als Päckchen?
10. Post: Naja, erstens darf ein Päckchen maximal 2kg wiegen und zweitens darf es nicht zu groß sein...
11. Jones: Ach so, natürlich.
12. Post: Ihr erstes Päckchen kostet also 3,90€. Und jetzt das zweite Paket...
13. Jones: Ist das zweite Paket auch ein Päckchen?

CONT'D OVER

14. Post: Moment...ja, da haben Sie Glück, das ist auch ein Päckchen.
15. Jones: Oh super, dann muss ich ja nur 7,80€ zahlen!
16. Post: Nein, tut mir leid. Beide Päckchen zusammen kosten 17,80€.
17. Jones: Oh! Wieso das?
18. Post: Na, es ist teurer ein Päckchen in die USA zu senden als innerhalb von Deutschland.
19. Jones: Na, das klingt logisch!

ENGLISH

1. Jones: Hello, I'd like to send these two packages...
2. Post: No problem. Where are they going to?
3. Jones: The first package is going to Munich and the second package to New York.
4. Post: OKay...then we'll deal with the package to Munich first....Oh, it actually only weighs 1.5kg, so it's just a smaller package.
5. Jones: Small package? Is that not the same as a regular package?
6. Post: Yes...err...no...Well, there are two types of things that can be sent through the mail. The first is called a "Paket" and the others are called "Päckchen".
7. Jones: Hmm, and what's the difference?

CONT'D OVER

8. **Post:** A small package is cheaper than a regular package.
9. **Jones:** Hmm, so why doesn't everyone always send everything as a small package?
10. **Post:** Well, first of all a small package can't weigh more than 2kg, and second of all it can't be too big.
11. **Jones:** Ahh, of course.
12. **Post:** Your first small package costs €3.90, and then the second package...
13. **Jones:** Is the second one also a small package?
14. **Post:** Just a sec. Ya, you're in luck. It's also a small package.
15. **Jones:** Great! Then I only have to pay €7.80!
16. **Post:** No, sorry. Both small packages together are €17.80.
17. **Jones:** Oh! Why's that?
18. **Post:** Well, it's more expensive to send a package to the USA than it is inside Germany.
19. **Jones:** Oh, that makes sense!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Paket	package	noun, neuter, das	neuter; plural: Pakete
logisch	logical(ly)	adjective	

erstens	first(ly)	adverb	used only when making several points
maximal	at most; maximum	adjective	
billig	cheap		
Art	type, kind	noun; feminine, die	plural: Arten
Unterschied	difference	noun; masculine, der	plural: Unterschiede
Päckchen	small parcel	noun; neuter, das	plural is the same
nennen	to name, call	verb	er nennt, er nannte, er hat genannt
Sendung	something being sent; transmission; TV program item	noun; feminine, die	plural: Sendungen
verschicken	to send out, mail	verb	weak verb
innerhalb	within	adverb	always used with "von" or Genitive

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ist das Paket für mich?</p> <p>Is that package for me?</p>	<p>Er kommt nicht, weil er kein Geld hat; ist doch logisch!</p> <p>He isn't coming because he doesn't have any money; it's logical!</p>
<p>Erstens habe ich dann keine Zeit, zweitens habe ich auch keine Lust, und drittens seid ihr doof.</p> <p>Firstly I don't have time then, secondly I'm also not in the mood, and thirdly you're silly.</p>	<p>Dieses Auto hat maximal 5000 Euro gekostet.</p> <p>This car costs 5000 euros at most.</p>

<p>Je mehr Leute mitkommen, desto billiger wird es.</p> <p>The more people come along, the cheaper it will become.</p>	<p>In diesem Jobangebot wurde die Art der Arbeit nicht beschrieben.</p> <p>In this job offer, the type of work was not described.</p>
<p>Merken Sie den Unterschied?</p> <p>Do you notice the difference?</p>	<p>Ich möchte ein Päckchen nach Südafrika schicken.</p> <p>I would like to send a small package to South Africa.</p>
<p>Er nennt sich jetzt "Sensei".</p> <p>He calls himself "Sensei" now.</p>	<p>Nennen Sie drei Flüsse in Asien.</p> <p>Name three rivers in Asia.</p>
<p>Bitte schalt das weg. Ich mag diese Sendung wirklich nicht.</p> <p>Could you please switch to something else? I really don't like that show.</p>	<p>Ich möchte heute noch diesen Brief verschicken.</p> <p>I want to send out this letter today still.</p>

Wenn du nicht innerhalb der nächsten 30 Sekunden aufstehst, ziehe ich dir die Decke weg!

If you don't get up within the next 30 seconds, I'll pull off your cover!

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. -chen as in „Päckchen“ is a diminutive. This means that it turns e. g. „Hund“ (dog) into „Hündchen“ (little dog), or „Haus“ (house) into „Häuschen“ (little house). As you can see, the recipe is to add -chen and to change the vowel where possible. All nouns ending in -chen are neuter and they are the same for singular and plural.
2. „innerhalb“ is used both in a local and a temporal sense. So you can say „innerhalb von München“ (inside Munich), but you can also say „innerhalb von 5 Minuten“ (within 5 minutes).
3. the opposite of „innerhalb“ is „außerhalb“ (outside of). This word cannot be used for time, only location. For example you could say „Außerhalb von München sind die Wohnungen viel billiger als innerhalb“ (outside of Munich, apartments are much cheaper than inside).

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is enumerating arguments

Erstens darf ein Päckchen maximal 2kg wiegen

"First of all, a small package can't weigh more than 2kg"

When you want to list several arguments in a German text or conversation, there are several sets of words you should know.

One set is „einerseits“ / „andererseits“, which translates to „on the one hand“ and „on the other hand“.

Another set is „die eine“ / „die andere“, „the one thing“ and „the other thing“. You can also vary this, for example „der eine Grund ist...“ and „der andere Grund ist...“.

For longer lists or other situations you will need the special German numbers ending in -tens. erstens, zweitens, drittens, viertens, fünftens... Es gibt drei Gründe dagegen. Erstens dauert es zu lange, zweitens ist es zu teuer und drittens gibt es eine bessere Lösung. (There are three reasons against it. It takes too long, it is too expensive and there is a better solution.)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Culture: sending mail in Germany

1. How to address a letter to/within Germany:
first name last name
street and number
postal code and city country
2. Postal code usually only specifies the city, not the street or block or anything. Only major cities (or cities that used to be several towns) may have a few different postal codes roughly specifying the area of town.
3. Postal codes, like phone numbers, allow you to identify the region within Germany
4. 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.
5. Within Germany, your letters or parcels will probably be delivered around noon on the next day. On Sundays there is no service however.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #21 In Order To Get Impressive German Skills, You Need...

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- 2 German
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 6 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

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GERMAN

1. Bayer: Und Frank, wie fandest du unseren Betriebsausflug gestern?
2. Jones: Ich fand die Aufführung sehr interessant.
3. Bayer: Ja, ich war auch sehr beeindruckt. So etwas habe ich vorher noch nie gesehen.
4. Jones: Ja, ich auch nicht. Und ich fand den Ausflug wirklich sehr toll. Ich denke, solche Ausflüge sind wirklich eine gute Gelegenheit, um die Kollegen besser kennenzulernen.
5. Bayer: Ja, stimmt. So trifft man sich auch mal außerhalb des Büros.
6. Jones: Was für Ausflüge hast du denn schon mitgemacht?
7. Bayer: Hmm. Also letztes Jahr waren wir in einem Kletterpark.
8. Jones: Kletterpark? Was ist das?
9. Bayer: In einem Kletterpark gibt es Kletterwände oder auch Plattformen in Bäumen.
10. Jones: Man klettert auf Bäume? Oh, damit ich so etwas tue, müsste ich vorher wahrscheinlich viel Alkohol trinken! Haha!
11. Bayer: Haha, Quatsch! So schlimm ist es wirklich nicht. Jeder Teilnehmer ist doch gesichert, damit nichts passieren kann.
12. Jones: Trotzdem, die Plattformen sind sicherlich sehr hoch und ich habe etwas Höhenangst.

CONT'D OVER

13. Bayer: Aber genau dafür gibt es doch diese Kletterparks. Man klettert dort, um die eigenen Ängste zu überwinden!

14. Jones: Also ich finde, um Ängste zu überwinden, muss man nicht hoch klettern! Ich bleibe lieber mit beiden Beinen fest auf dem Boden!

ENGLISH

1. Bayer: And Frank, how'd you find our company outing yesterday?

2. Jones: I found the performance very interesting.

3. Bayer: Yes, I was also quite impressed. I've never seen something like that before.

4. Jones: Yes, me neither. And I found the excursion really quite nice. I think such outings are really a good opportunity to get to know your colleagues better.

5. Bayer: Yeah, that's right. You get to see each other outside the office too.

6. Jones: What other sorts of outings have you done before?

7. Bayer: Hmm. Well, last year we went to a climbing park.

8. Jones: Climbing park? What's that?

9. Bayer: In a climbing park, there are climbing walls, or also platforms in trees.

10. Jones: You climb the trees? To do that, I'd have to drink a lot of alcohol beforehand! Haha!

CONT'D OVER

11. Bayer: Haha, nonsense! It's actually not that bad. Every participant is secured so that nothing can happen.
12. Jones: That aside, the platforms are certainly quite high and I'm a little afraid of heights.
13. Bayer: But that's exactly what these climbing parks are for. You go climbing there in order to overcome your personal fears.
14. Jones: Well, I think to overcome fears, you don't have to climb up something. I'd prefer to keep my feet on the ground!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Aufführung	performance, show	noun; feminine, die	plural: Aufführungen
überwinden	to overcome	verb; ich überwinde, ich überwand, ich habe überwunden	ich überwinde, ich überwand, ich habe überwunden
Baum	tree	noun	plural: Bäume
Angst	fear, anxiety, angst	noun; feminine, die	plural: Ängste
sichern	to secure	verb	weak verb
wahrscheinlich	probably	adverb	
damit	so that, with that	conjunction	
Plattform	platform	noun; feminine, die	plural: Plattformen
Wand	wall	noun	plural: Wände
klettern	to climb	verb	weak verb
außerhalb	outside of, beyond	adverb	
Gelegenheit	opportunity	noun; feminine, die	plural: Gelegenheiten

beeindruckt	impressed	adjective	
Bein	leg	noun	plural: Beine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Warst du gestern auch bei der Aufführung von Shakespeares "Mittsommernachtstraum"?</p> <p>Were you also at the showing of Shakespeare's "Midsummer night's dream" yesterday?</p>	<p>Wenn du Berlin von oben sehen willst, musst du erst deine Höhenangst überwinden.</p> <p>If you want to see Berlin from above, you first have to overcome your fear of heights.</p>
<p>Das rote Eichhörnchen sitzt in einem Baum, eine Nuss essend.</p> <p>The red squirrel is sitting in a tree eating a nut.</p>	<p>Unser Baum trägt viele Früchte dieses Jahr.</p> <p>Our tree is carrying a lot of fruits this year.</p>
<p>Der Koalabär isst Blätter im Baum.</p> <p>The koala is eating leaves in the tree.</p>	<p>Er hatte solch eine Angst vor der Prüfung, dass er in Schweiß ausbrach.</p> <p>He was so scared because of the assessment, that he broke out in a sweat.</p>
<p>Die Kletterer werden mit Seilen gesichert.</p> <p>The climbers will be secured with ropes.</p>	<p>Wahrscheinlich wird es regnen.</p> <p>It will probably rain.</p>
<p>Du solltest jetzt schlafen, damit du morgen bei der Prüfung nicht einschläfst.</p> <p>You should sleep now, so that you don't fall asleep during the exam tomorrow.</p>	<p>Hör auf damit! Das ist nicht lustig!</p> <p>Stop it! It's not funny!</p>

<p>Zwischen den Bäumen im Kletterpark gibt es Plattformen.</p> <p>There are platforms in between the trees in the climbing-park.</p>	<p>Die Bilder an der Wand zeigen seine ganze Familie.</p> <p>The pictures on the wall show his entire family.</p>
<p>Die Marienkäfer klettern den Zweig herunter.</p> <p>The ladybugs are climbing down the branch.</p>	<p>Die Heuschrecken klettern einen Baum hoch.</p> <p>The cicadas are climbing up the tree.</p>
<p>Kommst du aus Berlin oder von außerhalb?</p> <p>Do you come from Berlin or from elsewhere?</p>	<p>Du solltest diese Gelegenheit ergreifen, mal etwas anderes zu sehen.</p> <p>You should take advantage of this opportunity to see something else for a change.</p>
<p>Deine Aufrichtigkeit hat mich schon immer beeindruckt.</p> <p>Your sincerity has always impressed me.</p>	<p>Ich habe einen Krampf in meinem Bein.</p> <p>I got a cramp in my leg.</p>
<p>Ein Hund hat vier Beine.</p> <p>A dog has four legs.</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "mitmachen". If you internalized what we said about the mit- prefix, you can guess that "mitmachen" (literally "to do along") means to participate.
2. Kletterpark and Kletterwand are both based on the verb "klettern" (to climb). Kletterpark is a park where you can go climbing and Kletterwand is a wall designed for climbing.
3. Höhenangst is fear of heights. The word is composed of Höhe (height) and Angst (fear)

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is damit

A lot of times when English uses the infinitive in a sentence, German uses the preposition „zu“. For example

Ich habe keine Lust, nach Hause zu gehen. - I am not in the mood to go home.

Ich bin stolz darauf, einer der besten zu sein. - I am proud of being one of the best.

The rule for these cases is to place the „zu“ immediately in front of the verb. This means that when you have two verbs piled up at the end of your subclause, the „zu“ is placed in the middle: „schlafen zu gehen“ (to go to sleep). And when you have a splitting verb, the „zu“ is inserted between the prefix and the verb stem! For example „mitzukommen“ (to come along), „abzugeben“ (to give away), and so on.

„zu“ is also crucial when using „um“ as a the conjunction. „um zu“ means „in order to“. In today's dialog, we've seen several examples of this.

Man klettert dort, um die eigenen Ängste zu überwinden!

Solche Ausflüge sind wirklich eine gute Gelegenheit, um die Kollegen besser kennenzulernen.

If you want to avoid the tricky „zu“ part, you should use the conjunction „damit“ instead, which is almost the same – it translates to „so that“. With „damit“ you don't need to use „zu“.

- Jeder Teilnehmer ist doch mit einem Seil gesichert, damit nichts passieren kann.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

If you're looking to go climbing in Germany, there are quite a few „Kletterparks“ (climbing parks) available. If you want real mountains though, there are less of those. The only really high mountains can be found in the Alps in the very south of Germany, and Germany only has a very small part of the Alps. Switzerland and Austria are better choices for that, and also German-speaking. While the north of Germany is uniformly flat and at times below sea level, there are several mountain chains in the middle of Germany, and also along its eastern border. The highest German mountain is the Zugspitze, at the German-Austrian border, and the top 7 highest German mountains are all found in the vicinity of the Zugspitze.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #22 No Matter How Stupid, You Must Laugh At German Jokes!

CONTENTS

- 2 German
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 7 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 7 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

22

GERMAN

1. Bayer: Haha, möchtest du einen Witz hören?
2. Jones: Klar.
3. Bayer: Also, Niemand, Doof und Keiner gehen am See spazieren. Da fällt Keiner ins Wasser und Niemand hat es gesehen.
4. Bayer: Doof rennt schnell zur Polizei und sagt „Keiner ist ins Wasser gefallen und Niemand hat’s gesehen!“
5. Bayer: Da fragt der Polizist „Sagen Sie, sind sie doof?“ Sagt Doof „Ja, höchstpersönlich!“ Hahaha!
6. Jones: Hahaha! Der ist ja lustig!
7. Bayer: Ja. Wer auch immer sich den Witz ausgedacht hat, hat einen Preis verdient!
8. Jones: Ja. Man sollte viel öfter Witze erzählen, das ist immer gut für die Stimmung.
9. Bayer: Ja, das stimmt. Kennst du einen guten Witz?
10. Jones: Hm, nein. Ich bin auch nicht gut im Witze erzählen. Egal wie lustig ein Witz ist, wann immer ich einen Witz erzähle, lacht niemand.
11. Bayer: Was? Nein, das kann nicht sein.
12. Jones: Doch das stimmt! Warum auch immer das so ist....
13. Bayer: Na dann erzähl einfach mal einen Witz, dann werden wir ja sehen, ob ich lachen muss.

CONT'D OVER

14. Jones: Hmm, okay. Also. Laufen zwei Sandkörner durch die Wüste. Sagt der eine zum anderen „Du, ich glaube wir werden verfolgt...“
15. Bayer:Hahaha.....
16. Jones: Oh, du musst ja lachen!
17. Bayer: Haha, ja aber nur, weil du Recht hattest! Haha...

ENGLISH

1. Bayer: Haha, would you like to hear a joke?
2. Jones: Okay.
3. Bayer: So, Nobody, Stupid, and No One were walking near the Lake. Then No One fell in the water, and Nobody saw it happen.
4. Bayer: Stupid ran quickly to the police and said "Hey, No One fell into the water, and Nobody saw it happen!"
5. Bayer: So the cop asks "Tell me, are you stupid?", and Stupid says "Yup, that's me!" Hahaha!
6. Jones: Hahaha! That's quite funny!
7. Bayer: Yes. Whoever thought that joke up deserves a prize!
8. Jones: Yeah. People should tell jokes more often, it always lightens the mood.
9. Bayer: Yes, that's true. Do you know a good joke?

CONT'D OVER

10. Jones: Hm, no. I'm not good at telling jokes. No matter how funny the joke is, whenever I tell a joke nobody laughs.
11. Bayer: What? No, that can't be.
12. Jones: No, it's true! For whatever reason...
13. Bayer: Well then just tell a joke and we'll see whether you can make me laugh.
14. Jones: Hmm, okay. So, two grains of sand are walking through the desert. One says to the other: "Hey, I believe we're being followed"
15. Bayer: ...Hahaha...
16. Jones: Oh, I made you laugh!
17. Bayer: Haha, yes, but only because you were right! Haha

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
See	lake	noun	masculine
doof	stupid, silly, lame		
sich ausdenken	to think up	verb	
verdienen	to earn; to deserve	verb	
egal	doesn't matter	adjective	
lachen	to laugh	verb	
Korn	wheat; grain	noun; neuter, das	
Wüste	desert	noun	feminine

verfolgen	to persecute; to chase	verb
persönlich	personal(ly)	adjective / adverb
rennen	to run	verb
fallen	to fall	verb
spazieren	to take a walk	verb
Witz	joke	noun; masculine, der

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Komm, wir machen heute ein Picknick am See!</p> <p>Come, we'll have a picnic at the lake today!</p>	<p>Dieses Outfit sieht wirklich doof aus.</p> <p>This outfit looks really stupid/silly.</p>
<p>Hast du dir schon Fragen für das Interview ausgedacht?</p> <p>Have you already thought of some questions for the interview?</p>	<p>Das hat er nicht verdient!</p> <p>He didn't deserve that!</p>
<p>Er verdient mehr als 100.000 Euro im Jahr.</p> <p>He earns more than 100,000 euros per year.</p>	<p>Es ist mir egal.</p> <p>It doesn't matter to me.</p>
<p>Manche Dinge wollen einfach kein Ende nehmen, egal wie gern man mit ihnen abschließen möchte.</p> <p>Some things just seem to never end, no matter how desperate one wishes to conclude them.</p>	<p>Er ging lachend nach Hause.</p> <p>He went home laughingly.</p>

<p>Das Paar hat über das Bild gelacht.</p> <p>The couple laughed at the picture.</p>	<p>Ein Bett im Kornfeld...</p> <p>A bed in the wheat field...</p>
<p>Ich hätte gern einen halben Laib Vollkornbrot.</p> <p>I would like half a loaf of wholemeal bread.</p>	<p>Ich wollte schon immer auf einem Kamel durch die Wüste reiten!</p> <p>I always wanted to ride a camel across the desert!</p>
<p>Eine Frau sagte einmal, sie habe sich in der Wüste dem Himmel näher gefühlt, als auf den Gipfeln der höchsten Berge.</p> <p>A woman once said, that she felt closer to the sky in the deserts than she did on the summits of the highest mountains.</p>	<p>Im Dritten Reich wurden Andersdenkende verfolgt.</p> <p>In the Third Reich, people who had different opinions were persecuted.</p>
<p>Ich glaube, wir werden verfolgt.</p> <p>I believe we are being followed.</p>	<p>Ich verfolge die Entwicklungen der Bundesliga über das Internet.</p> <p>I keep track of the developments of the federal league via Internet.</p>
<p>Ein persönlicher Anruf ist immer besser als ein Massenbrief.</p> <p>A personal phone call is always better than a mass mailing.</p>	<p>Ich kenne ihn nicht persönlich, aber ich habe von ihm gehört.</p> <p>I don't know him personally, but I heard about him.</p>
<p>Die Rehe rennen weg.</p> <p>The deer are running away.</p>	<p>Wenn der Druck in der Kabine abfällt, fallen automatisch Sauerstoffmasken herunter.</p> <p>If the pressure in the cabin should drop, oxygen masks will automatically fall down.</p>

<p>Der Regen fällt auf die Straße. The rain is falling on the street.</p>	<p>"Es ist noch kein Meister vom Himmel gefallen". Das bedeutet, wenn du gut werden willst, musst du üben. "No one is born a master". That means that if you want to become good, you have to practise.</p>
<p>Ich gehe gerne im Wald spazieren. I like to take a walk in the forest.</p>	<p>Er war beleidigt, dabei wollte ich nur einen Witz machen. He was offended, yet I only wanted to make a joke.</p>

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 im Durchschnitt beide geradeaus 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. See. Be careful with this word because it's actually two words. There is "der See" (the lake), but there's also "die See" (the sea). Confusing, isn't it?
2. Preis is also a confusing German word even though it doesn't change gender. It can mean both „price“ and „prize“, as in an award.
3. Höchstpersönlich means "most personally", but it's like saying "in the flesh" in English.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is "wer auch immer / egal wer"

Wer auch immer sich den Witz ausgedacht hat, hat einen Preis verdient!

"Whoever thought up that joke deserves a prize"

„wer auch immer“ and „egal wer“ are two ways of expressing the same thing - „whoever“. In German, forms like whoever, whenever, wherever, whatsoever and so on are created using the

question words. Take any question word and add „auch immer“.

was auch immer – whatsoever

wann auch immer – whenever

wo auch immer – wherever

warum auch immer – for whatever reason

... and so on.

The „... auch immer“ forms are kind of formal. If you want to sound more colloquial, use „egal“.

Put the question word after „egal“, so you get

egal was

egal wann

egal wo

... and so on.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

- Popular joke topics are blondes, professions, the military, East Frisians (supposed to be stupid), Swabians (supposed to be stingy), people from other regions of Germany, Austrians (supposed to be stupid), Swiss (supposed to be slow), Poles (supposed to steal) and other nationalities.
- Of course there are also jokes that rely on a play on words.
- American joke topics that won't work in Germany are jokes about Jews and jokes about bodily functions. Lawyer jokes are less common here but will probably work out anyway.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #23 On Learning German Effectively

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- 2 German
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 6 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

23

GERMAN

1. Bayer: Sag mal, Frank, wie kommt es eigentlich, dass du so gut Deutsch sprichst?
2. Jones: Ach, ursprünglich hatte ich Deutsch in der Schule, aber der Unterricht war nicht sehr gut. Der Lehrer konnte selbst kaum Deutsch. Ein Jahr später hatte ich alles verlernt.
3. Bayer: Aber jetzt sprichst du gut Deutsch...
4. Jones: Ja. Vor zwei Jahren habe ich Deutsch für mich wiederentdeckt. Ich höre gerne deutsche Musik und dachte, es ist eigentlich schade, dass ich sie nicht verstehen kann.
5. Bayer: Es gibt doch Leute, die die Texte übersetzen.
6. Jones: Es ist nicht das Gleiche. Jedenfalls habe ich dann angefangen, hier und da ein bisschen Deutsch zu lernen, mit Podcasts und Internetseiten...
7. Jones: Dann musste ich vor einem halben Jahr umziehen und ich dachte mir, dass ich eigentlich gerne in Europa leben würde, zumindest ein Jahr oder zwei.
8. Jones: Also habe ich intensiver Deutsch gelernt und mich nach einer Arbeitsstelle und einer Wohnung in Deutschland umgeschaut. Freunde in München haben mir geholfen.
9. Bayer: Und deshalb bist du jetzt hier. Interessant!
10. Jones: Ja, und mir gefällt es hier.
11. Bayer: Das freut mich. Außerdem bist du hier ganz von Deutsch umgeben, da kannst du es nicht mehr verlernen.

CONT'D OVER

12. Jones: Haha, ja, das stimmt.

ENGLISH

1. Bayer: Say, Frank, how did you come to speak such good German?

2. Jones: Oh, originally I took German in school, but the class wasn't very good. Even the teacher could barely speak German. A year later I'd forgotten it all.

3. Bayer: But now you speak German so well...

4. Jones: Yes, two years ago I rediscovered German. I liked to listen to German music, and thought it's really too bad that I can't understand it that well.

5. Bayer: But there are people who translate the lyrics.

6. Jones: It's not the same. In any case, I started to learn a bit of German here and there, with podcasts and web sites...

7. Jones: Then a half year ago I had to move, and I thought to myself that it'd actually be nice to live in Europe, at least for a year or two.

8. Jones: So I studied German more intensely, and looked around for a job and an apartment in Germany. Some friends in Munich helped me out.

9. Bayer: And now you're here. Interesting!

10. Jones: Yeah, and I like it here.

CONT'D OVER

11. Bayer: I'm glad. Besides, here you're completely surrounded by German, so you can't forget it anymore.
12. Jones: Haha, yes, that's true.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
ursprünglich	original(ly), initial(ly)	adjective / adverb	
umgeben	to surround	verb	es umgibt, es umgab, es hat umgeben
sich umschauen	to look around, look out for	verb	„um“ splits off
intensiv	intensive		
zumindest	at least	adverb	
umziehen	to move to another home	verb	"um" splits off
Seite	side	noun, feminine, die	feminine
übersetzen	to translate	verb	the "über" does NOT split off, weak verb
verlernen	to forget what you had learned	verb	weak verb
Lehrer	teacher	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same; feminine: Lehrerin
Unterricht	instruction, class	noun; masculine, der	always singular
außerdem	besides	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ursprünglich war dieses Gebiet ein Sumpf.</p> <p>Originally, this area was a swamp.</p>	<p>Beantworten Sie bitte meine ursprüngliche Frage.</p> <p>Please answer my original question.</p>
<p>Ein dichter Wald umgibt sein Haus.</p> <p>A thick forest surrounds his house.</p>	<p>Ich schaue mich nur um.</p> <p>I am only looking around.</p>
<p>Die schwarze Krähe schaut sich um nach etwas Fressbarem.</p> <p>The black crow is looking for something to eat.</p>	<p>Der Hahn kräht, während er sich umschaut.</p> <p>The rooster crows while it glances around.</p>
<p>Dieser Professor bietet auch die Vorlesung "Intensivkurs Deutsche Literaturgeschichte" an.</p> <p>This professor is also offering the lecture "Intensive course of German literature history".</p>	<p>Zumindest hat er mich vorher gefragt.</p> <p>At least he asked me beforehand.</p>
<p>Im Juni ziehe ich nach Dresden um.</p> <p>In June I will move to Dresden.</p>	<p>Du musst auf der rechten Seite fahren.</p> <p>You have to drive on the right side.</p>
<p>Die Seiten dieses Buches sind total verklebt.</p> <p>The pages of this books are sticking together really hard.</p>	<p>Es gibt immer zwei Seiten.</p> <p>There are always two sides.</p>
<p>Kannst du diesen Text für mich übersetzen?</p> <p>Can you translate this text for me?</p>	<p>Ich habe in der Schule Russisch gelernt, aber das ist 40 Jahre her und ich habe alles wieder verlernt.</p> <p>I learned Russian at school, but that was 40 years ago and I've forgotten everything.</p>

<p>Ich arbeite als Lehrer.</p> <p>I work as a teacher.</p>	<p>Der Lehrer schrieb die Lösung an die Tafel.</p> <p>The teacher wrote the solution on the blackboard.</p>
<p>Der Unterricht ist langweilig - immer sollen wir lernen!</p> <p>Class is boring - we're always supposed to learn!</p>	<p>Muttersprachler bietet günstigen Französischunterricht.</p> <p>Native speaker offers cheap French lessons.</p>

Spielst du mit Fußball? - Nein, ich habe zu viel zu tun, und außerdem ist es kalt draußen.

Will you play soccer with us? - No, I have too much to do, and besides, it's cold outside.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Wie kommt es..? = How come...? How is it possible...?
2. wiederentdecken (to rediscover) is based on „entdecken“ (to discover) of course. The wieder- prefix fulfills the same role as the English re-, that is, it's like saying „again“.
3. „hier und da“ is the same as the English expression „here and there“. „Ich habe hier und da ein bisschen Deutsch gelernt“ = „I learned some German here and there“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Verb Prefixes, Part 2
Außerdem bist du hier ganz von Deutsch umgeben
"Besides, here you're totally surrounded by German"

Today we shall have a look at more verb prefixes. We already covered some in the Lower Intermediate lesson 25, but here are some more. Let's go over them one by one.

ent- implies that something is taken away or removed. For example, in „entdecken“, the „Decke“ (cover) is taken away, so you get „discover“. „entdecken“ is „discover“. We also already

had „entfernen“ (to remove), where the notion of „fern“ (far) is combined with the idea of to remove. For another example, there's „entnehmen“, to take and remove, so „to take out“.

ver- has a negative connotation, though the exact meaning of ver- words can't be guessed. In this lesson we saw „verlernen“ (to forget what you learned, „unlearn“). Earlier we had „sich verwählen“ (to misdial), „verhüllen“ (to cover up), „verrückt“ (mad) and „verdreckt“ (dirtied) amongst others.

There are two types of um-, one that splits off and one that doesn't. The one that doesn't split off means „around“. This is the origin of „umgeben“ (to surround), „Umleitung“ (diversion route)

and „umFAHren“ (to drive around). The um- that does split off usually means to do something differently, as in „Umfahren“ (to knock over by car), „umziehen“ (to move to another home) or „umdenken“ (to rethink).

Finally, we should look at über-. This prefix can mean being overly much or better, like when English speakers use „über“, or it can also be the equivalent of English „over“, „trans-“ or „across“. Example words are „übertreiben“ (exaggerate), „überlegen“ (superior OR to ponder), „überwinden“ (to overcome) and „übersetzen“ (to translate).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Both Chuck and Judith have learned several foreign languages, so here are some language-learning tips for you.

1. Find materials that you like. If you dread working with your materials, you won't learn much.
2. No matter how much time you're supposed to spend on German (if a teacher or a program tells you how much), spend as much time on it as you can. Even when you're doing something else, you could have German podcasts or our dialogs or German radio on in the background. It won't be as effective as if you actually paid attention, but you'll still wind up learning some words or a better pronunciation.
3. If given the choice, it's better to spend a little time on German every day rather than a lot of time on German once a week. Even if you can only study German every other day for 15 minutes, that's still better than studying it once a week for an hour.
4. Activate idle time. Equip your iPod with lots of German materials and listen to them while commuting, while cooking, while washing dishes, while waiting in line... Also, see if you can fit in 5 minutes of German after lunch and 5 minutes of German before going to bed.

5. Experiment with different input sources. Many people learn more effectively when they can hear and see something at the same time, so try to get transcripts for things that would otherwise be audio-only. You could also experiment with hearing something in German while reading the translation, or the other way round. See what works for you.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #24 German Careers

CONTENTS

- 2 German
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 6 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

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GERMAN

1. Bayer: Hmm, wusstest du, dass Stefan Raab Metzger war und Jura studiert hat, bevor er zum Fernsehen gegangen ist?
2. Jones: Stefan Raab? Das ist dieser Moderator oder?
3. Bayer: Ja genau. Er hat fünf Semester lang Jura studiert. Das hätte ich nicht gedacht.
4. Jones: Was hast du denn studiert?
5. Bayer: Ich habe zuerst ein Jahr lang Jura studiert, habe dann aber zu BWL gewechselt. Und du?
6. Jones: Ich habe Business studiert. Ich denke, das ist so wie BWL oder?
7. Bayer: Ja, ich glaube schon.
8. Jones: Hattest du früher einen Traum, was du mal werden wolltest?
9. Bayer: Hmm. Als ich ganz klein war, wollte ich gerne Tierärztin werden. Später wollte ich dann Anwältin werden, aber das Jura-Studium hat mir nicht gefallen. Mit meinem Beruf jetzt bin ich ganz zufrieden. Und du, was wolltest du mal werden?
10. Jones: Haha, als kleiner Junge wollte ich Müllmann werden. Ich fand das Müllauto so toll...
11. Bayer: Haha, wie lustig!
12. Jones: Und dann wollte ich Pilot werden.
13. Bayer: Hmm, Pilot ist ein anstrengender Beruf glaube ich.

CONT'D OVER

14. Jones: Ja. Außerdem bin ich zu klein für den Beruf. Aber seit drei Jahren nehme ich Flugunterricht und möchte eine private Fluglizenz machen.
15. Bayer: Wow. Das ist ja toll!
16. Jones: Ja, dann fliege ich zwar keine großen Flugzeuge, aber wenigstens bin ich ein Pilot!

ENGLISH

1. Bayer: Hmm, did you know that Stefan Raab was a butcher and had studied law, before he went on TV?
2. Jones: Stefan Raab? That's that TV host, right?
3. Bayer: Yes, exactly. He studied Law for 5 semesters. I wouldn't have thought that.
4. Jones: So what did you study?
5. Bayer: First I studied Law for a year, but then changed to Business. And you?
6. Jones: I studied Business. I think that's like BWL, right?
7. Bayer: Yeah, I think so.
8. Jones: What did you want to be when you grew up?

CONT'D OVER

9. Bayer: Hmm, when I was really little, I really wanted to be a veterinarian. Later I wanted to be a lawyer, but I didn't really like law school. I'm quite satisfied with my current profession. And you? What did you want to be?
10. Jones: Haha, as a little boy I wanted to be a garbage man. I thought the garbage truck was so cool...
11. Bayer: Haha, how funny!
12. Jones: And then I wanted to be a pilot.
13. Bayer: Hmm, I think being a pilot is quite strenuous.
14. Jones: Yeah. Besides that, I'm too short for the job. But for 3 years I've been taking flying lessons and I'd like to get a private pilot's license.
15. Bayer: Wow, that's really cool!
16. Jones: Yeah, then even though I won't be flying any huge planes, at least I'll be a pilot!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Metzger	butcher	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same
wenigstens	at least	adverb	
Lizenz	license	noun; feminine, die	plural: Lizenzen
Flugzeug	airplane	noun	plural: Flugzeuge
anstrengend	taxing, tiring		
Müll	garbage	noun; masculine, der	no plural

Beruf	profession	noun; masculine, der	plural: Berufe
Studium	study	noun; neuter, das	plural: Studien
Anwältin	female lawyer	noun; feminine, die	plural: Anwältinnen; male: Anwalt
Traum	dream	noun; masculine, der	plural: Träume
Betriebswirtschaftslehre = BWL	management studies, business	noun; feminine, die	only used singular
studieren	to study	verb; only used for university or college study. All other forms of study use the verb "lernen" (to learn); weak verb	only used for university or college study. All other forms of study use the verb "lernen" (to learn). Weak verb.
Jura	law (as a study subject)	noun	used without article
zwar	indeed, in fact	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Der Techniker zerlegte das Flugzeug in seine Einzelteile.</p> <p>The technician dismantled the plane into its individual parts.</p>	<p>Spürt man, wenn das Flugzeug abhebt?</p> <p>Does one feel when the plane takes off?</p>
<p>Der Marsch war sehr anstrengend, und danach mussten wir noch unser Zelt aufschlagen.</p> <p>The march was very tiring, and after that we still had to pitch our tent.</p>	<p>Jeder, der hier wohnt, muss die Müllgebühr bezahlen.</p> <p>Everybody living here has to pay the garbage fee.</p>

<p>Mein Studium der Sozialwissenschaften gibt mir die nötigen Qualifikationen.</p> <p>My study of the social sciences gives me the necessary qualifications.</p>	<p>Mein Anwalt benötigt noch eine Unterschrift.</p> <p>My lawyer still needs a signature.</p>
<p>Ich studiere Betriebswirtschaft.</p> <p>I study business management.</p>	<p>Er ist zwar nicht schlau, aber so dumm ist er auch nicht!</p> <p>He isn't smart, but he's not that stupid either!</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Tierarzt = "animal doctor" = veterinary
2. Müllmann = garbageman; Müllauto = garbage truck
3. der Flug = flight; derived from that we get "Flugunterricht" (flying lessons), "Fluglizenz" (pilot's license) and "Flugzeug" (flying thing = aircraft)

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is seit ... Jahren / ... Jahre lang

Er hat 5 Semester lang Jura studiert.

"He studied Law for 5 semesters."

Let's talk about another set of expressions that is difficult to master for English speakers. The question is how to translate „for X years“. In German, there are two possible translations, and they can NOT be used interchangeably.

One is „seit X Jahren“. This means that you started in the past and you're still doing it. „seit“ literally translates to „since“, so that's the reason a lot of Germans will say „since 3 years“ instead of „for three years“. Seit drei Jahren.

The other possibility is „X Jahre lang“. This means that you did something for three years, but then you stopped or at least interrupted what you were doing. For example, you could say that you went to university „3 Jahre lang“. But if you're still at university, you have to say „seit 3 Jahren“. In English, this difference is usually expressed by the tense. The ongoing 3 years are combined with the present perfect tense and the stopped 3 years are combined with the past

tense. In German, you also use the past tense for the latter or the perfect tense in spoken German... but you use the regular present tense rather than the Perfekt for the ongoing three years.

"I have lived here for three years" - Ich lebe hier seit drei Jahren.

"I lived in Germany for three years" - Ich habe drei Jahre lang in Deutschland gelebt.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Time distribution in a German life

1. 4 years of primary school, starting at the age of 6 or 7
2. at least 6 and up to 9 years of secondary school, depending on the school type, possibly even longer if you have to repeat a year
3. 2 or 3 years at a trade school or at least 3 years at a university to get a Bachelor's degree, usually more because you make your own time table for most degrees and it will take longer. It might also take 2 or more years if you want to get a Master's degree afterwards.
4. all this means that if you're a university graduate, you only enter the work force at the age of 23 or 24, in the very best of cases. There are plenty of university graduates only starting to work at the age of 30 or similar.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #25 German Holidays

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- 7 Cultural Insight

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GERMAN

1. Jones: So das war's! Ich wünsch Ihnen alles Gute, Frau Bayer!
2. Bayer: Was?! Haben Sie gekündigt?
3. Jones: Nein, keine Sorge. Ich habe nicht gekündigt. Ich habe ab morgen Urlaub.
4. Bayer: Ach so. Mensch, Sie haben mich aber erschreckt! Ich dachte schon, wir arbeiten hier Tag für Tag zusammen und Sie erzählen mir nicht, dass Sie hier aufhören!
5. Jones: Oh, tut mir leid. Das wollte ich nicht. Ich freue mich nur so, weil ich ab morgen im Urlaub bin!
6. Bayer: Wohin fahren Sie denn?
7. Jones: Ich werde zwei Wochen durch Europa reisen und mir verschiedene Städte angucken. Schritt für Schritt durch Europa also.
8. Bayer: Wow, das hört sich interessant an. Und welche Städte besuchen Sie?
9. Jones: Also zuerst fliege ich nach Amsterdam und Paris. Danach geht es noch nach Wien und Prag und dann wieder zurück nach Berlin.
10. Bayer: Wow, das ist ja eine tolle Route! Dann sehen Sie nach und nach viele tolle Städte.
11. Jones: Ja, ich hoffe doch, dass sie toll sind. Waren Sie schon in einer dieser Städte?
12. Bayer: Ich war in Amsterdam, in Wien und in Paris. Aber ich habe die Städte einzeln besucht, eine nach der anderen.

CONT'D OVER

13. Jones: Und welche Stadt fanden Sie am besten?
14. Bayer: Hmm, Paris!
15. Jones: Aah, die Stadt der Liebe...haha....
16. Bayer: Haha, ja!

ENGLISH

1. Jones: So that's it! I wish you all the best, Mrs. Bayer!
2. Bayer: What?! Did you quit?
3. Jones: No, don't worry. I didn't quit. I have vacation starting tomorrow.
4. Bayer: Oh. Man, you scared me! I thought, we work here together day by day, and you didn't tell me that you quit!
5. Jones: Oh, sorry. I didn't want that. I'm just looking forward to being on vacation tomorrow!
6. Bayer: So, where are you going?
7. Jones: I'm travelling for two weeks through Europe to check out various cities. So step by step through Europe.
8. Bayer: Wow, that sounds interesting. And which cities are you visiting?
9. Jones: First I'm flying to Amsterdam and Paris. After that, continuing to Vienna and Prague, and then back to Berlin.

CONT'D OVER

10. Bayer: Wow, that's quite a nice route! Bit by bit, you'll see a lot of cool cities.
11. Jones: Yeah, I hope so. Have you been to any of those cities?
12. Bayer: I've been to Amsterdam, Vienna, and Paris. But I visited them each individually, not one after the other.
13. Jones: And which city did you like the best?
14. Bayer: Hmm, Paris!
15. Jones: Aaah, the city of love, haha...
16. Bayer: Haha, yeah!

INFORMAL GERMAN

1. Jones: So, das war's. Ich wünsche dir alles Gute.
2. Bayer: Was? Hast du gekündigt?
3. Jones: Nein, keine Sorge. Ich habe nicht gekündigt. Ich habe ab morgen Urlaub.
4. Bayer: Achso. Mensch, du hast mich aber erschreckt! Ich dachte schon, wir arbeiten hier Tag für Tag zusammen und du erzählst mir nicht, dass du hier aufhörst.
5. Jones: Oh tut mir leid, das wollte ich nicht. Ich freue mich nur so, weil ich ab morgen im Urlaub bin.
6. Bayer: Wohin fährst du denn?

CONT'D OVER

7. Jones: Ich werde zwei Wochen durch Europa reisen und mir verschiedene Städte angucken. Schritt für Schritt durch Europa also.
8. Bayer: Wow, das hört sich interessant an. Und welche Städte besuchst du?
9. Jones: Also, zuerst fliege ich nach Amsterdam und Paris. Danach geht es noch nach Wien und Prag und dann wieder zurück nach Berlin.
10. Bayer: Wow, das ist ja eine tolle Route. Dann siehst du nach und nach viele tolle Städte.
11. Jones: Ja, ich hoffe doch, dass sie toll sind. Warst du schon in einer dieser Städte?
12. Bayer: Ich war in Amsterdam, in Wien und in Paris. Aber ich habe die Städte einzeln besucht. Eine nach der anderen.
13. Jones: Und welche Stadt fandest du am besten?
14. Bayer: Paris.
15. Jones: Ah, die Stadt der Liebe.
16. Bayer: Ja.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Urlaub	vacation	noun; masculine, der	
erschrecken	to frighten, scare	verb	
aufhören	to stop	verb	
Schritt	step (foot step)	noun; masculine, der	

danach	afterwards, after	conjunction, preposition	
Route	route	noun; feminine, die	
nach und nach	by and by, bit by bit	expression	
einzel	single, individually, seperately	adjective / adverb	
Liebe	love	noun; feminine, die	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ich werde mich um Ihre Blumen kümmern, wenn Sie im Urlaub sind.</p> <p>I will take care of your flowers while you're on holidays.</p>	<p>Der Verlust meiner Urlaubsfotos ist wirklich ärgerlich.</p> <p>The loss of my holiday pictures is really aggravating.</p>
<p>Hör auf, deine Schwester zu ärgern!</p> <p>Stop annoying your sister!</p>	<p>Ich muss die Arbeit beenden, danach kann ich nach Hause gehen.</p> <p>I have to finish the work, after that I can go home.</p>
<p>Kurz danach verstummte die Musik und alle schauten zur Bühne.</p> <p>Shortly afterwards the music fell silent and everybody looked towards the stage.</p>	<p>Ich finde, Liebe ist das Wichtigste im Leben.</p> <p>I think love is the most important thing in life.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Alles Gute! (roughly the same as 'Wish you all the best') is a general thing you can say at birthdays, weddings, wedding anniversaries and so on. If you don't know the specific expression that an occasion calls for, "Alles Gute" is never wrong.
2. The "denn" in "Wohin fahren Sie denn?" does NOT mean "then" in this case. Rather, I'd

translate it as "so" - "So where are you going?". It's an invitation to say more.

3. „Eine nach der anderen“ means „one after the other“. It's almost like in English, except you have to adjust this expression for the gender of the implied noun. So with cities (die Stadt) you'd indeed say „eine nach der anderen“, but for men you'd have to say „einer nach dem anderen“ and for things you'd have to say „eins nach dem anderen“. „eins nach dem anderen“ is also an idiom, meaning that people should slow down and finish one thing first.

GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is Tag für Tag, Schritt für Schritt, nach und nach etc.
Schritt für Schritt durch Europa
"Step by step through Europe"**

Today let's look at how to express graduality in German. Things like „day by day“, „month after month“, „year after year“...

In most cases, German uses the word „für“ to connect words this way. Tag für Tag, Woche für Woche, Monat für Monat, Jahr für Jahr.

This also applies to the expression „Schritt für Schritt“ (step by step).

However, it does not apply to „nach und nach“. „nach und nach“ is a set expression meaning „by and by“ or „bit by bit“, and as you heard, this is irregular because there's an „und“ in the middle - „nach und nach“.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Germans on vacation

- Mallorca (island in the mediterranean sea) is the most popular holiday destination for those craving sun and booze
- Northern Italy or the Garda lake are also popular for that
- „Balkonien“ („balconia“) is what you call the holiday destination of people who can't afford to go anywhere but do as if they were tourists in their own city

- Germans like to travel abroad, even outside the EU if they can afford to. A situation like in the USA, where the majority of the population doesn't even have a passport, is unimaginable.
- one habit of German tourists is to „claim“ patches on the beach or the chairs by putting a towel out there early in the morning and then leave for breakfast or whatever
- another characteristic is that they can't cope with „relaxed“ schedules, such as people or public transport being more than twenty minutes late on average



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- 2 Finding Pride in Germany!
- 3 Everyone's Lighter in Germany
- 4 Signing a Contract: German Contract Questions
- 5 If We Had Told You Sooner, You Wouldn't Have Made This Mistake in Germany!
- 6 Sometime, Somehow, Somewhere, Somebody is Going to Watch a German Movie Something Like This!
- 7 Nothing is Ever Eerie in German Movies!
- 8 What Do You Know About the Singing Hippo in Germany?
- 9 Don't You Need to Review Your German Soon?
- 10 If You Don't Start Now, It Soon Will Have Been Too Late to Study German!
- 11 Coming And Going, There and Back in Germany
- 12 Office Gossip in German
- 13 Cute German Actors Solving An Enigma
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- 16 Is Your German Kaputt?
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- 18 Sushi Which Improves Your German
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- 20 You Have A Package From Germany!
- 21 In Order To Get Impressive German Skills, You Need...
- 22 No Matter How Stupid, You Must Laugh At German Jokes!
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