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German

Upper Beginner



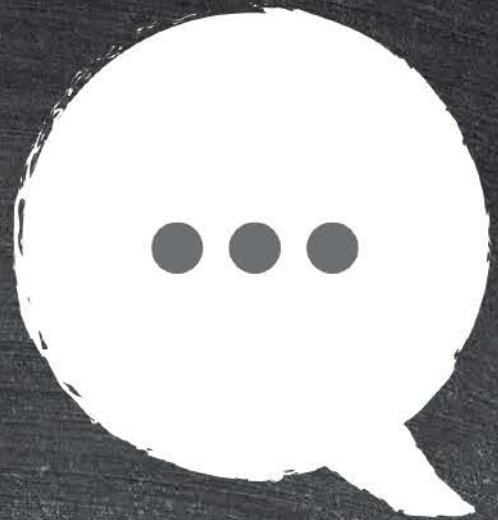
Unabridged Edition

innovative LANGUAGE

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LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #1

The Police are Looking for You!

CONTENTS

- 2 Formal German
- 2 English
- 3 Informal German
- 4 English
- 5 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 7 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

#1

FORMAL GERMAN

1. P: Guten Tag!
2. M: Guten Tag!
3. P: Wie ist Ihr Name?
4. M: Maria Müller.
5. P: Alter?
6. M: Dreißig.
7. P: Nationalität?
8. M: Deutsch.
9. P: Wohnort?
10. M: Berlin.
11. P: Geburtsort? Auch Berlin?
12. M: Nein, Essen.

ENGLISH

1. P: Good day!
2. M: Good day!

CONT'D OVER

3. P: What is your name? (literally): how is your name?)
4. M: Maria Müller.
5. P: Age?
6. M: 30.
7. P: Nationality?
8. M: German.
9. P: Place of residence?
10. M: Berlin.
11. P: Place of birth? Berlin too?
12. M: No, Essen.

INFORMAL GERMAN

1. P: Hallo!
2. M: Hallo!
3. P: Wie ist dein Name?
4. M: Maria Müller.
5. P: Alter?

CONT'D OVER

6. M: Dreißig.
7. P: Nationalität?
8. M: Deutsch.
9. P: Wohnort?
10. M: Berlin.
11. P: Geburtsort? Auch Berlin?
12. M: Nein, Essen.

ENGLISH

1. P: Good day!
2. M: Good day!
3. P: What is your name? (literally: how is your name?)
4. M: Maria Müller.
5. P: Age?
6. M: 30.
7. P: Nationality?
8. M: German.

CONT'D OVER

9. P: Place of residence?
10. M: Berlin.
11. P: Place of birth? Berlin too?
12. M: No, Essen.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
guten Tag	good day	expression	
Geburt	birth	noun	feminine
Ort	place	noun	masculine (der)
Nationalität	nationality	noun; feminine, die	feminine
Alter	age	noun; neuter, das	masculine, neuter
Name	name	noun	masculine (der)
Ihr	your (formal)	possessive pronoun	
ist	is	conjugated verb	
nein	no	particle	
auch	also, too	adverb	
wohnen	to live, to inhabit	verb	
Deutsch	German language	noun	neutral (das)
wie	how	interrogative	
ja	yes	particle	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Guten Tag Herr Dr. Heinrich. Good day doctor Heinrich.	Ich wünsche Ihnen einen guten Tag! Have a good day!
Guten Tag Herr Dr. Heinrich. Good day doctor Heinrich.	Die Geburt meines Sohnes wird am 5. Dezember erwartet. The birth of my son is to be expected on December 5th.
Die Geburt meiner kleinen Schwester war sehr aufregend für mich. The birth of my little sister was very exciting for me.	Herzlichen Glückwunsch zum Geburtstag. Happy Birthday.
An welchem Ort spielt die Geschichte? Where (in what location) is the story set?	Was ist Ihre Nationalität? What nationality are you?
Frag Frauen nie nach dem Alter! Don't ever ask women for their age!	Er starb im Alter von 45 Jahren an einem Herzinfarkt. He died of a heart attack at the age of 45.
Mein Name ist Alisa. My name is Alisa.	Wie ist dein Name? What's your name?
Mein Name ist Lisa. My name is Lisa.	Wie ist Ihre E-Mail Adresse? What is your e-mail address?
Was ist das für ein Kuchen? What is that for a cake?	Sie ist süß. She is cute.
Das ist Lisa. That's Lisa.	Nein, ich bin nicht aus Köln. No, I am not from Cologne.

Thomas kommt auch. Thomas is coming, too.	Ich wohne nicht in Berlin. I don't live in Berlin.
Deutsch ist eine interessante Sprache. German is an interesting language.	Wie teuer sind die Äpfel? How much are the apples?
Wie geht es Ihnen heute? How are you today?	Na schön, du hast ja Recht. Fair enough, you're right. (In the sense of "I'm giving in.")
Ja, das stimmt. Yes, that's right.	

GRAMMAR

German is a Germanic language, which means it has the same origin as English, Dutch, Danish, Swedish and the like. This also means that it is comparatively easy to learn if you know one of these languages. You will recognize a lot of words and expressions, and even some of the structures are similar. However, English has evolved independantly, too, and grown simpler in some respects, so that there are parts of German grammar that will be foreign to you.

One such thing is the gender of nouns. Just like in French and Spanish, every German noun has a gender and the definite article changes depending on the gender. Nouns can be masculine (male), feminine (female) or neuter (neutral). When you have a masculine noun, „the" is translated as „der"; for feminine nouns it's „die" and for neuter nouns it's „das". Obviously *der Mann* (the man) is masculine, *die Frau* (the woman) is feminine and *das Kind* (the child) is neuter. However, very often these genders are assigned randomly and you will have to learn them by heart. For this reason, whenever you learn a noun, GermanPod101 will tell you the gender as well. So in the vocabulary section of each lesson, whenever we introduce a new noun, we'll say it with the article.

German nouns are special, that's also why they are always spelled with a capital letter. In German, you can combine noun after noun after noun to form really long, detailed descriptions. In this case, nouns are actually written together, as one long string of a word. One example that made it into English is „kindergarten". This is a combination of *Kinder*

(children) and *Garten* (garden). A garden for children. As you can see, those long German nouns are not scary anymore if you understand the parts. And as an additional relief, you don't need to learn the gender of them either - the entire noun will always have the same gender as the last part. So, in this case, the last part is *der Garten*, masculine, and the entire word will be masculine as well: *der Kindergarten*.

In today's dialog, there were two compound nouns: *Wohn-ort* (living-place) and *Geburts-ort* (birth-place). *Wohn-ort* is actually a combination of a verb and a noun, because *wohnen* (to live/inhabit) is a verb. *Geburtsort* is a combination of *Geburt* (birth) and *Ort* (place), with an additional s in between for no apparent reason. You will often see this extra s. Think of it as glue to keep the two words together.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Guten Tag! - Good day, a formal greeting used throughout the day

Guten Morgen! - Good morning, only until 12pm maximum

Guten Abend! - Good evening, starting at about 6pm

Gute Nacht! - Good night, not a greeting but a farewell at night

Auf Wiedersehen! - Goodbye, formal and used any time

This is all very formal. When you're talking informally, you should use a different kind of language. Say „Hallo" or „Hi" then for greeting, and „Tschüss" for saying goodbye. There are also other variations, depending on the region and personal style.

This whole issue of formal vs. informal is very important in Germany. People don't switch to informal language as easily, and you're expected to address them as *Herr* (Mr.) so-and-so or *Frau* (Mrs.) so-and-so until they tell you otherwise. In German, there are also two different words for „you": it's „du" when you are talking informally and „Sie" when you're talking formally. Accordingly, the conjugation changes, too. We will get back to this in the next lesson.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #2

What's Your Business Here?

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- 2 German
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
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- 6 Cultural Insight

#2

GERMAN

1. P: Seit wann wohnen Sie in Berlin?
2. M: Seit zwei Jahren. Ich arbeite hier.
3. P: Als was arbeiten Sie?
4. M: Ich arbeite als Schriftstellerin.
5. P: Schriftsteller, so so... Reicht das Geld?
6. M: Ja.
7. P: Okay... Gehen Sie oft an die Spree?
8. M: Ja.
9. P: Auch gestern?
10. M: Ja, auch gestern.

ENGLISH

1. P: Since when do you live in Berlin?
2. M: For two years. I work here.
3. P: As what do you work?
4. M: I work as a writer.

CONT'D OVER

5. P: A writer, aha... Is the money enough?
6. M: Yes.
7. P: Okay... Do you often go to the Spree River?
8. M: Yes.
9. P: Yesterday too?
10. M: Yes, yesterday too.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Sie	you (formal)	personal pronoun	
es reicht	it is enough	expression	
Schriftsteller	writer	noun; masculine, der	masculine; plural is the same; female: die Schriftstellerin
seit wann	since when, for how much time	question word	
gestern	yesterday	noun	
oft	often	adverb	Do pronounce every letter, unlike in English!
gehen	to go, to walk	verb	not used for "going by car" which would be "(Auto) fahren"
Geld	money	noun	neuter
was	what	pronoun	

als	as	preposition; same as in English	same as in English
hier	here	adverb	
arbeiten	to work	verb	
ich	I	personal pronoun	
Jahr	year	noun	neuter; plural: Jahre
an	at, to	preposition	used with Dative (location) or Accusative (direction)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Haben Sie eine andere Kreditkarte? Do you have another credit card?	Sprechen Sie Englisch? Do you speak English?
Sie sind Herr Smith You are Mr Smith.	Es reicht, wenn du um 6 Uhr da bist. It's enough if you're there at 6.
Schriftsteller schreiben Bücher. Writers write books.	Seit wann wohnen Sie zusammen? Since when do you live together?
Übrigens: Ich habe gestern Peter getroffen. By the way: I met Peter yesterday.	Ich komme oft hierhin. I often come here.
Ich gehe nach Amerika. I go to America.	Lass uns ins Kino gehen. Let's go to the movies.
Ich kriege noch Geld von dir! You still owe me money!	Er gibt viel Geld aus. He spends a lot of money.

Was ist das? What is this?	Ich arbeite als Lehrer. I work as a teacher.
Was machst du als Linguist? What do you do as a linguist?	Sie sind hier. You are here./ They are here.
Ich trinke immer Kaffee, wenn ich arbeite. I always drink coffee when I work.	Bis wann arbeitest du heute? Till when are you working today?
Ich arbeite als Lehrer. I work as a teacher.	Ich hatte letzte Woche so viel zu tun! I was so busy last week!
Ich bin Lisa. I am Lisa.	Ich bin 18 Jahre alt. I'm 18 years old.
Dieses Gebäude ist 100 Jahre alt. This building is 100 years old.	Am Rhein sieht man immer viele Schiffe. At the river Rhine you always see many ships.
Ich gehe oft an den Fluss. I often go to the river.	

GRAMMAR

In German, just like in Spanish, French, Russian and many other languages, verbs change depending on who you're talking about, whether it's I, you, he, we, they, or the like. This is called conjugation. In this lesson, we're going to look at just a small part of the present tense conjugation for regular verbs.

The regular verbs we've seen so far are “wohnen” (to live/inhabit), “arbeiten” (to work) and “gehen” (to go). Notice that the infinitive (to live, to work, to go) always ends in -en. This is

how you can recognize it in German. The „Sie“ form, the formal way of addressing people, also ends like in -en, so it's easy. Sie wohnen, Sie arbeiten, Sie gehen... This is actually the same as the „they“ form, so „they work“ would also be „sie arbeiten“. To make the distinction, the formal you is always capitalized in writing.

We've also seen the first person singular of verbs, the „ich“ form, the English „I“: for this one, you have to take off the final -n of the verb. So „wohnen“ becomes „ich wohne“. „arbeiten“ becomes „ich arbeite“. And „gehen“ becomes? ... ich gehe!

Note that „ich gehe“ can be translated as either „I go“ or „I am going“. In German, we don't distinguish the two.

The hard part about German verbs is not so much the conjugation but rather the position they take in a sentence. It's different than in English, so it takes some getting used to. In German, the verb will always come in second position. If the sentence is „I am leaving tomorrow“, the German word order is exactly the same. But if the sentence is „Tomorrow I am leaving“, then Germans will say the equivalent of „Tomorrow leave I“, because the verb has to come in second position. This has the effect that the subject of the sentence, I, actually only comes after the verb.

In questions, the word order of subject and verb is always inverted. For yes/no questions you start with the verb: „Wohnen Sie in Berlin?“ (Do you live in Berlin?) and for other questions the verb comes right after the question word: „Wo wohnen Sie?“ (Where do you live?).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Money is a sore issue in Germany. You will find that people don't readily talk about it – no matter whether they are rich or poor. It is inconceivable to ask somebody how much he earns. „Reicht das Geld?“, do you earn enough, is about the closest you can go. Don't ask about the income of other family members either. In surveys, where the household income has a big role, companies usually try to avoid this dilemma by giving a choice of wide income brackets – and still rich people might claim to be poor, or vice versa. It's not chic to show that you're rich.

Also you should avoid asking how much something cost. It's not quite as taboo as asking about somebody's income, but still it's not nice.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #3

Haven't You Read my Books?

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- 2 Formal German
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#3

FORMAL GERMAN

1. P: Warum gehen Sie an die Spree?
2. M: Ich gehe an die Spree, weil ich Inspiration für meine Bücher suche.
3. P: Was für Bücher schreiben Sie?
4. M: Kennen Sie meine Bücher nicht??
5. P: Nein.
6. M: Hmpf. Ich schreibe Krimis.
7. P: Denken Sie, dass an der Spree Verbrechen passieren?

ENGLISH

1. P: Why do you go to the Spree River?
2. M: I go to the Spree, because I search for inspiration for my books.
3. P: What kind of books do you write?
4. M: You don't know my books??
5. P: No.
6. M: Hmpf. I write mystery novels.
7. P: Do you think that crimes happen at the Spree?

INFORMAL GERMAN

CONT'D OVER

1. P: Warum gehst du an die Spree?
2. M: Ich gehe an die Spree, weil ich Inspiration für meine Bücher suche.
3. P: Was für Bücher schreibst du?
4. M: Kennst du meine Bücher nicht??
5. P: Nein.
6. M: Hmpf. Ich schreibe Krimis.
7. P: Denkst du, dass an der Spree Verbrechen passieren?

ENGLISH

1. P: Why do you go to the Spree River?
2. M: I go to the Spree, because I search for inspiration for my books.
3. P: What kind of books do you write?
4. M: You don't know my books??
5. P: No.
6. M: Hmpf. I write mystery novels.
7. P: Do you think that crimes happen at the Spree?

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
warum	why	question word	
Verbrechen	crime	noun; neuter, das	neutral
dass	that	conjunction	
denken	to think	verb	
Krimi	mystery novel or TV show	noun; masculine, der	
kennen	to know somebody	verb	
schreiben	to write	verb	
was für	what kind of	question word	
Buch	book	noun	neutral
mein	my	pronoun	
weil	because	conjunction	
für	for	preposition	
suchen	to search; to look for	verb	
passieren	to happen	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Warum dauert das so lange? Why is this taking so long?	Denke nicht zu viel über die Antwort nach. Do not think about the answer too much.
Ich denke, dass er das schon schaffen wird. I think that he will manage (it).	Ich lese am liebsten Krimis. I like to read mystery novels the most.

Ich kenne ihn nicht. I don't know him.	Du schreibst gerade im Schlafzimmer. You are writing in the bedroom.
Ich schreibe eine Postkarte. I am writing a post card.	Was für ein Buch ist das? What kind of book is that?
Wessen Buch ist dies? Whose book is this?	Das Buch ist in der Küche. The book is in the kitchen.
Ich lese gerade ein gutes Buch. I am reading a good book at the moment.	Das ist meine Kusine. This is my (female) cousin.
Mein Name ist Tim. My name is Tim.	Es gibt heute keine Entdecker mehr, weil scheinbar alle großen Entdeckungen schon gemacht wurden. There are no discoverers anymore, because every great discovery seemingly is already made.
Ist das für mich? Is this for me?	Ist das Paket für mich? Is that package for me?
Ich suche nach Schuhen. I am looking for some shoes.	Ich werde nach der Milch suchen; Suche du nach dem Brot und lass uns dann an der Kasse treffen. I will look for the milk; you look for the bread, and then let's meet at the cash register.
Ich suche das Hofbräuhaus. I am looking for the Hofbräuhaus.	Ein paar Leute wissen immer noch nicht, was passiert ist. A few people still don't know what happened.

To make a sentence negative, just add „nicht“. For example:

Ich wohne in Berlin → Ich wohne nicht in Berlin. (I don't live in Berlin)

Sie schreiben gut. → Sie schreiben nicht gut. (You don't write well / You write not well)

Additionally, we have seen subclauses. For example, in the sentence „Ich gehe an die Spree, weil ich Inspiration für meine Bücher suche.“, „weil ich Inspiration für meine Bücher suche“ is a subclause. Similarly, „dass an der Spree Verbrechen passieren“ is a subclause to „Denken Sie“. All subclauses in German have one thing in common: the verbs move to the very end and pile up there if necessary.

So to summarize, the verb will come last in subclauses, it will come first in yes/no questions and it will come second in any other sentence or question. If you can memorize this simple rule, you have mastered most of German word order.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Small bookstores in Germany often don't offer a place to sit down. Almost none offer free water or - heaven forbid - a place to get a snack. However, there are also larger stores and bookstore chains where you can sit down and read your book while drinking coffee.

Their selection of English books is typically quite small, perhaps a twentieth of their selection of German books. Your best bet are huge bookstores or bookstores in airports and train stations, if you're looking for English books.

It's kind of strange to see that there are a lot of books that aim to teach you "general knowledge" or how to behave well. Audiobooks are very popular in Germany as well, and also audiobooks in foreign languages, simplified and with booklets for Germans who want to improve their knowledge of a foreign language that way.

If you visit a German family, one thing you'll notice is that they showcase their books in the living-room. This is because having a lot of books, as a way of suggesting that you've read a lot of books, still commands respects.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #4

Fear for Your Life in Berlin!

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4

FORMAL GERMAN

1. P: Denken Sie, dass an der Spree Verbrechen passieren?
2. M: ...
3. P: Ja oder nein?
4. M: In jeder Stadt gibt es Verbrechen, auch in Berlin... Entschuldigung, warum bin ich hier? Stehe ich unter Arrest?
5. P: Nein.
6. M: Dann lassen Sie mich bitte gehen.

ENGLISH

1. P: Do you think that crimes happen at the Spree?
2. M: ...
3. P: Yes or no?
4. M: In every city there is crime, also in Berlin... Excuse me, why am I here? Am I under arrest?
5. P: No.
6. M: Then please let me go.

INFORMAL GERMAN

CONT'D OVER

1. P: Denkst du, dass an der Spree Verbrechen passieren?
2. M: ...
3. P: Ja oder nein?
4. M: In jeder Stadt gibt es Verbrechen, auch in Berlin... Entschuldigung, warum bin ich hier? Stehe ich unter Arrest?
5. P: Nein.
6. M: Dann lass mich bitte gehen.

ENGLISH

1. P: Do you think that crimes happen at the Spree?
2. M: ...
3. P: Yes or no?
4. M: In every city there is crime, also in Berlin... Excuse me, why am I here? Am I under arrest?
5. P: No.
6. M: Then please let me go.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
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oder	or	conjunction; used as “isn’t it?”-type question at the end of a sentence.	
mich	me	personal pronoun, accusative	
lassen	not do; leave; let	expression	
dann	then	expression	
Arrest	arrest	noun; masculine, der	
unter	under	preposition	
stehen	to stand	verb	
Entschuldigung	apology, excuse me, I’m sorry	noun	feminine
es gibt	there is, there are	expression	
Stadt	town, city	noun	feminine
jeder, jede, jedes	every	misc	
in	in	preposition	
bitte	please, you’re welcome	interjection	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ich muss doch nicht alles auf einmal bezahlen, oder? But I don't have to pay everything at once, do I?	Reicht eine Jacke oder brauche ich einen Mantel? Is a jacket enough or will I need a coat?
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Verstehst du mich, wenn ich auf Englisch spreche? Do you understand me when I speak on (in) English?	Ist das Paket für mich? Is that package for me?
Habt ihr noch Platz für mich? Do you still have some space for me?	Lass uns Telefonnummern austauschen! Let's exchange phone numbers!
Okay, dann sehen wir uns nächste Woche. Ok, then, I'll see you next week.	Morgen arbeite ich und dann fliege ich nach Boston. Tomorrow I work and then I fly to Boston.
Stehe ich unter Arrest? Am I under arrest?	Unter den Gästen befindet sich auch Arnold Schwarzenegger. Among the guests there is also Arnold Schwarzenegger.
Dein Kugelschreiber liegt unter dem Tisch. Your pen is lying underneath the table.	Ich stehe am Fenster und warte auf dich. I'm standing by the window and I'm waiting for you.
Ich nehme die Entschuldigung an. I accept the apology.	Es gibt viele Cafés hier. There are many cafés here.
Diese Stadt ist wirklich groß. This city is really big.	Er geht jeden Donnerstag schwimmen. He goes swimming every Thursday.
Ist Bier teuer in Deutschland? Is beer expensive in Germany?	Der Schlüssel ist in meiner Hosentasche. The key is in my pants pocket.

Bitte rauchen Sie hier nicht. Please do not smoke here.	Ein Glas Wasser, bitte. A glass of water, please.
---	---

Bitte antworten Sie so schnell wie möglich. Please answer as quickly as possible.

GRAMMAR

Some useful grammar structures:

1. es gibt: there is / there are.
 Es gibt viel Geld in Deutschland. Es gibt viele Städte in Deutschland. - There is a lot of money in Germany. There are many cities in Germany.
 Gibt es hier englische Bücher? - Are there English books here?
2. lassen: let
 Lassen Sie mich (bitte) gehen! Lassen Sie mich arbeiten! - Let me go (please)! Let me work!
3. ich bin : I am

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Some facts about the German legal system:

- everybody has an ID card
- more data privacy; more awareness
- state and companies are not allowed to keep your data unlimited
- can't tap your phone, search your house or arrest you without reasonable suspicion (= very often needs a court order or can be challenged in court)

- prostitution is legal (under certain conditions, e. g. not by minors or near minors)
- hate crimes are treated more harshly: e. g. wearing Nazi symbols, making racist comments, calling for violence...
- owning a gun is illegal unless you have a special license
- despite the topic of this series, there is no reason to be afraid of crime when you come to Germany: e. g. in Germany there are 75% less murders per capita in Germany than in the USA

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #5

What are your plans?

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5

FORMAL GERMAN

1. P: Was machen Sie dann?
2. M: Ich gehe nach Hause und koche etwas. Es ist schon Nachmittag.
3. P: Sind Sie verheiratet?
4. M: Nein, aber ich wohne bei meinem Freund. Wir sind schon seit zwei Jahren zusammen.
5. P: Sind Sie beide Schriftsteller?

ENGLISH

1. P: What are you going to do then?
2. M: I will go home and cook something. It's already afternoon.
3. P: Are you married?
4. M: No, but I live with my boyfriend. We have been together for two years already.
5. P: Are both of you writers?

INFORMAL GERMAN

1. P: Was machst du dann?
2. M: Ich gehe nach Hause und koche etwas. Es ist schon Nachmittag.

CONT'D OVER

3. P: Bist du verheiratet?
4. M: Nein, aber ich wohne bei meinem Freund. Wir sind schon seit zwei Jahren zusammen.
5. P: Seid ihr beide Schriftsteller?

ENGLISH

1. P: What are you going to do then?
2. M: I will go home and cook something. It's already afternoon.
3. P: Are you married?
4. M: No, but I live with my boyfriend. We have been together for two years already.
5. P: Are both of you writers?

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
machen	to make, to do	verb	
zusammen	together	adverb	
wir	we	pronoun	
Freund	friend	noun	masculine
bei	at (a person's place)	preposition	

verheiratet	married	adjective	
Nachmittag	afternoon	noun	masculine
schon	already	adverb	
etwas	something	adverb, pronoun	
kochen	to cook	verb	
und	and	conjunction	
nach Hause	home (as a direction)	expression	
beide	both	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ich mache Kaffee. I am making coffee.	Wollen wir zusammen hingehen? Shall we go there together?
Wir wohnen seit März zusammen. We've lived together since March.	Wir wohnen seit März zusammen. We've lived together since March.
Heute besuchen wir meine Großeltern. Today we are visiting my grandparents.	Ein guter Freund ist wie Familie. A good friend is like family.
Wie heißen deine Freunde und Freundinnen? What are your male and female friends called?	Ich bin bei Max. I am at Max's place. (with him there)

Als sie verheiratet war, ist sie sehr launisch gewesen. When she was married, she used to be cranky all the time.	Seid ihr verheiratet? Are you two married?
Meine Katze macht am Nachmittag gerne ein Nickerchen. My cat likes to take a nap in the afternoon.	Ich rufe dich am Nachmittag zurück. I'll call you back this afternoon.
Hast du schon Pläne für heute Nachmittag? Do you already have plans for this afternoon?	Bist du schon müde? Are you tired already?
Bitte iss etwas. Please eat something.	Ja, etwas. Yes, I speak some.
Ich will etwas trinken. I want to drink something.	Immer wenn ich zu den Feiertagen heim komme, kocht meine Mutter mein Lieblingsessen. My mother always cooks my favorite meal when I come home for the holidays.
Was kochst du für uns heute? What are you cooking for us today?	Der Hund und die Katze spielen miteinander. The dog and the cat are playing together.
Thomas und Lisa. Thomas and Lisa.	Herr Wucher kann heute früh nach Hause kommen. Mr. Wucher can come home early today.

Er ging lachend nach Hause. He went home laughingly.	Ich weiß nicht, welchen ich wählen soll, ich werde beide nehmen. I don't know which one to choose, I will take both!
Ich mag euch beide. I like both of you.	Die beiden Brüder rauchten immer miteinander. The two brothers were always brawling with each other.

GRAMMAR

„Sein“ is the German equivalent of the verb „to be“. Just like in English, it's irregular. Here are the forms, some of which you have seen before:

ich bin – I am

du bist – you are (informally)

er / sie / es ist – he / she / it is

wir sind – we are

ihr seid – you are (plural)

sie sind / Sie sind – they are / you are (formally)

So the English word „you“ can mean three different things in German:

1.

Sie (capital S!), the formal way of addressing people

2.

du, the informal way of addressing people, only used with relatives, close friends and children

3.

ihr, when addressing several people

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Maria will eat in the afternoon – is that late for lunch or early for dinner? Traditional lunch time in Germany is from 12 to 2pm and traditional dinner time is somewhere between 6 and 8pm. However, more and more people deviate from this traditional set-up. Maria will have lunch now – if only for the fact that she said she'd cook something, and German dinner typically isn't warm.

If you're going to have a meal with a German family, here are some useful things to know:

- families have meals together; don't eat meals "on the side" while watching TV or the like
- first you sit down, say "Guten Appetit", or "Danke, gleichfalls" if somebody already said so, then everybody can start eating then; don't start before
- some families pray before the meal; if with a big party somebody may want to make a speech before people start eating
- assume it's going to be like this; if different, people will tell you
- don't get up immediately when you're done, don't hurry people

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #6

The Things You Do

CONTENTS

- 2 Formal German
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

6

FORMAL GERMAN

1. P: Seid Ihr beide Schriftsteller?
2. M: Nein, mein Freund ist Designer, aber er arbeitet auch von zuhause aus, also sind wir viel zusammen. Wir wohnen zusammen, arbeiten zusammen, kochen zusammen...
3. P: Geht Ihr auch zusammen an die Spree?
4. M: ... Ja, manchmal gehen wir auch zusammen an die Spree. Das ist kein Verbrechen, oder?
5. P: Nein, natürlich ist es kein Verbrechen.

ENGLISH

1. P: Are both of you writers?
2. M: No, my friend is a designer, but he also works from home, so we are together a lot. We live together, work together, cook together...
3. P: Do you also go to the Spree together?
4. M: ... Yes, sometimes we also go to the Spree together. That is not a crime, is it?
5. P: No, of course it isn't a crime.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
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Designer	designer	noun	masculine
kein	not any, no	adverb	
manchmal	sometimes	adverb	
viel	much, a lot	adjective; adverb	
also	so	conjunction, expression	
aus	from	preposition	
Zuhause, zu Hause	home, at home		
von	of, from	preposition	
er	he	pronoun; also used in the sense of „it“ when the noun is masculine!	
aber	but	conjunction	
natürlich	of course, natural, naturally		

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Er ist Designer von Beruf. He's a designer by profession.	Ich trinke kein Bier. I don't drink any beer.
Manchmal möchte ich einfach abhauen. Sometimes I simply want to run away.	Manchmal ist es eine dumme Idee, Bienen verjagen zu wollen. Sometimes it is a stupid idea to want to chase away bees.
In unserem Treppenhaus ist es manchmal laut. Sometimes it is loud on our stairwell.	Die Autos machen viel Lärm. The cars are making a lot of noise.

Viele Studenten sind arm. Many students are poor.	So ist das also. Ah, so it is.
Ich möchte nicht gehen, also bleibe ich. I don't want to go, so I stay.	Kommst du aus Berlin oder von außerhalb? Do you come from Berlin or from elsewhere?
Ich bin aus Deutschland. I am from Germany.	Bist du zuhause? Are you home?
Als alleinerziehende Mutter von drei Kindern hat sie es sehr schwer. As a single mum of three kids she has a very hard time.	Ich kriege von meinen Eltern gesagt, was ich tun und lassen kann. I get told by my parents what I can and can't do.
Er hat die Hühner diesen Morgen gefüttert. He fed the chickens this morning.	Er steht da drüben. He stands over there.
Ich weiß, du bist beschäftigt. Aber kannst du meinen Anwalt anrufen? I know you are busy. But can you call my lawyer?	Aber ich wollte doch fernsehen! But I wanted to watch TV!
Natürlich habe ich schon vom Brandenburger Tor gehört! Of course I've heard of the Brandenburg Gate!	

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the complete regular present tense

Geht ihr auch zusammen an die Spree?

"Do you also go to the Spree

In this lesson we have come across the rest of the regular present tense, that is, the paradigm of changes that regular German verbs will undergo if you use them when talking about what is happening now – or what happens regularly, as the talk today was mostly about habits. In German there is no grammatical difference between „I am working“ and „I work“.

Here is how to conjugate regular verbs in the present tense:

such-en – to search

ich such-e – I search (or I am searching)

du such-st – you search (informally)

er / sie / es such-t – he / she / it searches

wir such-en – we search

ihr such-t – you search (plural)

sie such-en / Sie such-en – they search / you search (formally)

suchen was chosen as representative of all regular verbs, but you may as well use *denken*, *gehen*, *kennen*, *kochen*, *machen*, *passieren*, *schreiben*, *stehen*, *wohnen* or any other regular German verb, because they work exactly the same. And there is only a very small change for *arbeiten*: for pronunciation reasons, *arbeiten* retains the E when the ending doesn't contain one, so that you say „du arbeitest“ instead of „du arbeitst“ for example.

Since these endings are used for all regular German verbs, it is vital that you learn them by heart. The most effective way is probably to recite the forms of *suchen* to yourself in the right order until they are really familiar, and of course to use the Learning Center for practise.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Berlin is a fascinating city. A lot of German history took place in Berlin, and there are still many historical sights and others to see. That is why a lot of tourists come to Berlin. Berliners also appreciate the wide range of good restaurants and the ability to get exotic foods even.

Plus it is a city where you get a "bang for your buck" - everything is quite cheap, compared to all other Western European cities, but still the quality of life is very good, too, certainly higher than in Eastern Europe. In this sense, Berlin has the best of both worlds and on several occasions it has been crowned the best city to live in in Europe (assuming you aren't so rich you can afford Zürich or the like).

Berlin is very popular with artists too. In the center districts, there is an art gallery every couple meters, probably because of the cheap rents. After the wall came down, lots of people rushed west, leaving a lot of empty housing in Eastern Germany, including the Eastern part of Berlin, believe it or not!

And Berlin is popular with techies, web startups and startups in general. People are very open-minded, coming together from all over Germany and all over the world, and combined with the cheap prices Berlin is a great place to make your dreams a reality.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #7

It's Your Turn!

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Informal German
 - Main
 - English
- Dialogue - Formal German
 - Main
 - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#7

DIALOGUE - INFORMAL GERMAN

MAIN

1. M : Hallo, ich bin wieder da!
2. B : Hey!!
3. M : Es tut mir leid, dass ich spät dran bin.
4. B : Macht nichts. Ich bin oben.
5. M : Ah, du arbeitest wieder, oder?
6. B : Ja, aber ich komme gleich runter. Du bist heute dran mit dem Kochen, nicht?
7. M : Ja, ich koche heute etwas.

ENGLISH

1. M : Hallo, I'm back! [literally - I'm there again]
2. B : Hey!!
3. M : I'm sorry that I'm late.
4. B : No worries. I'm upstairs.
5. M : Ah, you are working again, aren't you?
6. B : Yes, but I'm coming downstairs shortly. It's your turn to cook today, isn't it?
7. M : Yes, I'm cooking something today.

DIALOGUE - FORMAL GERMAN

MAIN

1. M : Guten Tag, ich bin wieder da!
2. B : Hallo!!
3. M : Es tut mir leid, dass ich zu spät komme.
4. B : Das macht nichts. Ich bin im Obergeschoss.
5. M : Ah, Sie arbeiten wieder, nicht wahr?
6. B : Ja, aber ich komme gleich runter. Sie sind heute dran mit dem Kochen, nicht wahr?
7. M : Ja, ich koche heute etwas.

ENGLISH

1. M : Hallo, I'm back! [literally - I'm there again]
2. B : Hey!!
3. M : I'm sorry that I'm late.
4. B : No worries. I'm upstairs.
5. M : Ah, you are working again, aren't you?
6. B : Yes, but I'm coming downstairs shortly. It's your turn to cook today, isn't it?
7. M : Yes, I'm cooking something today.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class
kommen	to come	verb
gleich	shortly	adjective, adverb
nichts	nothing	pronoun, adjective
spät	late	adjective & adverb
oben	on top, upstairs	adverb
runter	down, downstairs	
wieder	again	adverb
heute	today	adverb
mit	with	preposition
dran sein	it's one's turn	phrase
da	there	adverb
Macht nichts.	It's nothing, don't worry, don't apologize.	Expression

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ich warte darauf, dass die Post kommt. I am waiting for the post to come.	Ich weiß, dass du nicht willst, dass ich zur Feier komme. I know you don't want me to come to the party.
Ich würde gerne morgen wiederkommen, wenn möglich. I would like to come in again tomorrow, if possible.	Lisa kommt heute nicht. Lisa isn't coming today.

Alle Menschen sind gleich. All men are equal.	Ich bin gleich wieder da. I will be back shortly.
Ich hatte nichts zu essen. I've had nothing to eat.	Leider hat die Firma momentan nichts anzubieten. Unfortunately, the company has nothing to offer at this moment in time.
Ich werde müde, wenn ich bis spät abends arbeiten muss. I get tired when I have to work late.	Der Verkehr auf der Bundesstraße ließ uns zu spät zu unserem Flug kommen. The traffic on the highway made us late for our flight.
eine Stunde zu spät an hour late	Der Klient ist zu spät für das Treffen. The client is late for the meeting.
bis spät arbeiten work late	zu spät für ein Meeting late for a meeting
Er kommt immer zu spät zum Unterricht. He is always late for class.	Es war zu spät für mich, um meine schlechten Gewohnheiten zu verändern. It was too late for me to change my bad habits.
Du kommst immer zu spät zur Arbeit. You are always late for work.	Er kommt zu spät. He is coming (arriving) too late.
Ich möchte dich wiedersehen. I want to see you again.	Musst du wieder Gitarre spielen? Do you have to play the guitar again?
die Hausaufgaben von heute today's homework	Ich habe heute viel zu tun. I have a lot to do today.
heute um 6:15 Uhr today at 6:15	Heute ist die Parade. The parade is today.
Heute war ein außergewöhnlich heißer Sommertag. Today was an extraordinarily hot summer day.	Mein Bruder fährt mit seiner Freundin in den Urlaub. My brother goes with his girlfriend on vacation.
Möchtest du mit mir ins Kino gehen? Do you want to go to the movies with me?	Ich muss mit dem Hund rausgehen. I have to go out with the dog. / I have to walk the dog.

Er spielt mit dem Hund.

He plays with the dog.

Die Post ist da!

The mail is there! [has arrived]

Er steht da drüben.

He stands over there.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is question tags.

Ah, du arbeitest wieder, oder?

"Ah, you are working again, aren't you?"

This lesson is mostly a review lesson, so we won't do much new grammar. Just one small point about question tags. Question tags are the short phrases that you stick at the end of English sentences in order to re-assure yourself. For example, in the sentence „You are coming to the party, aren't you?“ the „aren't you?“ is a question tag. If English is not your native language, you'll know that question tags are rather annoying in English, because you have to adapt them to the sentence – you might have to say „isn't he?“ or „won't you?“ or „didn't I?“ or the like.

German is much easier in this respect, because question tags don't depend on the sentence, they only depend on the person speaking. Textbooks will teach you that the German question tag is „nicht wahr?“ (not true?). This however sounds quite stilted and GermanPod101 will teach you modern German. Nowadays, people say „oder?“ (or?) or „nicht?“ (not?) - or regional varieties of course. In North-Rhine Westphalia for example, the most common question tag is „ne?“. And in the South, you'll hear either „gel?“ or „gelle?“. These are not translatable, but they are essential for understanding colloquial German.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Hochdeutsch and what is actually spoken

- „Hochdeutsch“ (High German) is what we call standard German
- it originated as a written standard, so that literature could be understood all over Germany despite local dialects. One of the key factors in the movement to standardize German was Martin Luther's translation of the Bible to German.
- in some areas in the north, High German had to be studied like a foreign language because the local dialects were so different. Nowadays these dialects have almost all died out. You definitely don't need to fear coming into contact with people who only speak one of those dialects.
- People speak Hochdeutsch with some local twists everywhere. Southern dialects are harder to understand because most Southern Germans didn't have to learn Hochdeutsch in order to understand literature.
- Nowadays Hochdeutsch is not a foreign language to anybody except the immigrants. Dialects and colloquial versions may be used among friends, but Hochdeutsch is the language of writing and of the entire education system. Upon graduating, everybody is well acquainted with it and almost everybody can switch to Hochdeutsch when talking to foreigners or people not from the region.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #8

Do You Have What It Takes?

CONTENTS

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

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GERMAN

1. M: Hast du schon Hunger?
2. B: Ja. Was kochst du heute?
3. M: Wir haben noch Suppe von gestern, also koche ich Suppe.
4. B: Suppe?? Ich habe großen Hunger. Denkst du nicht, dass Suppe zu wenig ist?
5. M: Vielleicht. Vielleicht ist Suppe zu wenig.
6. B: Haben wir noch etwas anderes zu essen?
7. M: Hmm, ich gucke mal.

ENGLISH

1. M: Are you hungry yet? [Do you have hunger?]
2. B: Yes. What are you cooking today?
3. M: We still have yesterday's soup, so I'm cooking soup.
4. B: Soup?? I am very hunger. [I have big hunger.] Don't you think that soup is too little?
5. M: Maybe. Maybe soup is too little.
6. B: Do we have anything else to eat?

CONT'D OVER

7. M: Hmm, I'll have a look.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
haben	to have	verb	irregular; ich habe, du hast, er hat, wir haben, ihr habt, sie haben
gucken	to look, watch	verb	weak verb
essen	to eat	verb	er isst, er aß, er hat gegessen
anderer; andere; anderes	other, another	pronoun	
vielleicht	maybe	adverb	
wenig	little	adverb	
zu	too (much)	adverb / preposition	
groß	tall, big	adjective	
Suppe	soup	noun; feminine, die	plural: Suppen
noch	still; yet; another	adverb	
heute	today	noun	
Hunger	hunger	noun, masculine, der	no plural
mal	have a...; colloquial particle for doing something in a leisurely way, or for trying something	particle	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Du hast eine große Klappe. You have a big mouth.	Haben Sie Zeit? Do you have time?
Guck mal bitte, wer an der Tür ist. Please have a look who is at the door.	Er guckt den ganzen Tag lang Fernsehen. He watches TV the whole day long.
Ich esse gerne Brötchen. I like eating rolls.	Vegetarier essen keine Butter, sie essen Margarine. Vegetarians don't eat (any) butter, they eat margarine.
Stirb an einem anderen Tag Die another day	Ich will einen anderen Film sehen. I want so see a different movie.
Vielleicht später. Maybe later.	In Deutschland essen wenige Menschen ihre Pfannkuchen mit Ahornsirup. In Germany, few people eat their pancakes with maple syrup.
Sprechen Sie Deutsch? - Ein wenig, nicht viel. Do you speak German? - A little, not much.	Das ist zu teuer. That is too expensive.
Thomas ist genauso groß wie Sven. Thomas is just as tall as Sven.	Du hast eine große Klappe. You have a big mouth.
Du hast so lange gebummelt, dass deine Suppe inzwischen kalt geworden ist. You dawdled so long that meanwhile your soup became cold.	Ich koche heute Gemüsesuppe. I am cooking vegetable soup today.

Es ist noch Winter. It's still winter.	Heute gibt es Freibier in der Altstadt. Today there is free beer [available] in the old town.
Ich habe Hunger. I am hungry.	Kommst du mal schnell? Please come here quickly.
Zeig mir mal deine Urkunde! Do show me your certificate!	Guck mal bitte, wer an der Tür ist. Please have a look who is at the door.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Let's have a closer look at the word "mal". When you're talking to a German, this word will come up SO OFTEN in conversation, but it's hard to translate! "Mal" is a little word that could roughly be translated as "sometime". When you add it to a sentence, you imply that there's no hurry or that something is done in a leisurely way. For example: Komm mal bitte! - Please come (when you can)! Bitte guck mal, wer an der Tür ist! - Please have a look who is at the door! Ich bin mal in New York gewesen. - I have been to New York sometime.

GRAMMAR

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

Wir haben noch Suppe von gestern.

"We still have yesterday's soup."

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

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

ich habe – I have

du hast – you have (singular, informal)

er hat – he has

wir haben – we have

ihr habt – you have (plural)

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

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Typical German lunch foods - what is typical German food?

It varies a lot by region; e. g. the Southern German cuisine is much more similar to the one of Austria and Switzerland.

Some ingredients that can be found everywhere:

- sausages
- mustard
- potatoes
- cabbage in different forms: Sauerkraut, Rotkohl, Grünkohl, Kohlrabi, Rosenkohl (= Brussel's Sprouts), ...

In dishes:

- potato soup
- potato salad
- spätzle
- knödel (dumplings made from potatoes)
- schnitzel
- Reibekuchen (potato pancakes)

Adopted food from immigrants:

- pizza and pasta
- döner kebab
- gyros

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #9

Get Some Beer For Me, Will You?

CONTENTS

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

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GERMAN

1. M: Wie wäre es mit Bratapfel zum Nachtisch? Dann bist du auch satt.
2. B: Hmm, Bratapfel ist lecker.
3. M: Okay, dann brauche ich aber noch ein paar Sachen. Ich gehe kurz einkaufen.
4. B: Gehst du zum Supermarkt?
5. M: Ja. Brauchst du noch etwas?
6. B: Ja, ich brauche Bier.
7. M: Okay, dann kaufe ich auch Bier ein.
8. B: Danke.

ENGLISH

1. M: How'bout baked apple for dessert? Then you'll be full as well.
2. B: Hmm, baked apple is yummy.
3. M: Okay, however then I will need a few more things. I'm going shopping briefly.
4. B: Are you going to the supermarket?
5. M: Yes. Do you need something else?

CONT'D OVER

6. B: Yes, I need beer.
7. M: Okay, then I'll buy beer as well.
8. B: Thanks.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
wie wäre es (mit)	how 'bout (having)	expression	
Supermarkt	supermarket	noun	plural: Supermärkte
einkaufen	to go shopping, buy	verb	"ein" splits off
kurz	short, brief; briefly	adjective	
Sache	thing	noun; feminine, die	plural: Sachen
ein paar	a couple, a few	expression	
brauchen	to need	verb	weak verb
lecker	yummy, delicious	adjective	
satt	full	adjective	
Nachtisch	dessert	noun	plural: Nachtische
Bratapfel	baked apple	noun; masculine, der	plural: Bratäpfel
Bier	beer	noun	neuter; plural: Biere; plural is only used when talking about different types of beer

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Wie wäre es mit morgen? How about tomorrow?	Wie wäre es mit einem Eis? How about having an ice?
Es gibt zahlreiche Supermarktketten in Deutschland. There are numerous supermarket chains in Germany.	Wo ist der nächste Supermarkt? Where is the next supermarket?
Ich gehe jetzt einkaufen. I'm going shopping now.	Jetzt tragen die Mädchen alle kurze Röcke. Now all the girls are wearing short skirts.
Kannst du das kurz halten? Can you hold that for a second?	Diese Sache macht mir Probleme. This thing is troublesome to me.
Ein paar Leute wissen immer noch nicht, was passiert ist. A few people still don't know what happened.	Dieser Raum braucht neue Möbel. This room needs new furniture.
Brauchen Sie eine Rechnung? Do you need a bill?	In Deutschland gibt es richtig leckere Würstchen. In Germany there are really delicious sausages.
Bist du schon satt? Are you full already?	Heute gibt es keinen Nachtisch. Today there is no dessert.
Bratapfel ist ein beliebtes Gericht für Wintertage. Baked apple is a popular dish for winter days.	Jeder Deutsche trinkt im Durchschnitt 110 Liter Bier pro Jahr. On average, every German drinks 110 liters of beer per year.

Ist Bier teuer in Deutschland? Is beer expensive in Germany?	Ich hätte gern ein Bier. I would like a beer.
Ich trinke kein Bier. I don't drink any beer.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „Wie wäre es mit...“ literally means „how would it be with...“. In German, it is used to politely make a suggestion, for example „Wie wäre es mit einem Bier?“ (How would you like a beer?) or „Wie wäre es mit Kino heute Abend?“ (Would you like to go to the movies tonight?). 2. In this dialog you saw „zum“ several times. „zum“ is not a new word but a contraction of „zu“ and „dem“ (a form of „der“). In phrases like „zum Nachtsch“ or „zum Mittagessen“, „zum“ has the meaning of „for“: for dessert, for lunch... In most other phrases, like „Gehst du zum Supermarkt?“ (Are you going to the supermarket?), it just means „to“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is separable verbs.

Okay, dann kaufe ich auch Bier ein.

"Okay, then I'll buy beer as well."

A „separable verb“ is one that splits in two at the slightest provocation. For example „einkaufen“ (to shop, buy). In the infinitive it's one word, as you can also see in the phrase „Ich gehe einkaufen“ (I'm going shopping).

However, when it's conjugated, the „ein“ part splits off and positions itself at the end of the sentence: „Ich kaufe Bier ein.“ (I'm buying beer).

It's always the same prefixes that split off, so this is not really difficult, but it is an annoyance. Another verb like this is „mitkommen“ (to come along). Here, the „mit“ splits off, so that you can clearly see the stem „kommen“ again. „Kommst du mit?“ (Are you coming along?). In some dialects of English, you will even hear „Are you coming with?“ - that's the German influence. But really, „mit“ is used whenever an English phrasal verb uses „along“, and in a lot

of cases where English uses another word. If you understand „mit" as a prefix, you can improve your German vocabulary quickly. Just look at the following forms:

mitgehen - to go along

mitschreiben - „to write along" = to take notes

mitmachen - „to do along" = to participate

mitessen - „to eat along" = join for a meal

mitdenken - „to think along" = follow somebody's train of thought and think ahead

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Beer

Good beer is one of the items that Germans tend to miss abroad. In Germany, there are hundreds of brands of beer, most of them limited to one region. There also many different types of beer offered, such as pilsener, alt, lager, export, dark beer, strong beer...

The average German beer is stronger than American beer, but weaker than Belgian beer.

Beer is typically consumed with hearty foods, but wine is preferred for fancy foods.

Consumption is very high. Some Germans can drink 6 or 7 in the course of an evening, also, Germany's per-capita yearly beer consumption is among the highest in the world. Bavaria in particular is a heartland for beer.

If you want to learn more about German beer, try GermanPod101's Advanced Audioblog No. 4, one of our earliest audioblogs ever. It's all about beer.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #10

You Don't Work Here!

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10

GERMAN

1. M: So, ich habe jetzt Äpfel und mehrere Flaschen Bier. Es fehlt noch Marzipan.
2. M: Entschuldigung, haben Sie hier Marzipan?
3. V (annoyed): Natürlich haben wir Marzipan!
4. M: Wo finde ich es?
5. V: Warum fragen Sie mich?? Lassen Sie mich hier arbeiten!
6. M: Arbeiten Sie wirklich hier??

ENGLISH

1. M: Alright, I now have apples and several bottles of beer. Marzipan is still missing.
2. M: Excuse me, do you have marzipan? (Does this supermarket sell marzipan?)
3. V (annoyed): Of course we have marzipan!
4. M: Where do I find it?
5. V: Why do you ask me?? Let me work here!
6. M: Do you really work here??

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
so	so	adverb	"so" as a conjunction would be "also"!
fragen	to ask	verb	weak verb
finden	to find	verb	ich finde, ich fand, ich habe gefunden
wo	where	adverb	
Marzipan	marzipan	noun; neuter, das	plural: Marzipane (uncommon)
fehlen	to be missing	verb	weak verb
es	it	personal pronoun	
Flasche	bottle	noun; feminine, die	plural: Flaschen
mehrere	several		
Apfel	apple	noun	plural: Äpfel
jetzt	now	adverb	
wirklich	really	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Wieso ist das so? Why is that so?	Ich werde den Lehrer fragen. I will ask the teacher.
Hast du den Treffpunkt gut gefunden? Did you easily find the meeting-point?	Ich finde dieses Lied wirklich langweilig. I find this song to be really boring.
Entschuldigen Sie bitte, wo finde ich das Deutsche Museum? Excuse me please, where can I find the German Museum?	Wo wohnst du jetzt? Where do you live now?

Es ist schön, dass Sie da sind. It's nice that you're there.	Es ist früh am Morgen. It is early in the morning.
Wo finde ich die Flaschen? Where do I find the bottles?	Es fehlen noch mehrere Sachen. Some things are still missing.
Viele Deutsche verwenden gerne Elstar-Äpfel für ihren Apfelkuchen. Many Germans like to use Elstar apples for their apple cake.	Meine Mutter macht unglaublich leckere Apfelkuchen. My mother makes incredibly delicious apple pies.
Möchtest du Orangensaft oder lieber Apfelsaft? Do you want orange juice or rather apple juice?	Ich möchte jetzt gehen. I want to go now.
Wo wohnst du jetzt? Where do you live now?	Diese Stadt ist wirklich groß. This city is really big.
Das war wirklich lecker. This was really yummy.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. fehlen - This verb can be used either personally, as in „Paul fehlt noch“ (Paul is still missing), or impersonally, as in „Es fehlt (mir) noch Marzipan.“ (I am still missing marzipan).
2. haben - In addition to the literal and figurative usages you have seen so far, you can also use haben to ask whether a shop sells something. In this case, you'd ask any salesperson „Haben Sie ...“, as if that salesperson themselves had what you're looking for.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the plural.

So, ich habe jetzt Äpfel und mehrere Flaschen Bier.

"Alright, I now have apples and several bottles of beer."

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

Type 1 - no new ending. All nouns ending in -er, -en or -el do not add any ending. This easy group includes some very common types of words, such as nationalities and professions (*Amerikaner, Japaner, Designer, Programmierer*) and diminutives (*Bierchen* – little beer, *Büchchen* – little book, etc.). However, just because these words don't add any ending doesn't mean that they remain entirely unchanged. Some of them add an Umlaut to their stem vowel. For example: *Apfel* – *Äpfel*.

Type 2 – add -n or -en. This means most feminine nouns (e. g. *Flasche, Sache, Suppe*), many foreign words (e. g. *Nationalität - Nationalitäten*), as well as masculine nouns ending in -e or describing a living being (*der Deutsche* – *die Deutschen*).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Service can be very bad, hence the coined term „Servicewüste Deutschland“ (service desert Germany), which Germans use to describe the situation
2. Service is especially bad from clerks, who get neither tips nor a share in profits, not so commonly from waiters
3. Waiters also won't generally make friendly chitchat, they are supposed to be invisible until you need them
4. Some waiters and some restaurants are not committed to good service, e. g. if they refuse to give you a free replacement if a fly fell in your glass, or to give you any kind of compensation if you had to wait for your order unduly long
5. Most clerks, just like workers in general, strictly adhere to closing hours or end-of-shift times. They may refuse service even if you've been waiting in line, because they only get a fixed amount per shift.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #11

Money Rules the World

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11

GERMAN

1. V: 500 Gramm Äpfel, 6 Flaschen Bier, zwei Packungen Marzipan... macht vierzehn Euro achtzig.
2. M: Hier sind 20 Euro.
3. V: 20 Euro?? Haben Sie es nicht klein?
4. M: Hmm, lassen Sie mich mal sehen...
5. M: ... Nein, ich habe vierzehn Euro nicht klein.
6. V: Haben Sie vielleicht achtzig Cent klein?
7. M: Nein, tut mir leid.
8. V: Oder dreißig Cent?
9. M: Ah, hier sind dreißig Cent.
10. V: Gut. Hier ist Ihr Wechselgeld.
11. M: Danke.
12. V: Bitte.
13. M: Einen schönen Tag noch!
14. V: Danke, gleichfalls.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. V: 500 grams of apples, 6 bottles of beer, two packages of marzipan... that's fourteen euros eighty [cents].
2. M: Here are 20 euros.
3. V: 20 euros?? Don't you have something smaller?
4. M: Hmm, let me see...
5. M: ... No, I don't have 14 euros in smaller change.
6. V: Maybe you have 80 cents in change?
7. M: No, I'm sorry.
8. V: Or 30 cents?
9. M: Ah, here you have 30 cents.
10. V: Good. Here is your change.
11. M: Thanks.
12. V: You're welcome.
13. M: Have a nice [remainder of the] day!
14. V: Thanks, same to you.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
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(ein)hundert	a hundred	numeral	
Tag	day	noun	plural: Tage
schön	nice, pretty	adjective	
danke	thanks	expression; standard reply is "bitte"	standard reply is "bitte"
Wechselgeld	change, money you get in return	noun; neuter, das	plural: Wechselgelder (uncommon)
gut	good	adjective	
sehen	to see	verb	vowel-changing verb: e -> ie
klein	small	adjective	
Packung	package	noun; feminine, die	plural: Packungen
gleichfalls	same to you	expression	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Das habe ich dir doch schon hundertmal gesagt. I've already told you that a hundred times.	Dieser Tag ist ein Feiertag. This day is a public holiday.
Heute ist ein guter Tag. Today is a good day.	Es ist schön, dass Sie da sind. It's nice that you're there.
Danke für die schönen Blumen. Thanks for the beautiful flowers.	Halt! Sie kriegen noch Wechselgeld! Stop! You still get change!
Hier ist Ihr Wechselgeld. Here's your change.	Ich sehe ein gutes Café. I see a good café.

Welchen Film möchtest du sehen? Which movie would you like to see?	Ich liebe kleine Parks. I love small parks.
Ich hätte gern eine Packung Marzipan. I would like one package of marzipan.	Guten Appetit! - Danke, gleichfalls! Have a good appetite! / Enjoy your meal! - Thanks, same to you!

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

„Danke, gleichfalls“ - this means „thanks, same to you“ and it's a common answer to a polite wish like „Have a nice evening“. This phrase does not require a response. Normally however when somebody says „Danke“ to you in German, you are supposed to answer „Bitte“, which is the equivalent of „You're welcome“ in this context. And if they say „Dankeschön“, which is more polite, you should answer „Bitteschön“, being equally polite.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson are the numbers.

500 Gramm Äpfel, 6 Flaschen Bier, zwei Packungen Marzipan... macht vierzehn Euro achtzig.

"500 grams of apples, 6 bottles of beer, two packages of marzipan... that's fourteen euros eighty [cents]. "

This lesson is all about the numbers. Here they are,

- 0 - Null
- 1 - Eins
- 2 - Zwei
- 3 - Drei
- 4 - Vier
- 5 - Fünf
- 6 - Sechs
- 7 - Sieben
- 8 - Acht

9 - Neun
10 - Zehn
11 - Elf
12 - Zwölf

From 13 to 19, say the number first and then add „zehn", however note that 16 is called Sechzehn and 17 is called Siebzehn.

20 - Zwanzig

More multiples of 10, say the number first and then add „zig". 70 is called Siebzig.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The German currency is the Euro (pronounced oy-ro). This is a relatively new development, the Euro only replaced the German Mark in 2002. A lot of people still calculate in Marks in their heads.

When you are in Europe and have to use Euros to pay, you will notice that there are different backsides among them, not just for every unit but there are even pieces of the same value that have different backsides. This is because every European country was allowed to choose individual motives for the back side of their coins, but the coins don't stay in one country. They travel all over Europe and so you can discover Dutch coins, French coins, Italian coins, Spanish coins and so on in your wallet. It is really fascinating to watch the mingling of the coins from different countries, and all of them can be used as regular currency in all countries that use the Euro.

It is a big improvement, because originally, every European country had a different currency before. Even though it was easy to cross the borders, you still had to exchange currencies every time you did, and you wound up with a lot of unusable change - not to mention paying the exchange fees. Plus when you're paying with a foreign currency, you don't really know what a good price is and paying will feel less real to you. Be aware of that when coming to Germany and always convert Euros to your home country's currency, or try to get a feel for Euro prices if you're planning to stay here longer.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #12

Giving Orders in German: The Letter Says, "Stay at Home!"

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

12

GERMAN

1. Sagen Sie Ihrem Freund nichts.
2. Geben Sie der Polizei keinerlei Informationen.
3. Gehen Sie nicht mehr an die Spree.
4. Bleiben Sie zuhause, essen Sie zuhause, ziehen Sie keine Aufmerksamkeit auf sich.
5. Warten Sie auf ein Zeichen.

ENGLISH

1. Don't tell your friend anything.
2. Don't give the police any kind of information.
3. Don't go to the Spree anymore.
4. Stay home, eat at home, don't attract any attention to yourself.
5. Wait for a sign.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
sagen	to say	verb	
geben	to give	verb	vowel-changing verb: ich gebe, du gibst, er gibt, wir geben...

Polizei	police	noun; feminine, die	plural: Polizeien (very uncommon)
keinerlei	no kind of, not any	attribute	
Information	information	noun	plural: Informationen
mehr	more	adverb	
bleiben	stay	verb	
ziehen	to pull, drag	verb	er zieht, er zog, er hat gezogen
auf	on, onto	preposition; also used for some cases where English would use "in" or "at", as prepositions usually don't correspond across languages.	also used for some cases where English would use "in" or "at", as prepositions usually don't correspond across languages.
warten	to wait	verb	
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)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Und dann sagte er.... And then he said...	Sag doch was! Come on, say something!
Bitte gib mir etwas zu trinken! Please give me something to drink!	Tun Sie nichts, sonst rufe ich die Polizei! Don't do anything, or I'll call the police!

Geben Sie der Polizei keinerlei Informationen. Don't give the police any kind of information.	Möchtest du noch mehr? Would you like (even) more?
Ich möchte nicht gehen, also bleibe ich. I don't want to go, so I stay.	Auf der Tür steht "Drücken", nicht "Ziehen". The door says "Push", not "Pull".
Die Zeitung liegt auf dem Tisch. The newspaper lies on the table.	Verstehst du mich, wenn ich auf Englisch spreche? Do you understand me when I speak on (in) English?
Musstest du lange warten? Did you have to wait a long time?	Habe ich Ihre volle Aufmerksamkeit? Do I have your full attention?

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1.The preposition „auf“ is used in a variety of cases. The direct English translation is „on“, but as prepositions following verbs never quite match, „auf“ is also used in „warten auf“ (to wait for) and „Aufmerksamkeit ziehen auf“ (to draw attention to). 2.„mehr“ means „more“, but in combination with „nicht“ it means „not anymore“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Imperativ (imperative)

Bleiben Sie zuhause, essen Sie zuhause, ziehen Sie keine Aufmerksamkeit auf sich.

"Stay home, eat at home and don't attract any attention to yourself."

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

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

The informal imperative, the kind you'd use with friends, is more interesting. This one corresponds to just the word stem without any ending and no pronoun, e. g. „Geh!“, „Komm!“

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Crime in Germany

- Generally most areas are safer than in the states
- No schools where students must be checked for weapons
- Some bad parts of town, places with many drug addicts
- Hardly any cases of gang violence or mafia
- Very little gun violence, as hardly anybody owns one
- More 'hate crimes' simply because the definition is broader, a lot more things are persecuted
- In parts of former East Germany, xenophobic crime has been a cause of concern

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #13

Making Suggestions in German: Let's Eat and Then Walk Along the Spree!

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

13

GERMAN

1. M: Hallo, da bin ich wieder!
2. B: Willkommen zurück! Hast du alles?
3. M: Ja, kein Problem. Jetzt habe ich wirklich Hunger, und du?
4. B: Ja, ich auch.
5. M: Ich mache jetzt die Suppe warm, und die Bratäpfel gibt es später, okay?
6. B: Okay.
7. B: Mhmm, das riecht gut.
8. M: Danke.
9. B: Was machst du später?
10. M: Ich denke ich bleibe einfach hier, warum fragst du?
11. B: Lass uns doch einen Spaziergang an der Spree machen. Das Wetter ist so schön heute!
12. M: Ach nee, ich habe keine Lust.

ENGLISH

1. M: Hallo, I'm back again!

CONT'D OVER

2. B: Welcome back! Do you have everything?
3. M: Yes, no problem. Now I'm really hungry, and you?
4. B: Yes, me too.
5. M: I'll heat up the soup now, and the baked apples will come later, okay?
6. B: Okay.
7. B: Mhmm, that smells good.
8. M: Thanks.
9. B: What are you doing later?
10. M: I think I'll just stay here, why are you asking?
11. B: Let's take a walk along the Spree. The weather is so nice today!
12. M: Bah, I'm not in the mood.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Willkommen	Welcome	expression	
Wetter	weather	noun	plural is the same
Spaziergang	walk, stroll	noun; masculine, der	plural: Spaziergänge
doch	this is the affirmative, encouraging	modifier	

einfach	easy; simply	adjective	
riechen	to smell	verb	
später	later	adverb	
warm	warm	adjective	
Kein Problem.	No problem.	expression	
alles	everything, all	pronoun	
zurück	back	adverb	also a verb prefix with that meaning, e. g. "zurückkommen", "zurückgeben", ...
Lust (auf)	desire (of)	noun, feminine, die	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Willkommen in Deutschland! Welcome to Germany!	Das Wetter heute ist sehr schwül. The weather is really humid today.
Lass uns einen Spaziergang machen! Let's take a walk!	Sag doch was! Come on, say something!
Komm doch! Do come!	Du magst doch keine Schokolade, oder? - Doch! You surely don't like chocolate, do you? – Yes I do!
Diese Lektion war sehr einfach. This lesson was very easy.	Die Studenten haben einen Geruch gerochen. The students smelled an odor.
Hier riecht es nach Blumen. It smells of flowers here.	Ich rieche nichts. I don't smell anything.

Es wird später Regen geben. There will be rain later.	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.
Kein Problem, das räume ich später weg. No problem, I will put it away later.	Nächstes Mal wird alles anders. Next time it will be completely different.
Formale Bildung ist nicht alles. Formal education isn't everything.	Wann wirst du zurück sein? When will you be back?
Ich habe Lust auf Fernsehen. I am in the mood for TV.	Ich habe Lust auf Kaffee. I am in the mood for coffee. (literally: I have desire of coffee)

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „nee“ = colloquial pronunciation of „nein“ 2. „Lust haben auf etwas“ = to be in the mood for...
 3. Sounds in German: „mhmm“ for „yummy“, „achhh“ for sorrow/unhappiness, „aha“ when you just made a discovery or acknowledge something, „m-hmm“ (yes) or „m-m“ (no) are sounds you can expect to hear while talking.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is making suggestions.

Lass uns doch einen Spaziergang an der Spree machen!

"Let's take a walk along the Spree!"

There are several ways to make a suggestion in German. One way is by using the phrase

„Lass uns...“. This means „Let's“ and is followed by the rest of the sentence and finally the verb. For example: „Lass uns morgen ins Kino gehen!“ (Let's go to the cinema tomorrow!)

Alternatively, and a little less politely, you can just use the imperative for the 1st person plural, the „we“ form. That one is formed just like the formal imperative: take an actual verb form, like „wir gehen“ and put the verb first, so „Gehen wir!“ (Let's go!). This would be appropriate to say if a group has already decided to go somewhere and they are just waiting for a signal to go. However, if you just want to make a suggestion, you may want to add a „doch“. German particles like „doch“ are hard to translate, but in this sentence the „doch“ has the same function as „how'bout...“. „Gehen wir doch ins Kino!“ (How'bout we go to the cinema!)

More politely, you could phrase your suggestion with „Ich finde wir sollten...“ (I find we should...) or „Ich denke wir sollten...“ (I think we should...). This phrase works just like in English, so just stick an infinitive after it and you're good. For example: „Ich finde wir sollten nicht mehr länger warten“ (I find we shouldn't wait any longer).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

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

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #14

German Vowel-Changing Verbs: Do You See Those Clouds?

CONTENTS

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

14

GERMAN

1. B: Warum hast du keine Lust, einen Spaziergang zu machen? Der Himmel ist blau, die Sonne scheint, es ist warm...
2. M: Ich habe einfach keine Lust. Außerdem sieht es nach Regen aus. Siehst du die Wolken da?
3. B: Ich denke nicht, dass es Regen gibt.
4. M: Ich bleibe jedenfalls hier.
5. M: Isst du jetzt mit?
6. B: Ja, ich habe Hunger. Und was machst du nach dem Essen?
7. M: Vielleicht lese ich ein Buch, oder ich gucke Fernsehen.

ENGLISH

1. B: Why aren't you in the mood to take a walk? The sky is blue, the sun is shining, it is warm...
2. M: I am just not in the mood. Besides it's looking like rain. Do you see those clouds?
3. B: I don't think that there will be rain.
4. M: In any case I am staying here.
5. M: Are you going to eat with me now?
6. B: Yes, I am hungry. And what are you doing after the meal?

CONT'D OVER

7. M:

Maybe I will read a book, or watch TV.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Himmel	sky, heaven	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same
lesen	to read	verb	er liest, er las, er hat gelesen
jedenfalls	in any case	other	
Wolke	cloud	noun	plural: Wolken
Regen	rain	noun	masculine
nach	to, after	adverb	Used with a place, not used with people
aussehen	to look, have the appearance	verb	"aus" splits off
außerdem	besides	adverb	
scheinen	to shine, to seem	verb	weak verb
Sonne	sun	noun	feminine; plural: Sonnen
blau	blue	adjective	
Fernsehen	television	noun; neuter, das	no plural

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Sie war im siebten Himmel. She was in seventh heaven.	Ich lese gerade ein gutes Buch. I am reading a good book at the moment.
--	--

Jedenfalls habe ich mich gegen das Angebot entschieden. In any case, I decided against the offer.	"Wolkig" bedeutet, dass es viele Wolken gibt. "Cloudy" means that there are a lot of clouds.
Es wird später Regen geben. There will be rain later.	Nach dem Essen möchte ich sofort nach Hause fahren. After the meal I immediately want to drive home.
Der gefürchtete Kriegsverbrecher floh nach Argentinien. The feared war criminal fled to Argentina.	Am Samstag komme ich nach Hamburg. On Saturday I am coming to Hamburg.
Diese Streifen sehen gut an dir aus. Those stripes look good on you.	Wie siehst du denn aus! What a sight you are!
Abends, wenn es dunkel wird, sieht die Welt ganz anders aus. In the evening, when it gets dark, the world looks very different.	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.
Es scheint, als ob es später regnen wird. It seems as if it will rain later on.	Die Sonne scheint heute. The sun is shining today.
Die Sonne ist untergegangen. The sun has gone down.	Wieso ist der Himmel blau? Why is the sky blue?

Kann ich das rote Kleid zu den blauen Schuhen anziehen?

Can I wear the red dress together with the blue shoes? (Implied: do they match?)

Fernsehen ist auch nicht mehr das, was es mal war. Wer will schon Berühmtheiten im Dschungel sehen?

Television isn't all it used to be, either. Who wants to see some celebrities in the jungle?

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. mit-essen. The prefix mit- can be translated as „along“. It implies that you're joining somebody. So „Essen Sie mit?“ means „Are you joining us for the meal?“. 2. nach dem Essen. The word „Essen“ in this phrase is treated like a noun, but it's based on the verb „essen“ (to eat) of course. You can use the same kind of phrasing with any verb, e. g. nach dem Einkaufen (after the shopping), nach dem Kochen (after the cooking), nach dem Warten (after the waiting)... 3. Also note that while this German dialog used only the present tense, sometimes we used the future tense in the English translation. In German, you can imply the future, for example "Vielleicht lese ich ein Buch nach dem Essen" means "Maybe I WILL read a book after the meal", even though it technically says "Maybe I am reading a book after the meal".

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson are vowel-changing verbs.

Siehst du die Wolken da?

"Do you see those clouds?"

You've seen the verb "essen" (to eat) before, but there is something we didn't tell you about it before. It is not quite regular. It is actually part of a group of verbs called vowel-changing verbs... and if you didn't guess, the thing they have in common is that they change their stem vowel at some point. To be precise, they always change their stem vowel for the second and third person singular, that is the *du* and *er / sie / es* forms.

Here are the forms of the vowel-changing verbs you have encountered so far:

essen (to eat) → ich esse, du isst, er isst, wir essen, ihr esst, sie essen

geben (to give) → ich gebe, du gibst, er gibt, wir geben, ihr gebt, sie geben

sehen (to see) → ich sehe, du siehst, er sieht, wir sehen, ihr seht, sie sehen
lassen (to let) → ich lasse, du lässt, er lässt, wir lassen, ihr lasst, sie lassen

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

This change is also recognized in the informal imperative form. For vowel-changing verbs, the imperative also includes this change, e. g. Iss! Gib! Sieh! (However, „Lass“ would be wrong; the verb is irregular).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The weather in Germany is quite typical for its region. As in the remaining countries of central Europe, a temperate cool and cloudy weather dominates. The weather in the northern part of Germany is influenced by winds from the North Sea most of the time, so temperatures over 28°C (82 F) in summer and below 0°C (32 F) in winter are uncommon. If you want to do winter sports during Christmas time, you either have to visit the southern part of Germany or one of the indoor-skiing centers that have become very popular in the last years in the northern part of Germany.

For people in the “Ruhrpott” (a megalopolis in the north west) and the surrounding areas it is a very common custom to go to the “Baggerloch” on hot summer days to swim, relax or just enjoy the weather. These “Baggerlöcher” (= plural of “Baggerloch”) are huge man-made lakes which are a relict of the gravel-mining in the area.

If you want to go to one of these, be cautious: There are some “Baggerlöcher” which are opened for the public and guaranteed to be safe to swim in but many more are fenced in and officially part of a company site. Typically, no one will care if someone comes there to swim and there will be fewer people than in the others but you never know if it might be dangerous to swim there as there could be old steel cables in the water or the water depth could increase suddenly, so if you go there take someone with you who knows where its safe.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #15

German Likes and Dislikes: I Don't Like Soccer!

CONTENTS

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

15

GERMAN

1. B: Ah, jetzt kommt gerade Fußball im Fernsehen!
2. M: Fußball? Ich mag Fußball nicht. Schalte um!
3. B: Aber ich liebe Fußball! Guck mal, Deutschland spielt!
4. M: Ich hasse Fußball! Die Profis kriegen alle zu viel Geld.
5. B: Nein...
6. M: Lass uns sehen, was sonst noch kommt.

ENGLISH

1. B: Ah, now there's soccer on TV!
2. M: Soccer? I don't like soccer. Switch channels!
3. B: But I love soccer! Look, Germany is playing!
4. M: I hate soccer! The pros all get too much money.
5. B: No...
6. M: Let's see what else is on.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
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gerade	right now	adverb	
kriegen	to receive	verb	weak verb
Profi	professional, pro	noun; masculine, der	plural: Profis
hassen	to hate	verb	weak verb
spielen	to play	verb	weak verb
Deutschland	Germany	proper noun	
lieben	to love	verb	
umschalten	to switch channels	verb	"um" splits off
mögen	to like	verb	ich mag, du magst, er mag, wir mögen, ihr mögt, sie mögen. Past tense: er mochte.
Fußball	soccer, soccer ball	noun; masculine, der	plural: Fußbälle (plural is only used for the ball and not for the sport itself)
sonst	otherwise, other than that	conjunction	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ich halte ihn nicht gerade für eine Stimmungskanone. I am not exactly taking him for a great joker.	Ich arbeite gerade daran. I am working at it right now.
Ich kriege noch Geld von dir! You still owe me money!	Dich kriege ich noch! I will get you!

Er spielt Fußball wie ein Profi. He plays soccer like a professional.	Ich mag kein Sushi, denn ich hasse Fisch. I don't like sushi because I hate fish.
Ich hasse hellgrüne Hemden. I hate light green shirts.	Musst du wieder Gitarre spielen? Do you have to play the guitar again?
Mein Hund will immer spielen. My dog always wants to play.	Deutschland ist in Europa. Germany is in Europe.
Ich liebe dich. I love you.	Bitte schalte um. Please switch to another TV channel.
Ich mag dieses Lied. I like this song.	Er mag Rosenkohl nicht, aber er isst ihn trotzdem. He doesn't like Brussels sprouts, but he eats it anyway.
Wer hat wen beim Fußball besiegt? Who beat whom at the Soccer match?	Ich schaue gerade Fußball. Mann, sind die heute mies. I am watching Soccer right now. Man, they are lame today.
Magst du dein Weihnachtsgeschenk? Sonst verkaufe es doch. Do you like your Christmas present? Otherwise just sell it.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. kommen. In this lesson, „kommen“ is not used in the sense of „to come“ but „to be on“, to talk about what programs are shown on TV. This is apparent in several phrases in this lesson, for example „Lass uns sehen, was sonst noch kommt“ (Let's see what else is on). 2. That brings us to the second word usage point for today: the word „sonst“. Normally it means „otherwise“, but in the combination „sonst noch“ it means „(something) else“. Most commonly you will hear it at the bakery or a small shop. Once you've indicated something you want to

buy, the salesperson will ask you „Sonst noch etwas?“ (Do you want anything else?).

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the verb "mögen", to like.

Ich mag Fußball nicht.

"I don't like soccer."

You've seen vowel-changing verbs before. For example „lesen“ (to read), whose stem changes to „lies-“ for the 2nd and 3rd person singular. For vowel-changing verbs, it's always just these two forms that use a different stem.

However, there are a couple verbs that change stem for all singular forms. This concerns mostly German modal verbs, the equivalents of can, may, must and the like, but also the verb „mögen“ (to like), which you have seen in this lesson.

„mögen“ uses the stem „mag-“ for all singular forms: ich mag, du magst, er mag (NOT „er magt“, note there's no -t!). For plural it reverts back to „mögen“ as a stem: wir mögen, ihr mögt, sie mögen.

This is an extremely useful verb when talking about what you like and dislike, so learn it well!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

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

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #16

Don't Go Through Difficult Changes in Germany Alone!

CONTENTS

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

16

GERMAN

1. M: Ah, die Nachrichten!
2. B: Lass uns mal Reinhören.
3. N: Die Polizei warnt vor der Sonnensekte. Diese Sekte soll einen Massenselbstmord planen.
4. N: Heute war die Polizei im Haus der Sekte am Spreeufer in Berlin und stellte Gift sicher.
5. N: Und jetzt das Wetter für die nächsten Tage...

ENGLISH

1. M: Ah, the news!
2. B: Let's listen in.
3. N: The police warns of the sun sect. This sect is said to be planning a mass suicide.
4. N: Today the police was in the sect's house on the shore of the Spree in Berlin and seized poison.
5. N: And now the weather for the next days...

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Nachricht	message, news	noun; feminine, die	

Gift	poison	noun; neuter, das	
sicherstellen	to ensure; seize	verb	
Haus	house	noun	neutral
planen	to plan	verb	
Selbstmord	suicide	noun; masculine, der	
Masse	mass	noun; feminine, die	
sollen	shall, supposed to	verb	
Sekte	sect	noun; feminine, die	
warnen	to warn	verb	
reinhören	to listen in	verb	
nächster / nächste / nächstes	next	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

In der Höhle fanden wir eine versteckte Nachricht. Inside the cave we found a hidden message.	In den Nachrichten haben sie etwas von einer Orkanwarnung gesagt. In the news they said something about a hurricane alert.
Die Dosis macht das Gift. It's all in the dosage whether something is poisonous or not.	Die Polizei konnte vier Kilo Rauschgift sicherstellen. The police were able to seize four kilos of narcotic drugs.
Mein Haus ist nicht groß. My house isn't big.	Planst du, bei dem Treffen dabei zu sein? Do you plan to be there for the meet-up?

Der gefürchtete Verbrecher beging Selbstmord, bevor er verurteilt werden konnte. The feared criminal committed suicide before he could be sentenced.	In den 70ern bildete sich eine Massenbewegung zum Umweltschutz. In the 70s, a mass movement for environmentalism developed.
Ich sollte mich zuerst duschen. I should shower first.	Wohin soll die Reise gehen? Where is your journey supposed to go to?
Dies ist eine gefährliche Sekte, die ihren Mitgliedern das Geld abnimmt. This is a dangerous sect, which takes away the members' money.	Ich muss sie vor dieser Gefahr warnen. I have to warn them about this danger.
Lass uns mal Reinhören! Let's listen in!	Der Nächste, bitte. Next, please.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

„war“ means „was“. This is a form of the past tense. Similarly, „stellte“ is the past tense of „stellen“ (to put). Most German verbs form the past tense by adding -te. We will look at this in detail in the intermediate series, but if you just remember „war“ and -te, you will already be able to understand a lot more German texts.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is a first glance at changes to adjectives and articles.
Und jetzt das Wetter für die nächsten Tage...
"And now the weather for the next days..."

Right now it may seem daunting to you that the article is sometimes „der“ and sometimes „dem“ or „den“ or „die“ for the same word, and that adjectives sometimes acquire endings and sometimes don't... as a beginner, you shouldn't worry too much about these changes.

They are all part of the declension system, which allows you to identify the role of a word in the sentence just based on its form.

If you use incorrect forms, it won't impede understanding, that's why you shouldn't worry too much until you're at a higher level. However, at this stage we will give you some general rules you can try.

First, note that the definite article is always „die“ in plural and that there is no indefinite article in plural. As we've seen in lesson 10, there are different ways of forming the plural, so there's no one thing to look out for in nouns. However, nouns rarely change if not for the plural, so when you see a modified noun form, it is most likely plural. Adjectives are most likely to have the ending -en, but if they come after a form of „to be“, they don't change at all. This is special in German, in Spanish and French you'd have to change the adjective in that position, too.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

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

The majority of Germans are non-practicing Christians. Officially there are 32.3% Protestants and 31.9% Catholics, but actually the numbers are probably a bit higher, because being registered as a Christian means that you have to pay an extra tax which will go to your church. This is because Germans don't typically donate much for German causes; the taxes are supposed to make sure that everybody in Germany is cared for. The second largest religion is Islam. 4% of Germans believe in Islam. Then, Buddhism and Judaism claim approximately 0.25% each. This lack of diversity probably derives from the fact that Germany is not a country of immigrants, unlike the United States.

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

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

“Protestant”, but most of the content is not specific to one particular faith. A lot of time is spent on getting an overview of the beliefs of Christianity and the beliefs of other religions (with tolerance being the goal) and to discuss issues people might need help with: drugs, sex, abuse, abortion and so on.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #17

How Stupid Would We Have to Be to Not Know These German Clauses?

CONTENTS

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

17

GERMAN

1. B: Sag mal... du warst doch auch oft an der Spree... Warst du in dieser Sekte?
2. M: Nein, wie kommst du denn darauf! Ich in einer Sekte??
3. M: Denkst du, ich bin so dumm??
4. B: Nein...
5. M: Oder denkst du, ich möchte Selbstmord begehen?
6. B: Nein, ich hoffe nicht.
7. M: Na also!
8. B: Kennst du das Sektenhaus?
9. M: Ich war mal da, ja. Es ist ein schönes Haus.
10. B: Und die Polizei?
11. M: Die Polizei war nie da.

ENGLISH

1. B: So tell me... you've been to the Spree often too... Were you in this sect?
2. M: No, how did you get that idea! Me in a sect??

CONT'D OVER

3. M: Do you think I am so stupid??
4. B: No...
5. M: Or do you think I want to commit suicide?
6. B: No, I hope not.
7. M: So there!
8. B: Do you know the sect's house?
9. M: I was there before, yes. It's a nice house.
10. B: And the police?
11. M: The police was never there.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
denn	because; adds emphasis	modifier	
dieses	this	demonstrative pronoun	
darauf	on that	adverb; used whenever referring back to something and the preposition would have been "auf"	used whenever referring back to something and the preposition would have been "auf"
dumm	stupid		

möchte	would like	verb	conditional tense of "mögen", but it behaves essentially like a fictional verb "möchten"
begehen	to commit, to walk around	verb	er begeht, er beging, er hat begangen
hoffen	to hope	verb	
nie	never	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ich mag kein Sushi, denn ich hasse Fisch. I don't like sushi because I hate fish.	Wie siehst du denn aus! What a sight you are!
Diese Stadt ist sehr berühmt. This city is very famous.	Dieser Fisch ist sehr alt. This fish is really old.
Ich mag dieses Lied. I like this song.	Ich habe heute keine Lust darauf. I'm not in the mood for that today.
Das ist gar nicht mal so dumm! That is not such a stupid idea!	Manchmal ist es eine dumme Idee, Bienen verjagen zu wollen. Sometimes it is a stupid idea to want to chase away bees.
Ich möchte einen Kaffee. I would like a coffee.	Er sagt, dass er dieses Verbrechen nicht begangen hat. He says that he didn't commit this crime.

Hoffen wir, dass der Start gut verläuft. Let's hope that the start goes well.	Wir hoffen, dass dieser Sportler bei der nächsten Olympiade einen neuen Rekord aufstellen wird. We hope that this athlete will set a new record at the next Olympics.
Ich hoffe es schneit über Nacht. Dann sind die Dächer morgens immer weiß. I hope it will snow during the night. Then the roofs are always white in the morning.	Ich hoffe das Schiff wird den Sturm überstehen. I hope this ship will weather the storm.
Ich hoffe, dass du nicht wieder zu spät kommen wirst. I hope that you won't come late again.	Meine Mutter hat mir beigebracht, Kerzen nie unbeaufsichtigt brennen zu lassen. My mother taught me to never let a candle burn unattended.
Ich wünsche mir einen Sommer, der nie vergeht. I wish for a summer that never goes by.	Das würde mir nie in den Sinn kommen. That would never cross my mind.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „wie kommst du denn darauf!“ - how did you get that idea! Very common German expression. 2. „na also!“ - so there! you see! Not translatable literally, but also very common thing to say when you've made somebody see reason.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson are shortened subclauses.

Denkst du, ich bin so dumm?

"Do you think I'm that stupid?"

In the third lesson we first encountered German subclauses, for example the subclause with „dass“ following „Denken Sie...“. At that time we learned that in German, you have to place the verb at the very end of these subclauses. In this lesson however, we have seen a shortened, very colloquial way of saying the same thing.

Just look at the phrase „Denkst du, ich möchte Selbstmord begehen?“. This came up in the dialog. As you can see, we do not have the mandatory „dass“ here, nor does the main verb move to the end. This kind of shortened subclause is colloquial, you shouldn't use it in writing. And remember – if you leave out the „dass“, you also have to keep your main verb in second position, and vice versa. These changes always go hand-in-hand and anything else would sound weird.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The German police

1. most of the uniforms and cars are based on the color green. Cars are either completely green or green/white and uniforms are green/yellow.
2. new uniforms and cars are blue and silver, in an effort to standardized the appearance of the police across Europe
3. „dein Freund und Helfer“ (your friend and helper), but typically very serious, never joking
4. fines if you address them as „du“ or call them bad names
5. not responsible for incorrectly-parked cars, there's a separate authority for anything that doesn't move

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #18

You Could Be the Luckiest Person in Germany! I Can Hardly Believe it!

CONTENTS

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

18

GERMAN

1. C: La la la la la...
2. J: Hey Stephan! Wie geht's? Du siehst glücklich aus!
3. C: Ja, ich bin glücklich. Mir geht es wirklich gut. Ich kann es kaum fassen!
4. J: Was ist los?
5. C: Ich habe Karten für das Fußballspiel Wolfsburg gegen Bayern München übermorgen!
6. J: Wow, super! Du hast nicht zufällig eine Karte übrig?
7. C: Nein, tut mir leid. Meine Frau möchte mitkommen.

ENGLISH

1. C: La la la la la...
2. J: Hey Stephan! How are you? You look happy!
3. C: Yes, I am happy. I am really well. I can hardly believe it!
4. J: What's up?
5. C: I have tickets for the soccer game Wolfsburg against Bayern Munich day after tomorrow!
6. J: Wow, super! You don't by any chance have another ticket?

CONT'D OVER

7. C:

No, I'm sorry. My wife wants to come along.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
glücklich	happy, lucky	adjective	
zufällig	by accident, by any chance		
super	super, great		
übermorgen	day after tomorrow		
gegen	against	preposition	
Spiel	game, match	noun; neuter, das	plural: Spiele
Karte	card; menu; map; ticket	noun, feminine, die	feminine; plural: Karten
los sein	to be up, to be afoot; be rid of	expression; conjugates like "sein"	conjugates like "sein"
fassen	to catch, grasp	verb	weak verb
kaum	hardly	adverb	
können	can, to be able to, to be allowed to	verb	irregular; ich kann, du kannst, er kann, wir können, ihr könnt, sie können
übrig	leftover, remaining		

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Sag mal, bist du glücklich in deinem neuen Job? So tell me, are you happy in your new position?	Hast du zufällig noch eine Zahnbürste? Ich habe meine vergessen. Do you by any chance have a spare toothbrush? I forgot mine.
Ich habe ihn gestern ganz zufällig beim Frisör gesehen. I saw him yesterday at the hairdresser quite by accident.	Mann, du siehst heute Abend super aus! Man, you're looking awesome tonight!
Kann ich den Aufsatz auch erst übermorgen abgeben? Can I hand in the essay day after tomorrow as well?	Jedenfalls habe ich mich gegen das Angebot entschieden. In any case, I decided against the offer.
Ich liebe Geschicklichkeitsspiele. I love games where you have to be nimble.	Kommst du auch mit zum Spiel, um unsere Schulmannschaft anzufeuern? Are you also coming along to the match, to cheer on our school team?
Der Spieler hat das Kartenspiel verloren. The player lost the card game.	Die deutsche Fußballnationalmannschaft begeisterte durch ein hervorragendes Spiel. The German national soccer team enthused [people] with an excellent match.
Kontrolleur: Ihre Fahrkarten bitte! Controller: Your tickets please!	Kann ich bitte die Karte sehen? Can I see the menu please?
Endlich bin ich das los. Finally I am rid of this.	Was ist denn hier los? What are you up to?

Ich kann es nicht fassen! I can't believe it!	Kaum war ich aus dem Haus, fing es an zu regnen. I had hardly stepped out of the house when it started to rain.
Kannst du deutsches Essen essen? Can you eat German food?	Ich kann nicht gut singen. I can't sing well.
Die übrigen Gläser kannst du wieder in den Schrank stellen. You can put the remaining glasses back into the cupboard.	Ist von dem Kuchen noch etwas übrig? Is there anything left of the cake?

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „Wie geht's?“ - How are you? Short for „Wie geht es (dir)?“; generally an apostrophe S stands for „es“. 2. „Was ist los?“ - What's up? 3. „Ich kann es kaum fassen“ - literally 'I can hardly grasp it', but it's used to mean that you are still astonished that you were so lucky.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the verb können (can)

Ich kann es kaum fassen!

"I can hardly believe it!"

In this lesson's dialog you have encountered the form „ich kann“. This is an irregular form of the verb *können* (can). This modal verb behaves almost like a vowel-changing verb, except that the complete singular uses another vowel, not just the 2nd and 3rd person singular.

Here is the complete conjugation.

ich kann, du kannst, er kann, wir können, ihr könnt, sie können (infinitive is können)

This verb is always used with an infinitive verb, like in English. However, in German the infinitive verb is placed at the very end of the sentence, while the modal verb stays in 2nd

place. This unexpected verb movement occurs whenever there is more than one verb in a German sentence.

Examples

Kannst du heute kommen? – Can you come today?

Ich kann nicht gut singen. – I can't sing well.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Sports in Germany

1. soccer is the most popular professional sport
2. car racing is second most popular
3. ice hockey, basketball, volleyball and handball each have their following
4. there's little baseball or American football and absolutely no racketball (Chuck checked)

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #19

Do You Know What Is Making Them So Angry in Germany?

CONTENTS

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

19

GERMAN

1. C: Hallo! Ich bin wieder da!
2. J: Hallo! Ähm...
3. C: Ist was?
4. J: Ja...
5. C: Sag schon!
6. J: Dein Chef hat angerufen. Er braucht dich übermorgen Abend im Büro. Du kannst nicht zum Fußballspiel gehen.
7. C: Das ist nicht wahr, oder?
8. J: Doch...
9. C: WAS??? Ich kann nicht gehen?? Aber ich habe doch Karten! Weißt du, wie teuer die waren??
10. J: Ja, natürlich. Dein Chef weiß es auch, aber es geht nicht anders.
11. C: So eine Scheiße! Was denkt er eigentlich, wer er ist!

ENGLISH

1. C: Hello! I'm back!
2. J: Hello! Ähm...

CONT'D OVER

3. C: Is anything the matter?
4. J: Yes...
5. C: Just say it!
6. J: Your boss called. He needs you in the office day after tomorrow in the evening. You can't go to the soccer match.
7. C: That's not true, is it?
8. J: Yes it is...
9. C: WHAT??? I can't go?? But I have tickets! Do you know how expensive they were??
10. J: Yes, of course. Your boss knows it, too, but there is no other way.
11. C: Shit! Who does he think he is!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
dein	your (informal)	possessive pronoun	
eigentlich	actually	adverb	
Scheiße	shit	noun; feminine, die	no plural; very colloquial and informal
teuer	expensive	adjective	

wissen	to know	verb	ich weiß, du weißt, er weiß, wir wissen, ihr wisst, sie wissen; er wusste; er hat gewusst
wahr	true	adjective	
Büro	office	noun	plural: Büros
Abend	evening	noun	
anrufen	to call	verb	"an" splits off
Chef	boss	noun	plural: Chefs; feminine: Chefin
wer	who	pronoun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Dein Haus ist sehr groß. Your house is very big.	Kommst du allein oder kommt dein Mann auch? Are you coming alone or is your husband coming, too?
Wo bist du eigentlich? Where are you actually?	Oh nein! Ich glaube ich bin in Hundescheiße getreten! Oh no! I believe I stepped into dog poop!
Ist Bier teuer in Deutschland? Is beer expensive in Germany?	Das ist zu teuer. That is too expensive.
Ich weiß nicht, ob das so richtig ist. I don't know if it's right like this.	Ein paar Leute wissen immer noch nicht, was passiert ist. A few people still don't know what happened.

Das ist nicht wahr! That's not true!	Ab 8 Uhr bin ich im Büro. I'm at the office starting at 8 o'clock.
Am Abend wird es kalt. It gets cold in the evening.	Heute Abend werden wir auf der Terrasse grillen. Tonight we'll have a barbecue on the patio.
Ich habe schon oft dort angerufen. Am Ende läuft es immer darauf hinaus, dass wir noch länger auf unsere Bestellung warten müssen. I already called there often. In the end it always comes down to us waiting even longer for our order.	Mein Chef fordert keine Überstunden, aber viel Engagement bei der Arbeit. My boss doesn't demand overtime, but he does demand a lot of dedication to the work.
Wer ist das? Who is that?	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „Ist was?“ - Is there anything? What's up? 2. „Sag schon!“ - Do tell! Please tell me already! 3. „Es geht nicht anders“ - literally 'it goes not differently', but it's used to mean that there's no other way, it has to be this way.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the irregular verb 'wissen'

Weißt du, wie teuer die waren??

"Do you know how expensive they were??"

In this lesson's dialog you have encountered the forms „du weißt“ and „er weiß“. These are irregular forms of the verb *wissen* (to know). All singular forms of this verb are based on „weiß-“ instead of the expected „wiss-“. The plural forms are regular.

Here is the complete conjugation.

ich weiß, du weißt, er weiß, wir wissen, ihr wisst, sie wissen

This verb comes up in the Loreley song, which is really well-known. It starts off „Ich weiß nicht was soll es bedeuten, dass ich so traurig bin.“ (I don't know what it means that I am so sad). The whole song is melancholic, because it deals with ships being drowned by the beautiful Loreley. Conversely, this song is often brought up when people are not sad but happy.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Dealing with your boss

1. Dealings are a lot more formal, as indication of respect. This also means that you have to call your boss „Sie“ - but if you work in IT or the like there is a minority of bosses who will offer you to use „du“ instead. In any case you have to wait for them to suggest that.
2. An effort is made to keep the distance, so you're much less likely to spend time with your boss outside the workplace.
3. Bosses typically let you work normal hours, without asking for too many extra hours, because there is a strong sense of worker rights and trade unions are strong. Also if you have to work on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays or at night, you are legally guaranteed significantly higher pay for these times and almost no boss will try to withhold that extra pay.
4. If you're fired, you retain your health insurance and your pension benefits, because these are not linked to your job. In the vast majority of cases, you are also entitled to unemployment money, which is either 60 or 67% of the wage you earned. Even if you're unemployed over a long term, you will get enough social money from the state to keep you and your family alive. So while nobody is happy about the prospect of being laid off, it is not such a scary thought as it is in the states. This, and the fact that Germans are not typically in much debt, gives German employees much more leverage against a company that exploits them.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #20

How is Your German Future Looking?

CONTENTS

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

#20

GERMAN

1. J: Hey! ... Hey! Geh nicht einfach weiter!
2. C: Lass mich in Ruhe!
3. J: Was?? Was ist los? Du siehst nicht gut aus.
4. C: Ich bin traurig.
5. J: Warum?
6. C: Mein scheiß Chef braucht mich übermorgen im Büro.
7. J: Und?
8. C: Übermorgen ist das Fußballspiel. Ich werde es nicht sehen können.
9. J: Oh Mann.
10. C: Wenn die übermorgen spielen, werde ich im Büro sitzen und arbeiten.
11. J: Scheiß Chef.
12. J: Und was ist mit den Karten?
13. C: Meine Frau wird sich das Spiel allein angucken. Die andere Karte werde ich vielleicht verkaufen.
14. J: Ich nehme sie sofort!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. J: Hey! ... Hey! Don't just walk on!
2. C: Leave me be!
3. J: What?? What's up? You're not looking good.
4. C: I am sad.
5. J: Why?
6. C: My shitty boss needs me in the office day after tomorrow.
7. J: And?
8. C: The soccer match is day after tomorrow. I will not be able to see it.
9. J: Aw man!
10. C: When they are playing day after tomorrow, I will be sitting in the office and working.
11. J: Darn boss.
12. J: And what's with the tickets?
13. C: My wife will watch the match alone. Perhaps I will sell the other ticket. J: I will take it immediately!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
weiter	further		

nehmen	to take (vowel-changing verb)	verb	
verkaufen	to sell	verb	
angucken	to look at	verb	
allein(e)	alone	adverb	
sitzen	to sit	verb; er sitzt, er saß, er hat gesessen	
wenn	when, if	conjunction; the question word "when" is "wann" in German! ; (means „when“ only for something in the future)	
Mann	man	noun	masculine
traurig	sad	adjective	
Ruhe	silence, tranquility, calm	noun; feminine, die	
sofort	immediately	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ich wollte noch stehenbleiben und zuschauen, aber meine Mutter zerrte mich weiter. I wanted to stand there and keep watching, but my mother tore me away and made me go on.	Gestern habe ich erfahren, dass ich noch eine weitere Tante habe. Yesterday I learned that I have another aunt.
Nimm dir noch ein Stück Fleisch! Take another piece of meat!	Du brauchst eine spezielle Fähigkeit, um etwas zu verkaufen. You need a special skill to sell something.

Magst du dein Weihnachtsgeschenk? Sonst verkaufe es doch. Do you like your Christmas present? Otherwise just sell it.	Kommst du mit, um dir die neue Wohnung anzugucken? Are you coming along in order to look at the new apartment?
Hausarbeit macht sich nicht von allein. The house work doesn't do itself.	Das ist einzig und allein deine Schuld. That's solely and only your fault.
Kommst du allein oder kommt dein Mann auch? Are you coming alone or is your husband coming, too?	Dieses Kleid hat die richtige Größe, aber es sitzt nicht gut. This dress is in the right size, but it doesn't drape well.
Wo möchtest du sitzen? Where would you like to sit?	Ich trinke immer Kaffee, wenn ich arbeite. I always drink coffee when I work.
Verstehst du mich, wenn ich auf Englisch spreche? Do you understand me when I speak on (in) English?	Der Mann ist sehr alt. The man is very old.
Mein Mann arbeitet hier. My husband works here.	Er war traurig und seufzte. He was sad and sighed.
Ist das die Ruhe vor dem Sturm? Is this the calm before the storm?	Legen Sie nicht sofort wieder auf, ich muss Ihnen etwas Wichtiges sagen! Don't hang up immediately again, I have to tell you something important!
Kommt sofort. Coming up immediately.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „einfach“ = simply, just. „Geh einfach!“ = Just go! 2. „Lass mich in Ruhe!“ = Leave me be! This is a very useful phrase if somebody is annoying you, especially if a stranger harasses you on the street. „Ruhe“ (silence, quietness, calm) also appears in another very useful phrase, „Ruhe da!“ (Be quiet!) 3. „Und?“ and „Na und?“ are common ways to urge people to continue on, for example if they are telling a story. Be aware though that „Na und?“ used in the wrong tone can mean „So what? I don't care!“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the future tense.

Meine Frau wird sich das Spiel allein angucken.

"My wife will watch the game alone."

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

Note that all verbs are regular in the future tense and splitting verbs are never split for this. Some examples of sentences using the future tense:

Nächstes Jahr wird Martin als Austauschschüler in die USA gehen. – Next year Martin will go to the USA as an exchange student.

Wirst du endlich glücklich sein? – Will you finally be happy?

Wann werden sie es einsehen? – When will they realize it?

Note also that in German the future is often implied, for example in the sentence "Ich nehme sie sofort!", which in English would be "I'll take it immediately!".

CULTURAL INSIGHT

More about soccer and watching soccer matches

- a typical German national-league soccer stadium has space for more than 60 000 people
- it's legal to have standing room as well, apart from the seats, so pay attention when buying tickets (Chuck - ice hockey anecdote)

- seats at a national league game range from 25 EUR to 40, and of course it depends on where the match takes place and who is playing.
- at the beginning of the match, the German national anthem is not typically played, except if it's an international match
- the most important leagues, from a German point of view, are the Bundesliga, the UEFA champions league, the european championship and the world championship. Germany is big in soccer and has won the world championship several times. Soccer is big in most of Europe, as well as South America.
- each soccer team has 11 active players, but more may be in reserve, waiting to play later
- the match is divided into two segments of 45 minutes each with a half-time break of up to 15 minutes in between. Unlike in ice hockey, the actual play time is not much longer either, because there's little time-out or overtime.
- the winner is the one who scored the most goals. Typically the score is low, for example 0-to-1, 2-to-1 or the like.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #21

Are You Always This Apathetic at Work in Germany?

CONTENTS

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

#21

GERMAN

1. Boss: Herr Müller, schön Sie zu sehen!
2. C: Ja, was für eine Überraschung!
3. Boss: Wir haben viel zu tun. Zuerst kopieren Sie bitte die Notizen hier und dann bereiten Sie das Meeting mit unserem Investor vor.
4. C: Okay.
5. Boss: Bis später dann!
6. ...
7. Boss: So, Herr Müller, haben Sie die Notizen?
8. C: Nein...
9. Boss: Und das Meeting?
10. C: Wen interessiert es?!

ENGLISH

1. Boss: Mr Müller, nice to see you!
2. C: Yes, what a surprise!
3. Boss: We have a lot to do. First please copy these notes and then prepare the meeting with our investor.

CONT'D OVER

4. C: Okay.
5. Boss: So see you later!
6. ...
7. Boss: So, Mr Müller, do you have the notes?
8. C: No...
9. Boss: And the meeting?
10. C: Who cares?!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Überraschung	surprise	noun; feminine, die	plural: Überraschungen
wen	whom	question word	Accusative
bis	until	adverb	
Investor	investor	noun; masculine, der	plural: Investoren; feminine: Investorin
Meeting	business meeting	noun; neuter, das	plural: Meetings
vorbereiten	to prepare	verb	"vor" splits off
Notiz	note	noun; feminine, die	plural: Notizen
kopieren	to copy	verb	weak verb
zuerst	at first, firstly	adverb	
tun	to do	verb	er tut, er tat, er hat getan

interessiert

interested, is
interesting

adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Das ist ja eine Überraschung!

What a surprise!

Wer hat wen beim Fußball besiegt?

Who beat whom at the Soccer match?

Freddie wird das bis später schaffen.

Freddie will make it until later.

Dies ist ein sehr wichtiges Meeting mit unserem Investor.

This is a very important meeting with our investor.

Sie bereitet Häppchen vor für die Party.

She is preparing appetizers for the party.

Die Karnevalsvereine bereiten sich ein ganzes Jahr lang auf die Karnevalszeit vor.

Carnival clubs spend a whole year preparing for the Carnival season.

Machst du dir Notizen im BWL-Kurs?

Are you taking notes in the management class?

Raubkopieren ist strafbar.

Pirating (making illegal copies) is punishable.

Du hast dich ganz schön verändert! Ich habe dich zuerst nicht erkannt.

You changed a lot! I didn't recognize you at first.

Na schön, aber du gehst zuerst!

Fair enough, but you go first!

Ich sollte mich zuerst duschen.

I should shower first.

Heute habe ich nichts zu tun.

Today I have nothing to do.

Ich kriege von meinen Eltern gesagt, was ich tun und lassen kann. I get told by my parents what I can and can't do.	Ich habe noch viel zu tun, aber erst nehme ich mir einen Kaffee. I still have a lot to do but first I get myself a coffee.
Die Firma hat viel zu tun, deshalb bitten sie dich um etwas Geduld. The company is very busy, therefore they ask you to be patient.	Er schien an unserem Angebot sehr interessiert zu sein. He seemed to be quite interested in our offer.
Hör auf, darüber zu reden, es interessiert mich wirklich nicht. Stop talking about it, it really doesn't interest me.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. was für ein(e) ...! = what a ...! 2. bis ...! = until ...! See you ...! - We always use a variation of this one at the end of our lessons. Watch out for it!

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson are pointers and possessives

Zuerst kopieren Sie bitte die Notizen hier und dann bereiten Sie das Meeting mit unserem Investor vor.

"First copy these notes and then prepare the meeting with our investor."

Technically, "this" is "dieser" in German and "that" is "jener". However, these forms, especially the "jener" forms, are almost out of use in spoken German. Very often they get replaced by "der, die, das". Or, as you have seen in the dialog, we add a "hier", as in "die Notizen hier" instead of "diese Notizen".

Let's also have a quick look at possessives. Here is the full list of possessive pronouns in German, most of which you have encountered by now.

mein – my

dein – your (singular, informal)
sein – his, its
ihr – her
unser – our
euer – your (plural)
ihr – their, your (formal)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Denglisch

„Denglisch“ is what we call English words that German is adopting right now, for example „Meeting“. These words are tricky, because people argue about the gender and what plural they should take. Very often they will just use the English plural, minus the rules that Germans can't remember, for example „Hobby“ does „Hobbys“ in German, with a YS. However, other words have familiar endings for which there already is a rule in German, and these will behave according to that rule, for example „Investor“ does „Investoren“.

There is a lot of fake English in German, too. Everybody will tell you that these words are English, but you may never have heard of them before, or at least not with that meaning. Things like „Handy“ (cellphone) or „Call Shop“ (a place to make cheap phone calls to other countries) or „Beamer“ (projector).

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #22

What You MUST Know to Master Anxiety in Germany!

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - German
 - Main
 - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#22

DIALOGUE - GERMAN

MAIN

1. Boss : Hallo!
2. Freund : Hey!
3. Boss : Oh, hi!
4. Freund : Dani und ich gehen heute ins Delta, möchtest du auch mitkommen?
5. Boss : Ich bin noch auf der Arbeit...
6. Freund : Oh, tut mir leid. Ich dachte du bist schon fertig.
7. Boss : Nein, ich habe sogar noch ein wichtiges Meeting mit unserem Investor. Ich weiß nicht, wie ich alles schaffen soll! Ich habe viel Stress!
8. Freund : Lass deinen Assistenten das doch vorbereiten.
9. Boss : Der ist heute keine Hilfe. Ich muss alles selbst machen, und das Meeting ist in 20 Minuten!
10. Freund : Oh wow! Ich glaube, ich lasse dich dann mal arbeiten. Bis später!

ENGLISH

1. Boss : Hallo!
2. Freund : Hey!
3. Boss : Oh, hi!
4. Freund : Dani and I are going to the Delta tonight, do you want to come along?
5. Boss : I am still at work...
6. Freund : Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you were done already.
7. Boss : No, I even have an important meeting with our investor still coming up. I don't know how I'm supposed to manage everything! I'm under a lot of stress!
8. Freund : Why don't you let your assistant prepare that.
9. Boss : He is of no help today. I have to do everything myself, and the meeting is in 20 minutes!
10. Freund : Oh wow! I believe I'll let you work then. See you later!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
mitkommen	to come along	verb	
Minute	minute	noun	feminine (die)
selbst	oneself, myself, yourself; even	adverb	
müssen	must, to have to	verb	
Hilfe	help, aid	noun; feminine, die	
Assistent	assistant	noun; masculine, der	
Stress	stress	noun, masculine, der	
schaffen	to manage, to be able to do sth.	verb	
wichtig	important	adjective & adverb	
sogar	even	adverb	
fertig	completed, ready	adjective & adverb	
Arbeit	work, labor	noun	feminine
glauben	to believe	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Möchtest du mitkommen?	Bitte gib mir noch eine Minute.
Would you like to come along?	Give me another minute, please.
Nur noch fünf Minuten!	Ich habe mir Französisch selbst beigebracht.
Just five more minutes!	I taught myself French.
Einige Sozialarbeiter brauchen selbst Hilfe, um die Dinge zu verarbeiten, die sie während der Arbeit erleben. Some social workers need help themselves to handle the things they experience during their work.	Ich habe so viel Arbeit, ich muss selbst am Wochenende schuften. I have so much work, I even have to plod during weekends.
Ich muss den Film nicht unbedingt sehen. I don't absolutely have to watch that movie.	Ich muss viel für die Uni lernen. I have to study a lot for university.
Musst du wieder Gitarre spielen? Do you have to play the guitar again?	Deine Hilfe bedeutet mir viel. Your help means a lot to me.
Mein neuer Assistent ist total unfähig. My new assistant is completely incapable.	Ich habe viel Stress auf der Arbeit. I have a lot of stress at work.

Am Anfang schuf Gott den Himmel und die Erde. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.	Wie hat der Dieb es geschafft, in die private Feier einzudringen? How did the thief manage to intrude on the private party?
Ich weiß nicht, ob ich das schaffen kann. I don't know if I am able to do this.	Ich denke, dass er das schon schaffen wird. I think that he will manage (it).
Ich finde das Wichtigste ist, sich selber treu zu bleiben. I think the most important thing is to be true to yourself.	Dies ist ein sehr wichtiges Meeting mit unserem Investor. This is a very important meeting with our investor.
Ich habe eine der wichtigsten Aufgaben bekommen. I was given one of the most important assignments.	Die Zahl 8 ist ein Beispiel für eine gerade Zahl. "The number 8 is an example of an even number." "
Du hast wirklich gut gespielt, sogar deine Gegner mussten das anerkennen! You played really well, even your opponents had to recognize that!	Das Mittagessen ist gleich fertig. Lunch will soon be ready.
Was ist deine Arbeit? What is your work?	Das ist eine sehr angenehme Arbeit. That is a very pleasant/nice [type of] work.
Ich glaube er spricht mit einem Akzent, auch wenn ich nicht weiß, wo dieser herkommt. I do believe he speaks with an accent, though I am not sure where it is from.	Es fällt mir schwer, dir zu glauben. I find it difficult to believe you.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. dachte = thought. This is the irregular past tense form of „denken“(to think). We'll cover the past tense in detail later, so don't worry about it now. 2. ins = in das = in the (for neuter words). This is a very common contraction. The other common contraction with „in“ is „im“, which stands for „in dem“ („in the“ for masculine words).

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the modal verb *müssen* (must)

Ich muss alles selbst machen.

"I have to do everything myself."

„müssen“ is a really important German modal verb, which you must know. It means „must“.

The conjugation: ich muss, du musst, er muss, wir müssen, ihr müsst, sie müssen

The forms are also parallel to the ones of „können“, also displaying this vowel-changing from singular to plural. The usage is also the same – just conjugate this verb, put it in second position in the sentence and then add another verb at the very end of the sentence, after all other information.

Examples:

Ich muss heute noch Klavier üben. – I must practise playing the piano today.

Musst du das wirklich tun? – Do you really have to do that?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

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

When calling cellphones however, especially with caller identification, the need to identify yourself is significantly lower, so there you will often find people immediately joining the conversation.

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

- Gerda Wagner.
- Michael Schmidt, guten Tag. Wie geht es Ihnen, Frau Wagner?
- Gut, danke, und Ihnen?
- Gut, danke. Und wie geht es Ihrem Mann? (And how is your husband?)
- Auch gut. Er arbeitet im Moment.
- Und Lena? Ich möchte eigentlich mit Lena sprechen. (eigentlich = actually)
- Lena ist hier. Ich gebe ihr jetzt das Telefon. (I'm giving the phone to her now.)

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #23

You're So Impatient! Don't Make This Conversation Mistake in Germany!

CONTENTS

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

23

GERMAN

1. Investor: Guten Tag, Frau Schulte!
2. Boss: Guten Tag, Herr Schmidt! Kommen Sie herein!
3. Investor: Ist alles bereit fürs Meeting?
4. Boss: Ja, lassen Sie mich nur noch meine Notizen holen...
5. Investor: Gut, tun Sie das.
6. Boss: Möchten Sie vielleicht einen Kaffee oder...
7. Investor: Wasser bitte.
8. Boss: Mit Eis?
9. Investor: Ohne.
10. Boss: Ja, es ist nicht sehr heiß in diesem Jahr, finden Sie nicht auch?
11. Boss: Der Sommer lässt auf sich warten...
12. Investor: Frau Schulte, ich bin nicht hier, um das Wetter zu diskutieren. Lassen Sie uns anfangen!
13. Boss: Natürlich, sofort.

ENGLISH

1. Investor: Good day, Mrs Schulte!

CONT'D OVER

2. Boss: Good day, Mr Schmidt! Come in!
3. Investor: Is everything ready for the meeting?
4. Boss: Yes, just let me get my notes...
5. Investor: Okay, do that.
6. Boss: Maybe you'd like a coffee or...
7. Investor: Water please.
8. Boss: With ice cubes?
9. Investor: Without.
10. Boss: Yes, it's not very hot this year, don't you think so as well?
11. Boss: The summer is running late...
12. Investor: Mrs Schulte, I'm not here to discuss the weather. Let's start!
13. Boss: Of course, immediately.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
herein	into, in, within	adverb	
diskutieren	to discuss	verb	
um	in order to	conjunction	
Sommer	summer	noun; masculine, der	masculine

heiß	hot, ardently		
ohne	without	preposition	
Eis	ice, ice-cream	noun	neutral (das)
Wasser	water	noun	neutral
Kaffee	coffee	noun	masculine
holen	to fetch, bring	verb	
nur	only, just	adverb	
bereit	ready		
anfangen	to start, begin	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Kommen Sie herein! Come in! (formally)	Er kam herein und ging sofort rückwärts wieder raus. He came in and immediately went back out backwards.
Ich mag es, über Politik zu diskutieren. I like discussing politics.	Wie spät müssen wir losfahren, um um 15 Uhr in Düsseldorf zu sein? What time do we need to get going in order to be in Düsseldorf by 3pm?
Ich wünsche mir einen Sommer, der nie vergeht. I wish for a summer that never goes by.	Mir ist heiß. I'm hot.
Ohne die Allgemeine Hochschulreife wird man an der Universität nicht angenommen. Without the permission to enter university one isn't allowed into university.	Sie haben diese Entscheidung ganz ohne meine Beteiligung getroffen. They came to this decision without any participation on my side.

Das Eis schmilzt in ihrem Mund. The ice cream is melting in her mouth.	Wie wäre es mit einem Eis? How about having an ice?
Bitte bring mir mal ein Glass Wasser. Please bring me a glass of water.	Und der Kahn soll uns wirklich heil über das Wasser bringen? And this barge is really supposed to bring us safely over the water?
Ein Glas Wasser ohne Kohlensäure bitte! A glass of water without carbonation please!	Ich kann den Tag nicht ohne Kaffee beginnen. I can't start the day without coffee.
Viele Deutsche trinken mehrere Tassen Kaffee pro Tag. Many Germans have several cups of coffee per day.	Ich trinke immer Kaffee, wenn ich arbeite. I always drink coffee when I work.
Holst du uns noch ein paar Bier aus dem Keller? Can you bring us another couple beers from the basement?	Ich habe nur am Sonntag Zeit. I am only free on Sunday.
Ich esse nur Gemüse. I only eat vegetables.	Sind Sie bereit, mehr Verantwortung im Unternehmen zu übernehmen? Are you ready to take on more responsibility in the enterprise?
Das Motto der Pfadfinder ist "Allzeit bereit". The boyscouts' motto is "always ready".	Seid ihr bereit? Are you ready?

Wann soll ich anfangen, den Ofen vorzuheizen? When shall I start to pre-heat the oven?	Viele Märchen fangen mit "Es war einmal" an. Many fairy tales start off with "Once upon a time".
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VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. fürs = für das (for the). This is a very common contraction in spoken German and increasingly common in writing. 2. lässt auf sich warten = literally „has people wait for it“ = is still missing, still not on the horizon, is running late.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is politeness in suggestions.

Lassen Sie uns anfangen!

"Let's start!"

Let's review the ways in which you can suggest something in a nice, polite way that can be used even for superiors.

1. Using the polite imperative of all verbs. If you recall, this is the same form as the conjugated „Sie“ form of a verb, but with the „Sie“ put after rather than before the verb. So „Gehen Sie“ instead of „Sie gehen“, „Kommen Sie“ instead of „Sie kommen“ and so on. You can even add „bitte“ (please), but as you saw in this dialog, it's not mandatory, particularly if you're suggesting something that is obvious or to the person's own advantage.
2. The polite imperative of „lassen“ is particularly important. „Lassen Sie uns...“ is the polite way of saying „Let's“. Note the difference to „Lass uns“, which would be the equivalent phrase when talking to a friend.
3. You can also use „Möchten Sie“ (Would you like) as an almost-rhetoric question. Here you can add „vielleicht“ (maybe) to make it more polite. It completely removes all pressure from the addressee to respond positively.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Small talk in German

- Considerably less smalltalk in Germany, especially in professional relationships
- Little talk about the weather even among friends
- „How are you?“ serves as a starter to hear about everything that is going on in people's lives, so don't be surprised if you get a longer answer. Many people will also answer negatively to this question, especially some old people who take pride in enumerating their illnesses.
- Among friends, the news or the political situation can easily come up as a topic of discussion, it's not taboo and generally you expect everybody to be up-to-date with the basics of current events.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #24

I'm Proud to Be Making Progress in German!

CONTENTS

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

24

GERMAN

1. Boss: Der Firma geht es wirklich gut. Unser Produkt verkauft sich gut und die Mitarbeiter arbeiten schon an unserem neuen Projekt.
2. Investor: Ah ja, gibt es da etwas Neues?
3. Boss: Seit ein paar Tagen laufen Marktstudien. Ich denke, je eher wir die Daten haben, desto eher können wir uns auf den Markt vorbereiten. Gute Idee, oder?
4. Investor: Hmm, nicht wirklich. In unserem Feld brauchen wir ganz aktuelle Daten...

ENGLISH

1. Boss: The company is doing really well. Our product is selling well and the employees are already working on our new project.
2. Investor: Ah yes, are there any news about that?
3. Boss: Since a few days ago market studies are running. I think that the earlier we have the data, the earlier we can prepare for the market. Good idea, isn't it?
4. Investor: Hmm, not really. In our field we need really up-to-date data...

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Firma	company	noun	plural: Firmen
ganz	completely		

Feld		noun; neuter, das	plural: Felder
Idee	idea	noun, feminine, die	feminine; plural: Ideen
eher	earlier		
je... desto	the... the... (e. g. the more the better)	expression	
Studie	study	noun; feminine, die	plural: Studien
Markt		noun; masculine, der	plural: Märkte
laufen	to walk, jog, to function	verb	er läuft, er lief, er ist gelaufen
neu	new	adjective	
Mitarbeiter	employee, staffer, co-worker	noun	plural is the same; feminine: Mitarbeiterin
Produkt	product	noun; neuter, das	plural: Produkte
aktuell	current, up-to-date		

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Viele große Firmen handeln ihre Ware an der Börse. Many big companies are trading their good at the stock exchange.	Diese Firma wirbt viel im Fernsehen. This company advertises a lot on TV.
Diese Firma hat zwei Niederlassungen: eine in Berlin und eine in München. This company has two offices: one in Berlin and one in Munich.	Jetzt habe ich ein ganzes Set. Now I have a complete set.

Privat ist er ganz anders. In private he is completely different.	Die Sozialwissenschaften sind ein weites Feld, welches viele andere wissenschaftliche Bereiche mit einschließt. The social sciences are a broad field which also includes other scientific areas.
Der Wind peitschte die Felder. The wind whipped the fields.	Ich habe eine Idee. I have an idea.
Je eher du ihn anrufst, desto besser. The sooner (or earlier) you call him, the better.	Je mehr Leute mitkommen, desto billiger wird es. The more people come along, the cheaper it will become.
Die neue Studie zeigt, dass die beiden Faktoren korrelieren. The new study shows that the two factors correlate.	Auf dem Marktplatz gibt es eine große Menschenmenge, und Paul ist mitten unter ihnen. On the market square there is a large crowd of people, and Paul is in the middle of them.
Der Fernseher läuft bei manchen Leuten Tag und Nacht und ich habe seit gut zwei Jahren noch nicht mal mehr einen. Some people have the TV running day and night and I haven't even had one in over two years.	Läufst du immer deinen Problemen davon? Are you always running from your problems?
Ist der Pulli neu? Is that pullover new?	An diesem Produkt ist mehr Verpackung als Inhalt. This product consists of more packaging than content.

Die aktuelle Lage ist schlecht.

The current situation is bad.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Der Firma geht es wirklich gut. = The company is doing really well. See this as a variation of „Mir geht es wirklich gut“ and just replace „mir“ with any Dative word of your choice. 2. Es verkauft sich gut. = It's selling well. Normally „verkaufen“ is an active word, describing the action of somebody selling something. In this context however, our focus is on the product, not the person selling, and „verkaufen“ acquires a more passive meaning. This is expressed in German by adding the „sich“ (itself).

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the Dative.

In unserem Feld brauchen wir ganz aktuelle Daten.

"In our field we need really up-to-date data."

As we already established, German noun phrases change slightly depending on what their function is in the sentence. German knows four cases.

Nominative – for the subject of the sentence

Genitive – to express possession, like „my father's car“

Dative – for indirect objects and after many prepositions

Accusative – for direct objects and also after prepositions

We shall look at each case and the changes it involves in detail in later lessons. Today, let's look at the Dative. The most obvious case for the Dative is for the receiver of something, for example „I give him the book“. The word „Dative“ even comes from the Latin for „to give“. In today's lesson, we also saw that the Dative is used after the German prepositions *an*, *seit* and *in*, when it's specifying a location rather than a direction.

The most obvious indicator for Dative is the -m ending on articles and adjectives when they're used with masculine or neuter singular nouns. For example „dem Vater“ (to the father), „in dem Geschäft“ (in the shop) or „an unserem Produkt“ (on our product). Even the personal pronouns „he“ and „it“ change to „ihm“.

For feminine words and for plural things are more complicated and I suggest you learn the complete forms later, or depend on exposure to drill them in.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Pride and modesty in Germany

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 by 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. In return, 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. Germans don't typically give out unwarranted compliments anyway, except maybe with foreigners, if they are aware of cultural differences.

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

Beginner S2 #25

If You Had Any Doubts About Your German...They End Here!

CONTENTS

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

25

GERMAN

1. C: Tooor! Jetzt steht es eins zu null für Bayern München!
2. J: Freut euch nicht zu früh, Wolfsburg kann noch aufholen.
3. C: Theoretisch. Ich glaube es nicht.
4. J: Wieso nicht? Der Ball ist rund und das Spiel dauert 90 Minuten.
5. C: Ja, aber die Bayern spielen heute wirklich gut. Wolfsburg hat keine Chance.
6. J: Wir werden sehen.
7. C: Ich sag es Ihnen, das wird nichts!

ENGLISH

1. C: Gooaaaall! Now the score is one to zero for Bayern Munich!
2. J: Don't get your hopes up too soon, Wolfsburg can still catch up.
3. C: In theory they can. I don't believe it.
4. J: Why not? The ball is round and the game lasts 90 minutes.
5. C: Yes, but the Bavarians play really well today. Wolfsburg doesn't stand a chance.
6. J: We will see.

CONT'D OVER

7. C:

I tell you, nothing is going to come out of it!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class
Tor	gate, door; goal	noun; neuter, das
dauern	to last, to take (a certain amount of time)	verb
rund	round	adjective
Ball	ball (round object or celebration)	noun; masculine, der
wieso	why	adverb
theoretisch	in theory, theoretically	
aufholen	to catch up	verb
früh	early	adjective, adverb
euch	you (plural, as an object); yourselves	personal pronoun
sich freuen	to be happy	verb
Chance	chance (opportunity, possibility)	noun; feminine, die

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Am Brandenburger Tor sieht man immer viele Touristen. At the Brandenburg Gate you always see many tourists.	Warum dauert das so lange? Why is this taking so long?
--	---

Die runden Formen des Rennwagens waren beinah hypnotisierend. The round forms of the racing car were almost hypnotizing.	Das Runde muss in das Eckige. The round thing has to go inside the angular thing. (= you have to play the soccer ball into the goal)
In ihrem wunderschönen Ballkleid schwebte sie nur so dahin. In her beautiful ballroom dress she just floated like that.	Er spielt Fußball wie ein Profi. He plays soccer like a professional.
Wieso ist der Himmel blau? Why is the sky blue?	Wieso ist das so? Why is that so?
Theoretisch ist es machbar, aber praktisch gibt es einige Hindernisse. It is doable in theory, but in practice there are several obstacles.	Er liegt einen Meter zurück, aber er könnte noch aufholen. He's behind by one meter, but he could catch up still.
Es ist früh am Morgen. It is early in the morning.	Ich mag euch beide. I like both of you.
Die Kinder freuen sich auf die Ferien. The kids are looking forward to the holidays.	Ich freue mich über den Brief von dir. I am happy about your letter.
Wenn sich die Chance bietet, dann werde ich sie auf jeden Fall ergreifen. If the opportunity presents itself I'll most definitely take it out.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „Es steht eins zu null für München“ - The score is one to zero for team Munich. „es steht“

literally means „it stands“. The first number refers to the home team, unless you name another team after „für“. 2. „Es ist Gleichstand“ can be used to say that the game is even, both teams have the same score.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson are the Dative forms of personal pronouns.

Ich sag es dir, das wird nichts!

"I tell you, nothing is going to come out of it!"

ich – mir

du – dir

er / es – ihm

sie – ihr

wir – uns

ihr – euch

sie – ihnen / Sie - Ihnen

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Famous German quotations

„Der Ball ist rund und das Spiel dauert 90 Minuten“. The ball is round and the game lasts 90 minutes. – Sepp Herberger, German national soccer coach 1936-42 and 1950-64.

„Niemand hat die Absicht, eine Mauer zu errichten“. Nobody has the intention of constructing a Wall. - Walter Ulbricht, head of the GDR, while already building the Berlin Wall.

„WIR sind das Volk“. WE are the people. Slogan of demonstrations against the Communist East German regime. „Wir sind EIN Volk“. We are ONE people. Later slogan, emphasizing the need for reunification of East and West.

„Es wächst zusammen, was zusammen gehört“. What belongs together will grow together. - Willy Brandt, about the reunification.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #26

Don't Be Afraid...After All, What Are the Odds of This Happening to You in Germany?

CONTENTS

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

26

GERMAN

1. J: Mist! Jetzt fängt es an zu regnen!
2. C: War das gerade ein Blitz?
3. J: Ich glaube ja.... Und da ist der Donner. Es gibt ein Gewitter.
4. C: Scheiße! Genau während des Spiels!
5. J: Ich glaube, ich gehe lieber.
6. C: Sie haben Angst davor, nass zu werden?
7. J: Nein, aber wenn das Gewitter hier ist, und die ganzen Menschen...

ENGLISH

1. J: Drats! Now it's starting to rain!
2. C: Was that lightning just now?
3. J: I believe so... And there's the thunder. We're having a thunderstorm.
4. C: Shit! Exactly during the match!
5. J: I believe I would rather go.
6. C: You are afraid of getting wet?
7. J: No, but if the thunderstorm is here, and all those people...

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Mist	manure; something with drats!	noun; masculine, der	no plural
werden	to become	verb	ich werde, du wirst, er wird, wir werden, ihr werdet, sie werden; Also used as a future marker and passive marker!
davor	in front of that, before that, of that	adverb	used instead of "vor das"
Angst	fear, anxiety, angst	noun; feminine, die	plural: Ängste
lieber	rather	adverb	
nass	wet		
während	while, during	conjunction	used with Genitive or subclause
genau	exactly		
Gewitter	thunderstorm	noun	plural is the same
Donner	thunder	noun	plural is the same
Blitz	lightning, flash	noun; masculine, der	plural: Blitze
regnen	to rain	verb; the noun is "der Regen"(the rain)	the noun is "der Regen"(the rain)
Mensch	human	noun; masculine, der	plural: Menschen

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mist! Ich habe meine Hausaufgaben vergessen! Drats! I forgot my homework!	Wenn man sie fragt, wird sie rot. When you ask her, she blushes (= becomes red).
--	---

Der Lebenslauf sollte immer dem Job angepasst werden, für den Sie sich bewerben. A resume should always be customized according to the job you apply for.	Wahrscheinlich wird es regnen. It will probably rain.
Im 15. Jahrhundert begann die Renaissance. Davor kannten die Leute die römischen Texte nicht. The renaissance began in the 15th century. Before that, people didn't know the Roman texts.	Hast du Angst davor, überfallen zu werden? Are you afraid of getting robbed?
Er hatte solch eine Angst vor der Prüfung, dass er in Schweiß ausbrach. He was so scared because of the assessment, that he broke out in a sweat.	Isst du lieber Steak oder Schnitzel? Do you prefer eating steak or schnitzel?
Bist du nass geworden? Did you get wet?	Einige Sozialarbeiter brauchen selbst Hilfe, um die Dinge zu verarbeiten, die sie während der Arbeit erleben. Some social workers need help themselves to handle the things they experience during their work.
Pass auf, dass du während deiner Rast keinen Rost ansetzt. Be careful not to grow any rust while you rest.	Der Treffpunkt ist genau hier. The meet-up point is here exactly.
Sie fürchtet sich immer bei Gewitter. She is always afraid when there's a thunderstorm.	Als wir nach Hause gingen, hörten wir schon den Donner. When we went home, we already heard the (claps of) thunder.

Die Aufgaben sind einfach, die sind blitzschnell erledigt. The tasks are simple, they will be done in no time (as fast as lightning)	Wahrscheinlich wird es regnen. It will probably rain.
Manche Menschen bekommen schon sehr früh eine Glatze. Aber es gibt immer wieder Fälle, denen das wirklich steht. Some people get a bald head very early. But there are always cases, for whom it looks good.	Er ist ein ehrlicher Mensch. He is an honest person.
Alle Menschen sind gleich. All men are equal.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. werden = become. nass werden = get wet. 2. Angst haben = to be afraid. The usage; Angst haben VOR + noun OR Angst haben davor, + verb or subclause

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the Genitive.

Genau während des Spiels!

"Exactly during the game!"

The Genitive is typically used to show possession. For example „the man's name“ is „der Name des Mannes“ in German. Note that the Genitive noun, which in English comes first, comes afterwards in German.

The article „des“ is the most recognizable shape of the Genitive, because it isn't used for anything else. „des“ is used for masculine and neuter singular nouns. For feminine singular and for all plural nouns, the article is „der“. This means that the Genitive would actually be really easy to learn, if it wasn't for some nouns also randomly adding an ending for this case.

Also, be aware that the Genitive is slowly going out of use. People are more and more likely to say „der Name von dem Mann“ instead of „der Name des Mannes“. Also the prepositions that traditionally take the Genitive, such as „während“ (during) and „wegen“ (because of), increasingly use the Dative now. The Genitive is slowly being replaced by the Dative everywhere except in set phrases. This is especially true for the spoken language. In written German, the Genitive can still be found more often, though it depends on the person who is writing.

By the way, here's a funny German saying about this matter - „Der Dativ ist dem Genitiv sein Tod.“ (literally; The Dative is the Genitive its death; using Dative in a truly horrible fashion to replace the Genitive in this very phrase)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. 112 (no area code) is the most important phone number in Germany/Austria/Switzerland, because by dialing 112 you get the local emergency response (firefighters, ambulance).
2. In Germany there is also a special number for the police, 110. In Austria and Switzerland this number does not exist, it's still 112.
3. In case of a medical emergency you want to ask for a „Notarzt“ (emergency doctor) – that is „Not“ for emergency and „Arzt“ for doctor. You could also request a „Krankenwagen“ (ambulance), literally a vehicle for ill people.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #27

It's Time For Some Uniquely German Schadenfreude!

CONTENTS

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

#27

GERMAN

1. Boss: Herr Müller!
2. C: Ja?
3. Boss: Das Spiel ist aus!
4. C: Was?? Es ist doch erst 20 Uhr 25, noch nicht einmal halb 9.
5. Boss: Ja, aber es gibt ein Unwetter. Die Polizei hat Angst, dass es sonst bei dem Gewitter eine Panik gibt, oder Menschen verletzt werden.
6. C: Und sie brechen das Spiel ab? Haha, das ist klasse! Das ist gut!

ENGLISH

1. Boss: Mr Müller!
2. C: Yes?
3. Boss: The match is over!
4. C: What?? It's only 8.25pm, not even half past eight.
5. Boss: Yes, but there is a storm. The police is afraid that there will be a panic because of the thunderstorm otherwise, or that people will get hurt.
6. C: And they abort the game? Haha, that's awesome! That's good!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
aus	from	preposition	
abbrechen	to abort, cancel; break off	verb	"ab" splits off; er bricht ab, er brach ab, er hat abgebrochen
verletzt	injured, hurt		
Panik	panic	noun; feminine, die	plural: Paniken
Unwetter	storm, extreme weather	noun; neuter, das	plural is the same
halb	half	adjective	
einmal / mal	once; sometime	adverb	colloquial meaning is „sometime“ or it can be inserted to make a request sound more casual
Uhr	clock; o'clock	noun, feminine, die	
erst	first, only then	adverb	
klasse	awesome, great, neat		

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Kommst du aus Berlin oder von außerhalb? Do you come from Berlin or from elsewhere?	Ich bin aus Deutschland. I am from Germany.
Möchten Sie diesen Vorgang wirklich abbrechen? Would you really like to cancel this operation?	Ich habe mich beim Tennisspielen verletzt. I injured myself playing tennis.

Nur keine Panik! Don't panic!	Die Nachrichten warnten vor einem Unwetter morgen. The news warned of a storm tomorrow.
Es ist jetzt halb zehn. It is now half past nine. (half ten)	Mein Urgroßvater ist ein sehr alter Mann. Er hat schon eine halbe Glatze. Aber er erzählt oft sehr interessante Geschichten aus seinem Leben. My great-grandfather is a very old man. His head is half bald already. But he often tells very interesting stories from his life.
Man muss auch mal etwas wagen. You have to risk something sometime.	Lass uns noch einmal über die Sache reden. Let's talk about this thing once more.
Es ist 16 Uhr. It's 16:00.	Die Uhr tickt. The clock is ticking
Wir brauchen zuerst ein Konzept. Erst dann sollten wir uns Gedanken um das Geld machen. First we need a concept. Only then should we worry about money.	Wir sollten uns erst Gedanken über den Ablauf machen. Vorher kommen wir einfach nicht weiter. First we should think about the course of action. We won't get anyfurther before we do this.
Sie sieht heute klasse aus, findest du nicht? She's looking great today, don't you think so?	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. erst = only. Es ist erst 6 Uhr. = It's only 6 o'clock. 2. einmal = once. Nicht einmal = not even.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is how to tell the time in German.

Es ist doch erst 20 Uhr 25, noch nicht einmal halb 9.

"But it's only 8:25pm, not even half past eight."

In German, there are different ways to give the time. The most common one is to name the nearest quarter of the hour.

Um ____

You can also indicate any amount of minutes before or after the full hour by using „vor“ (before, to) and „nach“ (after).

Zehn nach Sechs.

Or you can give the time „digitally“ by just reading the numbers – e. g. „Zwölf Uhr Vierunddreißig“ (12:34). When using this approach, almost all Germans will use a 24 hour schema, instead of 12. So 5 o'clock in the evening is usually called „17 Uhr“ (17 o'clock!).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Some hard-to-translate German words

1. Schadenfreude – „damage-happiness“ - happiness about somebody's misfortune, for example if a person you hate gets arrested for drug use
2. Unwetter – „un-weather“ - extreme weather, which is so dangerous that you need to stay inside
3. Fernweh – „far-ache“ - longing to be in an unspecified far away country
4. Geisterfahrer – „ghost driver“ - person driving in the wrong direction on the Autobahn (dangerous!)
5. Jein – „ye-no“ - yes and no, I'd have to say yes to part of your question and no to the rest
6. Feierabend – „celebration-evening“ - time to get off work
7. gemütlich – cozy, homely, calm, not rushed

There are still more!

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #28

Planes, Trains, or Automobiles—or Maybe a German Bus!

CONTENTS

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

28

GERMAN

1. Caroline: Juchhu! Jetzt sind wir in Europa!
2. Martin: Ich kann es kaum fassen! Zwei Wochen in alten Städten und modernen Metropolen!
3. Caroline: Nicht nur zwei Wochen, ganze sechzehn Tage! Erst Berlin, dann München, vielleicht Heidelberg, Paris...
4. Martin: Können wir auch nach Amsterdam fahren?
5. Caroline: Wenn du möchtest. Ich weiß nicht, ob man mit dem Zug von Deutschland aus bis nach Amsterdam fahren kann.
6. Martin: Sonst mieten wir ein Auto, oder wir fliegen.

ENGLISH

1. Caroline: Yay! Now we are in Europe!
2. Martin: I can hardly believe it! Two weeks in ancient cities and modern metropolises!
3. Caroline: Not just two weeks, a whole 16 days! First Berlin, then Munich, maybe Heidelberg, Paris...
4. Martin: Can we also go to Amsterdam?
5. Caroline: If you want. I don't know if it's possible to take the train from Germany all the way to Amsterdam.
6. Martin: Otherwise we rent a car, or we fly.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Juchhu!	Yay	exclamation	
Auto	car	noun	
mieten	to rent	verb	weak verb
Zug	train	noun	plural: Züge
ob	whether	conjunction	
fahren	to drive, ride a vehicle as a passenger, or to go but not by foot	verb	not just when you are the driver, not just for cars (also bicycles, buses, trains...)
Metropole	metropole, metropolis	noun; feminine, die	plural: Metropolen
modern	modern		
alt	old	adjective	
Woche	week	noun	feminine; plural: Wochen
Europa	Europe	noun	
fliegen	to fly	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Juchhu, Schule ist aus! Yay, school is over!	Das Auto ist das Lieblingsspielzeug des Mannes in Deutschland. The car is a man's favorite toy in Germany.
Mein Auto ist ein bisschen dreckig. My car is a little dirty.	Viele Züge der Deutschen Bahn haben Verspätung. Many Deutsche Bahn trains are delayed.

Wenn ich den Zug nicht verpasst hätte, wäre ich jetzt schon in München! If I hadn't missed the train, I would now already be in Munich!	Wann kommt dein Zug an? When does your train arrive?
Der Zug ist am Wochenende immer voll. The train is always full on the weekends.	Ich weiß nicht, ob das so richtig ist. I don't know if it's right like this.
Du musst auf der rechten Seite fahren. You have to drive on the right side.	Wir fahren nach Deutschland. We go to Germany.
Berlin ist eine wirklich interessante Metropole. Berlin is a really interesting metropolis.	Ich wohne lieber in einem modernen Haus als in einem Altbau. I prefer living in a modern house than in an old building.
Der Mann ist sehr alt. The man is very old.	Dieses Gebäude ist 100 Jahre alt. This building is 100 years old.
Michaela hat diese Woche Geburtstag. It's Michaela's birthday this week.	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.
Deutschland ist in Europa. Germany is in Europe.	Geh zum Flughafen und flieg nach München. Go to the airport and fly to Munich.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1.ganz = whole. Ganze sechzehn Tage! = A whole sixteen days! (ganze → plural, to fit „Tage“)
2.ob = whether. This starts a subclause, so be sure to put the verb at the end. Ich weiß nicht, ob es wahr ist. = I don't know whether/if it is true.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson are incomplete sentences.

Wenn du möchtest.

"If you want."

Today's dialog featured a lot of incomplete sentences. They are actually very common in spoken German. An incomplete sentence is a sentence that is missing a subject or a main verb or both. However, these have to be easily guessable in order for this to work. Here are some examples.

Missing verb; Kommt Martin zur Party? - Ja, und Paul [kommt] auch.

Missing subject; Oh, [das] tut mir leid. - [Es] ist schon okay.

Missing subject and verb; [Wir haben] zwei Wochen in alten Städten und modernen Metropolen!

Missing main clause; Wenn du möchtest[, können wir das tun].

Except for the cases where „das“ or „es“ are dropped, all of these rely on the context to tell you what is missing.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Getting around in Germany and the neighbouring countries

Here is an overview of the transportation that is available to you if you want to travel within Germany and the neighbouring countries.

1. Car – obviously you can rent a car and drive around, once you've familiarised yourself with the German traffic rules and the look of the road signs, which is rather different from the ones in the states. However, keep in mind that gas is at least twice and sometimes three times as expensive as in the states, so this may not be the cheapest nor the most convenient way to see Germany.

2. **Bus** – Busses are good for getting around in cities, but Germany does not rely much on long-distance busses, because trains are so much faster and more comfortable. Still, there are a couple long-distance bus lines available that you may try. They will take you to from and to major German cities and some international ones.
3. **Train** – Next to cars, trains are foremost in people's minds when thinking long-distance travel. Germany boasts fast trains that can take you from any big city to any other at speeds of up to 190 miles per hour. They even go internationally – you may be able to catch a direct train to Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, continental Denmark, Warsaw, Prague, Vienna, Milan or Basel. There is also a comprehensive network of slower, regional trains, which in conjunction with the fast trains reach almost every town in Germany.
4. **Plane** – Flying from one part of Germany to another is a very new concept and only made possible by the rush of cheap airlines. Now however, even hopping to Venice, Barcelona or London for a weekend is affordable to many. You just have to wait for a good offer.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #29

Checkpoint Charlie, Traffic Light Men, and Fake Souvenirs—More Cool Reasons to Visit Germany!

CONTENTS

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

29

GERMAN

1. Martin: Ha! Guck mal, ich habe ein Geschenk für meine Mutter gefunden, ein schönes Buch mit Bildern von Berlin. Darüber wird sie sich freuen.
2. Caroline: Nicht schlecht!
3. Martin: Und hier habe ich genug Postkarten von Berlin für alle meine Freunde und Bekannte! Ich mag sie, und du?
4. Caroline: Ich auch; sie sind schön. Ich sollte auch ein paar Postkarten an meine Freunde schreiben.
5. Martin: Genau. Die kriegen sicher nicht jeden Tag Post aus Europa.
6. Martin: Ich bin zufrieden mit meinen Einkäufen. Sollen wir gehen?

ENGLISH

1. Martin: Ha! Look, I have found a present for my mother, a nice book with pictures of Berlin. She will be happy about that.
2. Caroline: Not bad!
3. Martin: And here I have enough postcards of Berlin for all my friends and acquaintances! I like them, and you?
4. Caroline: Me too; they are nice. I should also write a few postcards to my friends.
5. Martin: Exactly. They probably don't get mail from Europe every day.

CONT'D OVER

6. Martin: I am satisfied with my purchases. Shall we go?

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Geschenk	present, gift	noun; neuter, das	plural: Geschenke
Post	mail, post office	noun; feminine, die	no plural
sicher	sure	adjective	
paar	couple, pair, few		If used as a noun it is Paar (capitalized).
Bekannter	acquaintance	noun; unspecified, ein	masculine; plural: Bekannte - specified: der Bekannte
Postkarte	post card	noun, feminine, die	female; plural: Postkarten
genug	enough	adverb	
schlecht	bad	adjective	
darüber	about that, above that	adverb	
Bild	picture	noun; neuter, das	plural: Bilder
Mutter	mother	noun; feminine, die	plural: Mütter
zufrieden	content, satisfied	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Oh, was für ein schönes Geschenk! Das wäre doch nicht notwendig gewesen! Oh, what a great present! That wouldn't have been necessary!	Danke für das Geschenk. Thanks for the present.
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Wo geht es hier zur Post? How do I get to the post office from here?	Die Post ist da! The mail is there! [has arrived]
Bist du dir sicher? Are you sure?	Seid ihr ein Paar? Are you a couple?
Ein paar Leute wissen immer noch nicht, was passiert ist. A few people still don't know what happened.	Viele Bekannte von mir haben die bemerkenswerte Fähigkeit, immer genau 15 Minuten zu spät zu sein. Many acquaintances of mine have the remarkable ability to always be exactly 15 minutes late.
Ich schreibe eine Postkarte. I am writing a post card.	Hast du noch genug zu trinken? Do you still have enough to drink?
Du bist ein sehr schlechtes Beispiel für die Kinder. You are a very bad example to the kids.	Die Zeitung berichtet heute darüber. The newspaper is reporting about it today.
Auf Bildern werden Indianer oft mit Pfeil und Bogen dargestellt. On pictures Indians are often shown with bow and arrow.	Häng bitte das Bild auf! Please hang up the picture!
Als alleinerziehende Mutter von drei Kindern hat sie es sehr schwer. As a single mum of three kids she has a very hard time.	Meine Mutter macht unglaublich leckere Apfelkuchen. My mother makes incredibly delicious apple pies.
Insgesamt sind wir mit dem Ergebnis sehr zufrieden. In total we are very pleased with the result.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. darüber – about that. This is a combination of „da“ (here meaning 'that') and „über“ (about), with an R inserted for easier pronunciation. 2. Einkäufe – purchases. Plural of Einkauf, which is the noun based on einkaufen (to buy).

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson are common conditional verbs.

Ich sollte auch ein paar Postkarten an meine Freunde schreiben.

"I should also write a few postcards to my friends."

We may not know the conditional tense yet, but we have encountered quite a few verbs in their conditional form.

First there was „möchte“ (would like), which is the conditional of „mögen“ (to like). Who can get by without „ich möchte“ or „Möchten Sie“?

Next most useful is „könnte“ (could), which is the conditional of „können“ (can). This one is most commonly found in polite suggestions, such as „Könnten Sie mir helfen?“ (Could you help me?). However, you can also use it to say things like „Ich könnte das tun.“ (I could do that).

Then, in this lesson we've seen „sollte“ (should), which is the conditional of „sollen“ (shall). For example, we say „Das solltest du nicht tun“ (You shouldn't do that).

There is also „müsste“ (would have to), the conditional of „müssen“ (must). You can use this to voice speculations, such as „Er müsste jeden Moment kommen“ (He should be here any minute).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Souvenirs in Berlin

In Berlin, you can get the typical souvenirs, such as postcards, mugs, snow balls, wallets, bags, t-shirts, pens and keychains featuring the city name, its symbols and photos of it.

Among the less expected souvenirs there are pieces of the wall, or at least wall pieces that are said to have come from the original Berlin Wall. Their authenticity can be doubted, as enough such pieces have been sold to make up the Berlin Wall five times over. However, if you choose to suspend disbelief, they make for a nice souvenir.

You can also get your passport stamped as the GDR would have, or get a stamp from a transit point like Checkpoint Charlie, where you can also have your photo taken amid actors dressed in American or Soviet uniforms.

Another pretty unique souvenir are items featuring the „Ampelmännchen“. These are East German traffic light men, whose design is much different from the one in use in the rest of Germany. Actually the reunified Germany wanted to replace the East German traffic lights so that the look of traffic light men would be the same across Germany. However, there is no real reason to do so, if anything, the East German design is better. So there was a wave of protest against the replacement and now some artist designed lots of items featuring these traffic light men.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #30

This Dissatisfaction Could Compel You To Do Something Different in Germany!

CONTENTS

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

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GERMAN

1. Caroline: Ja, wir können gehen, dieser Laden ist doof.
2. Martin: Wieso? Wieso ist der Laden doof?
3. Caroline: Es gibt nichts für mich. Ich suche schon die ganze Zeit nach einem neuen T-Shirt, und ich kann einfach keins finden.
4. Martin: Da drüben sehe ich viele schöne T-Shirts mit Bildern von Berlin, und auch ohne, in vielen verschiedenen Farben...
5. Caroline: Ja, aber die sind alle zu klein. Ich brauche XXL.
6. Martin: Es gibt kein XXL? Sollen wir einen Verkäufer mal fragen?
7. Caroline: Nein, ich kenne die Antwort schon. Es ist schon okay. Lass uns einen anderen Laden finden, vielleicht haben wir da mehr Glück.

ENGLISH

1. Caroline: Yes, we can go, this shop is stupid.
2. Martin: Why? Why is the shop stupid?
3. Caroline: There is nothing in it for me. All this time I have been looking for a new t-shirt, and I just can't find one.
4. Martin: Over there I see many nice t-shirts with pictures of Berlin and also without, in many different colors...
5. Caroline: Yes, but they are all too small. I need XXL.

CONT'D OVER

6. Martin: They don't have XXL? Shall we ask a salesperson?
7. Caroline: No, I already know the answer. It's okay. Let's find another shop, maybe we will be luckier there.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Laden	shop	noun; masculine, der	plural: Läden
Antwort	answer, response	noun; feminine, die	plural: Antworten
Verkäufer	salesperson	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same; feminine: Verkäuferin
Farbe	color	noun	plural: Farben
verschieden	different		
da drüben	over there	expression	
T-Shirt	T-shirt	noun	plural: T-Shirts
Zeit	time	noun; feminine, die	plural: Zeiten
doof	stupid, silly, lame		
Glück	luck	noun; neuter, das	no plural

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mittlerweile kann man wieder mehr Platten im Laden kaufen. By now you can buy more vinyl in the stores again.	Der Laden befindet sich gleich um die Ecke. The store is just around the corner.
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In Antwort auf Ihre Stellenanzeige vom 8. Juni aus der FAZ, schicke ich Ihnen hiermit meine Bewerbung. In reply to your job ad, which was published on June 8th in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, I am sending you this application.	Er hat immer eine Antwort parat, außer er redet mit seiner Schwester. He always has an answer to everything, except when he is talking with his sister.
Ich suche eine Stelle als Verkäufer in Teilzeit. I am looking for a position as a salesperson working part-time.	Welche Farbe hat dein neues Auto? What color is your new car?
Zur Zeit muss ich drei verschiedene Sorten Medizin nehmen. At the moment I have to take three different types of medicine.	Er steht da drüben. He stands over there.
Die Zeiten ändern sich. Times change.	Ich habe jetzt Zeit. I have time now.
Dieses Outfit sieht wirklich doof aus. This outfit looks really stupid/silly.	Viel Glück! Good luck!

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. die ganze Zeit = all this time. Er starrt mich die ganze Zeit an. = He has been staring at me all this time. 2. keins = not any. Ich kann keins finden. = I can't find any. 3. Glück = luck. This appears most commonly in the phrase „Viel Glück!“ (Good luck!)

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is demonstratives.

Dieser Laden ist doof.
"This shop is stupid."

In German, the demonstrative pronouns are „dieser, diese, dieses“ (this) and „jener, jene, jenes“ (that). However, you will never hear „jener, jene, jenes“ in spoken German, and both „dieser, diese, dieses“ and „jener, jene, jenes“ will most likely be replaced by the simple article „der, die, das“.

For example, while Caroline said „**Dieser** Laden ist doof“, Martin then picked up on it saying „Warum ist **der** Laden doof?“. Caroline could have called it „der Laden“ as well.

Using the definite article instead of the demonstrative pronouns is a distinct feature of spoken German. It sounds colloquial. In written German, you will not see it used like this.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Some fashion tips

1. convert your sizes before coming here
2. some sizes, such as XXL and up, are only available in specialty stores, because few Germans need them
3. on average, people are more conscious about fashion and will often choose fashion over comfort. To fit in better, bring the better part of your wardrobe.
4. Bring at least one thing other than jeans in case you are invited to a nice restaurant, invited to see somebody's grandparents or want to attend church on Sundays. Traditionally, people are expected to dress best on Sundays.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #31

Coulda, Shoulda, Woulda— Showing Regret, German Style

CONTENTS

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

31

GERMAN

1. Caroline: Mann! Was für eine Scheiße!
2. Martin: Was?
3. Caroline: Die Läden haben alle keine großen T-Shirts! Wir sind jetzt so lange unterwegs, und es gibt einfach keine!
4. Martin: Hmm.
5. Caroline: Ich denke, ich hätte doch ein T-Shirt im ersten Laden kaufen sollen.
6. Martin: Wirklich? Da gibt es doch auch keine T-Shirts in XXL.
7. Caroline: Ja, aber ich brauche auch T-Shirts für meine Brüder.
8. Martin: Ah, sollst du für sie Souvenirs aus Berlin mitbringen?
9. Caroline: Ja. Ich brauche Geschenke für meine ganze Familie. Für meinen Vater habe ich schon etwas, aber...
10. Martin: Dann lass uns hier in den nächsten Souvenirladen gehen und dort T-Shirts für deine Geschwister kaufen.
11. Caroline: Aber die T-Shirts hier sind nicht so schön. Wir hätten sie doch im ersten Laden kaufen sollen.
12. Martin: Dann lass uns zurück gehen!
13. Caroline: Es ist so weit weg jetzt! Ich möchte nicht mehr laufen!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Caroline: Oh man! What shit!
2. Martin: What?
3. Caroline: None of the shops have any big t-shirts! We have now been walking for so long, and there simply aren't any!
4. Martin: Hmm.
5. Caroline: I think I should have bought a t-shirt in that first shop.
6. Martin: Really? They also didn't have any t-shirts in XXL.
7. Caroline: Yes, but I also need t-shirts for my brothers.
8. Martin: Ah, are you supposed to bring them souvenirs from Berlin?
9. Caroline: Yes. I need presents for my entire family. I already have something for my father, but...
10. Martin: Then let's go into the next souvenir shop around here and buy t-shirts for your siblings there.
11. Caroline: But here the t-shirts are not as nice. We should have bought them in the first shop.
12. Martin: Then let's go back!
13. Caroline: It's so far away now! I don't want to walk any more!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
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Mann	man	noun	plural: Männer; means "husband" when used with a possessive pronoun (e.g. "mein Mann")
Geschwister	brothers and sisters, siblings	noun; plural, die	always plural
Vater	father	noun; masculine, der	plural: Väter
Familie	family	noun; feminine, die	plural: Familien
bringen	to bring	verb	er bringt, er brachte, er hat gebracht
Souvenir	souvenir	noun; neuter, das	plural: Souvenire
Schwester	sister	noun; feminine, die	plural: Schwestern
Bruder	brother	noun; masculine, der	plural: Brüder
kaufen	to buy	verb	
erster	first	ordinal number	declines like an adjective: erster, erste, erstes
unterwegs	on the go	adverb	
lange	long; a long time	adverb	
weit weg	far away	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mein Mann arbeitet hier. My husband works here.	Hast du Geschwister? Do you have any brothers or sisters?
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Wenn mein Vater seine berühmte Kohlsuppe macht, macht er immer gleich so viel, dass er mindestens die Hälfte einfrieren und später essen kann. When my father makes his famous cabbage soup he always makes so much of it, that he can freeze at least half of it and eat it later.	Du bist nicht mein Vater! You aren't my father!
Ich habe eine große Familie. I have a big family.	Bitte bring den gelben Sack mit Müll raus. Please take out the yellow sack of garbage.
Hast du viele Souvenirs aus Afrika mitgebracht? Did you bring many souvenirs from Africa?	Ich habe eine Schwester. I have a sister.
Hör auf, deine Schwester zu ärgern! Stop annoying your sister!	Die beiden Brüder rauchten immer miteinander. The two brothers were always brawling with each other.
Wir sind uns nicht einig, welches Haus wir kaufen wollen. We haven't reached an agreement about which house we want to buy.	Marion kriegt bald ihr erstes Kind. Marion will soon have her first baby.
Die ersten Stiefmütterchen blühen schon. The first pansies are blooming already.	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!

Musstest du lange warten? Did you have to wait a long time?	Neuseeland ist so weit weg... New Zealand is so far away...
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VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. haben alle keine = all of them don't have any = none of them have
 2. mitbringen = bring along
 3. mehr = more. Nicht mehr = not anymore, not any further

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is expressing regret.

Ich hätte doch ein T-Shirt im ersten Laden kaufen sollen.

"I should have bought a t-shirt in the first shop."

In order to express regret, you can't get around the structure „hätte ... sollen“ (should have). This is technically a form of the conditional, so don't get confused. In German, when expressing regrets, just put „hätte“, followed by the rest of the sentence including the verb at the end, and then „sollen“.

„Ich hätte ein T-Shirt kaufen sollen“ - I should have bought a t-shirt.

„Er hätte auf mich hören sollen“ - He should have listened to me.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

German families

- Typically, Germans live either with their father and mother and any siblings or with their husband or wife.
- The grandparents don't typically live in the same house, but you visit them fairly often.
- You don't typically see aunts and uncles very often, unless you have a close relationship to your cousins.

4. Times when the family must get together are Christmas, Easter and the birthdays of course. Keep in mind that Germans don't celebrate Thanksgiving or name days.
5. Germans are getting divorced more and more often, though not as often as Americans, so non-classic families are becoming more common, too.
6. Since Germans don't have many children anymore, the German population is getting older bit by bit. Without immigrants, this trend would be a lot worse and cause a much bigger strain on the social system.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #32

Jealous? A German Woman Could Wear a Dress Like That Any Day!

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - German
 - Main
 - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#32

DIALOGUE - GERMAN

MAIN

1. Martin : Wow, guck dir die mal an!
2. Caroline : Wen?
3. Martin : Die Frau da. Sie sieht aus wie ein Modell!
4. Caroline : Du findest sie hübsch?
5. Martin : Natürlich! Sie ist wunderschön. Findest du nicht? Schlank, groß...
6. Caroline : Na ja! Sie ist zu dünn, das kann man nicht mehr schlank nennen.
7. Martin : Sie hat blonde Haare, blaue Augen...
8. Caroline : Das Kleid steht ihr nicht. Für so ein Kleid muss man braun gebrannt sein, mit schwarzen Haaren... eine Mexikanerin sollte so ein Kleid tragen.
9. Martin : Ich weiß nicht, was du hast. Sie ist wirklich hübsch. Bist du etwa eifersüchtig??

ENGLISH

1. Martin : Wow, look at her!
2. Caroline : Who?
3. Martin : That woman. She looks like a model!
4. Caroline : You think she's beautiful?
5. Martin : Of course! She is gorgeous. Don't you think? Slim, tall...
6. Caroline : Nah! She is too thin, you can't call that slim anymore.
7. Martin : She has blonde hair, blue eyes...
8. Caroline : That dress doesn't suit her. For such a dress you have to have a tan, with black hair... a Mexican woman should wear such a dress.
9. Martin : I don't know what's up with you. She is really beautiful. Surely you're not jealous??

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Model	model	noun; neuter, das	
tragen	to wear; to carry	verb	
schwarz	black	adjective	
braun gebrannt	tanned, having a tan	adjective	
braun	brown	adjective	
Kleid	dress	noun; neuter, das	
Auge	eye	noun, neuter, das	neutral
Haar	hair	noun; neuter, das	
blond	blonde	adjective	
nennen	to name, call	verb	
dünn	slim, thin	adjective	
schlank	slim, slender	adjective	
wunderschön	gorgeous	adjective & adverb	
hübsch	beautiful, handsome	adjective	
eifersüchtig	jealous	adjective & adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Claudia Schiffer ist ein bekanntes deutsches Model. Claudia Schiffer is a famous German model.	Darf ich die Tasche tragen? May I carry the bag?
Trage den Hut nicht nochmal während des Unterrichts! Do not wear that hat again in class!	Die Schwestern tragen heute das gleiche Kleid. The sisters are wearing the same dress today.
Für diesen Ausflug sollten Sie widerstandsfähige Kleidung tragen. You should wear resistant, as in resistant to wind or rain, clothing for this excursion.	Er trägt nur Markenklamotten. He only wears brand-name clothes.
Die Ameisen tragen Essen. The ants are carrying food.	Unser Baum trägt viele Früchte dieses Jahr. Our tree is carrying a lot of fruits this year.
Ich trage einen Helm. I'm wearing a helmet. / I'm carrying a helmet.	Schwarze Kleidung kann Leute schlank aussehen lassen. Black colored clothing can make people appear slender.

schwarz und weiß	schwarze Krähe
black and white	black crow
schwarze Fledermaus	Dalmatiner haben schwarze Punkte.
black bat	Dalmatians have black spots.
Ich liebe schwarze Halbschuhe.	Mir wurde schwarz vor Augen.
I love black low shoes.	Every thing around me went black.
braune Augen	Braune Haare sind eine übliche Haarfarbe, während rote ziemlich unüblich sind.
brown eye	Brown hair is a common hair color, while red is quite uncommon.
Sie hat braune Haare und Grübchen.	Die Blätter werden im September braun.
She has brown hair and dimples.	The leaves turn more brown in September.
Gefällt dir das Kleid?	Kann ich das rote Kleid zu den blauen Schuhen anziehen?
Do you like the dress?	Can I wear the red dress together with the blue shoes? (Implied: do they match?)
offene Augen	Nach der Operation hat er für eine Woche eine Augenklappe auf seinem Auge getragen.
open eyes	After surgery, he wore a patch on his eye for a week.
Meine Frau hat blaue Augen.	Meine Augen sind blutunterlaufen.
My wife has blue eyes.	My eyes are bloodshot.
Da ist eine Wimper in meinem Auge.	Bring mir Augentropfen mit, wenn du nach Hause kommst.
There is an eyelash hair in my eye.	Bring me some eye drops when you get home.
Mach die Augen auf!	Du hast gesunde Haare.
Open your eyes!	You have healthy hair.
Ich habe blonde Haare und blaue Augen.	Er nennt sich jetzt "Sensei".
I have blonde hair and blue eyes.	He calls himself "Sensei" now.
Nennen Sie drei Flüsse in Asien.	Ich mag dicke Bücher lieber als dünne.
Name three rivers in Asia.	I prefer thick books to thin ones.

Sie hat mich nach dem Unterschied zwischen den Wörtern "schlank" und "dünn" gefragt.	Schlank ist schön.
She asked me the difference between the words "slim" and "skinny."	Slim is pretty.
In ihrem wunderschönen Ballkleid schwebte sie nur so dahin.	Deine Klassenkameradin ist wirklich hübsch.
In her beautiful ballroom dress she just floated like that.	Your classmate is really beautiful.
Bist du auf sie eifersüchtig?	
Are you jealous of her?	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. wie ein ... = like a 2. es steht ihr gut = it looks good on her, it suits her. Es steht dir gut = it looks good on you 3. "etwa" in questions indicates that you want the other person to answer "no, of course not". "Bist du etwa eifersüchtig?" = Surely you are not jealous?

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the Accusative, which is used for direct objects.

Sie hat blonde Haare, blaue Augen...

"She has blonde hair, blue eyes..."

The Accusative case in German is called the fourth case. When German children learn about their own language's grammar, or when they learn Latin, which also has cases, they learn the following order of cases; Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative.

The Accusative is used for direct objects of the sentence. For example, in „Ich gebe meinem Freund den Fußball“ (I give my friend the soccer ball), „den Fußball“ is Accusative. The article „den“ is used for masculine singular nouns in the Accusative. The indefinite version is „einen“. Feminine and neuter nouns, as well as plural nouns, NEVER CHANGE for the Accusative, so you only have to remember this one form for masculine singular. And the Accusative personal pronouns of course, but we will get to them later.

The question word and relative pronoun for the Accusative is „wen“ - it is used for all sentences in which you would say „whom“ in English.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Looks in Germany

- despite the stereotype, most Germans are not blonde and blue-eyed
- „blau-äugig“ (blue-eyed) is even a German term for naive, and Germans are just as likely to tell blonde jokes as anybody else
- most Germans have brown or dark blonde hair
- less commonly you will find black hair or red hair

- if you find dark-skinned people in Germany or Asians, they were most likely not born here or are 2nd generation at most, because most immigration to Germany only started after 1945 and even then it was mostly people from other European countries. This is why it still freaks people out to hear a black person speak German dialect.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #33

Are You Certain You Are Ready for the Fast Lane in Germany?!

CONTENTS

- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#33

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
wollen	to want	verb	
schnell	fast	adjective, adverb	
man	one, you, people	pronoun	
Autobahn	interstate, motorway	noun; feminine, die	
Regel	rule	noun; feminine, die	feminine
Schild	sign	noun	neutral (das)
Fahrt	drive	noun; feminine, die	
Webseite	webpage, website	noun; feminine, die	
Recht haben	to be right	expression	
morgen	tomorrow	adverb	
reservieren	to reserve	verb	
Fahrkarte	ticket (for a ride)	noun; feminine, die	
Sorge	sorrow, worry, concern, care	noun; feminine, die	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mein Hund will immer spielen. My dog always wants to play.	Wir sind uns nicht einig, welches Haus wir kaufen wollen. We haven't reached an agreement about which house we want to buy.
Das Dach knirschte bedenklich, also gingen wir schnell hinaus. The roof creaked ominously, so we quickly went outside.	Bitte antworten Sie so schnell wie möglich. Please answer as quickly as possible.
Kommst du mal schnell? Please come here quickly.	Wie sagt man "train" auf Deutsch? How do you say "train" in German?
Auf der Autobahn gibt es keine Geschwindigkeitsgrenze. On the (German) interstate there is no speed limit.	Er hat die Regeln gebrochen. He broke the rules.

Dieses Schild bedeutet, dass du hier nicht schneller als 60 km/h fahren darfst.	Ich habe das Preisschild entfernt, aber die Stelle klebt immer noch ein wenig.
This sign means that you must not drive faster than 60 km/h here.	I removed the price tag, but the spot is still a little sticky.
Was fährt in dem Park?	Gute Fahrt!
What drives in the park?	Have a good drive/trip!
Auf diesen Webseiten können Sie sich über Esperanto informieren.	Meistens hat er Recht.
On these websites you can inform yourself about Esperanto.	He's right most of the time.
Es ist möglich, dass du Recht hast.	Morgen habe ich einen Termin.
It's possible that you're right.	Tomorrow I have an appointment.
Wenn wir den Rabatt bekommen möchten, müssen wir den Hörsaal zwei Monate im Voraus reservieren.	Wenn es möglich ist, reserviere immer im Voraus.
We will have to reserve the auditorium two months in advance, if we want to get the discount.	If possible, always reserve in advance.
Kontrolleur: Ihre Fahrkarten bitte!	Du machst dir zu viele Sorgen!
Controller: Your tickets please!	You worry too much!

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. morgen = tomorrow; der Morgen = morning; morgen früh = tomorrow morning, early tomorrow 2. superschnell = super fast. You may also say "blitzschnell" (fast as lightening). 3. Keine Sorge = literally "no worry" = Don't worry

GRAMMAR

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

Willst du nicht Heidelberg und München sehen?

"Don't you want to see Heidelberg and Munich?"

The modal verb „wollen“ is irregular. Its forms are

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

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Using German trains

- if travelling locally, be sure to buy a ticket before you get on the train. You can buy them from an automat at the train station, or if you are lucky you can find a human vendor
- if travelling in the fast „Intercity“ or „Intercity Express“ trains, you also have the option of buying the ticket while you're already on the train. Then you can't get a seat reservation though, and the price is more expensive than if you buy it beforehand.
- you need to buy your ticket at least 3 days in advance in order to be able to take advantage of promotional offers. Some of the offers are sold out even a week or longer in advance.
- the most convenient way is to buy the tickets online from the bahn.de website, that is the official website of Germany's national railway. You can buy tickets and reservations there, also for complicated trips, and you can compare prices more easily than if you were with a salesperson. Buy the tickets using your credit card and then either have them shipped to you or just print them out. If you print your own ticket, you will need to show your credit card in the train as proof that you were the buyer.
- You can't get seat reservations for the regional trains, but when travelling on the fast „Intercity“ or „Intercity Express“ trains, most people have a seat reservation, so that they don't stand the chance of having to stand up for several hours.
- To find your reserved seat, watch out for a poster on the tracks that indicates where your car will stop. Once in that car, the seat numbers are indicated on each side above your head. There you can also see if somebody reserved the seat and from where to where – if you don't have a reservation and sit down in a reserved seat, you will have to vacate it if and when the person arrives.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #34

If You Can't Swim with the Big Fish, Stay Off the German Autobahn!

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - German
 - Main
 - English
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#34

DIALOGUE - GERMAN

MAIN

1. Martin : Das macht Spaß! Ich liebe die Autobahn jetzt schon!
2. Caroline : Solltest du nicht etwas langsamer fahren? Ich möchte schnell ankommen, aber nicht tot!
3. Martin : Aber in den USA kann ich nicht so richtig schnell fahren!
4. Caroline : Bitte fahre trotzdem nicht so schnell.
5. ...
6. Caroline : Pass auf!
7. Martin : Scheiße! Was macht dieser Idiot??
8. Caroline : Ich glaube, er ist betrunken. Er fährt nicht geradeaus.
9. Martin : Er ist eine Gefahr für sich selbst und auch andere! Leute wie er sollten nicht Auto fahren. Ich könnte ihn umbringen!

ENGLISH

1. Martin : This is fun! I love the Autobahn already now!
2. Caroline : Shouldn't you drive a little more slowly? I want to arrive quickly, but not dead!
3. Martin : But in the USA I can't drive really fast!
4. Caroline : Please don't drive so fast anyway.
5. ...
6. Caroline : Pay attention!
7. Martin : Shit! What is this idiot doing?
8. Caroline : I believe he is drunk. He doesn't drive straight.
9. Martin : He is a danger to himself and to others as well! People like him shouldn't drive cars. I could kill him!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Spaß	fun	noun	masculine (der)
Leute	people	noun; plural, die	
Gefahr	danger	noun; feminine, die	
geradeaus	straight ahead	adverb	
betrunken	drunk	adjective & adverb	
Idiot	idiot	noun; masculine, der	masculine
aufpassen	to pay attention; watch out; look after	verb	
trotzdem	despite that, anyway	conjunction, adverb	
richtig	correct, really	adjective, adverb	
tot	dead	adjective & adverb	
ankommen	to arrive	verb	
langsam	slow, slowly	adjective & adverb	
umbringen	to kill	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Menschen gehen mit ihren Hunden zu Hundeparks, um Spaß zu haben. People take their dogs to dog parks to have fun.	Verbieten Sie Ihren Kindern nicht alles, was Spaß macht! Don't forbid your kids to do everything that's fun!
Es macht Spaß! It's fun!	Leute aus verschiedenen Teilen der Welt haben unterschiedliche Glauben und Gebräuche. People from different parts of the world have different beliefs and customs.
Ein paar Leute wissen immer noch nicht, was passiert ist. A few people still don't know what happened.	Ich muss sie vor dieser Gefahr warnen. I have to warn them about this danger.
Dann gehen Sie immer geradeaus. Then always go straight ahead.	Lass mich los, du bist betrunken! Let me go, you're drunk!
Was für ein Idiot! What an idiot!	Passen Sie auf, dass der Gefangene nicht entkommt! Be careful that the prisoner doesn't escape!
Pass auf, dass du von den Mücken nicht gestochen wirst. Be careful not to be stung by the gnats.	Er war sich nicht sicher, trotzdem denke ich, dass er kommen wird. He wasn't sure, however I think that he'll come.

Er mag Rosenkohl nicht, aber er isst ihn trotzdem.	Die Schwierigkeit liegt darin, den richtigen Zeitpunkt zu finden.
He doesn't like Brussels sprouts, but he eats it anyway.	The difficulty lies in finding the right time.
Ich weiß nicht, ob das so richtig ist.	In Deutschland gibt es richtig leckere Würstchen.
I don't know if it's right like this.	In Germany there are really delicious sausages.
Seine Großeltern sind schon lange tot.	Wann kommt dein Zug an?
His grandparents have been dead for a long time.	When does your train arrive?
Wir sprechen immer langsam.	Dieser Mörder ist eine große Gefahr für uns alle, er bringt grundlos Menschen um.
We always speak slowly.	This murderer is a great danger to us all, he kills people for no reason.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. langsamer = slower, more slowly

2. ich möchte schnell ankommen, aber nicht tot (+ankommen). When the second part of the sentence has the same verb, it can be implied.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson are locations and directions.

Aber in den USA kann ich nicht so richtig schnell fahren!

"But in the USA I can't drive so fast!"

The Accusative, which we've already seen used for direct objects, is also used when talking about a direction. By opposition, the Dative is used when talking about a location, a static place from which you are not moving. Compare the following.

Ich gehe in den Park. = I am walking into the park. (Accusative)

Ich gehe im Park (herum). = I am walking (around) in the park. (Dative)

Ich lege das Buch auf den Tisch. = I am putting the book onto the table. (Accusative)

Das Buch liegt auf dem Tisch. = The book is lying on the table. (Dative)

In die USA kann ich nicht so schnell reisen. = I can't travel as fast to the USA. (Accusative)

In den USA kann ich nicht so schnell reisen. = I can't travel as fast in the USA. (Dative)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

To drive safely in Germany, you should know the most important differences between American and German traffic rules.

1. the speed limits - 50 km per hour in cities and towns and 100 km on the highway unless otherwise marked; there is no speed limit on the Autobahn, except where marked. For the Autobahn, authorities recommend a speed of 130 km per hour, and you're not allowed to go on the Autobahn if your vehicle isn't approved for speeds over 60 km per hour. To convert kilometers to miles; drop the 0 and multiply by 6 , e.g. 40 km equals 4x6 or roughly 24 miles.
2. overtaking is only allowed if you're on the left of the car that you're passing. If you're using the left-most lane of the Autobahn to overtake, you should leave it as soon as possible, so that others can use it for overtaking or for insane speeding. Use your left side mirror and look very carefully when entering that lane, because cars going so fast can appear really quickly.
3. the use of seat belts is mandatory everywhere, no matter if you're sitting at the front or back
4. at an intersection without traffic lights or signs regulating traffic, and there are many of those in residential areas in Germany, vehicles coming from the right have the right of way. Also, if you want to turn into a street, pedestrians and bicycles have the right of way over you.
5. if you have an accident, even if you just bump a parking car, you have to wait where you are until the other car's owner or a policeman comes. If you don't do that, you may be charged with a hit-and-run and a much higher penalty.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #35

If You Can't Drive, Then Stay Off the Street in Germany!

CONTENTS

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

35

GERMAN

1. Martin: Leute wie er sollten nicht Auto fahren. Ich könnte ihn umbringen!
2. Caroline: Umbringen? Übertreibst du nicht ein bisschen?
3. Martin: Ich hasse solche Leute! ... Wenn du nicht Auto fahren kannst, dann bleib von der Straße.
4. Caroline: Das Problem ist ja, dass solche Menschen nicht wissen, dass sie nicht Auto fahren können.
5. Martin: Haha, stimmt. Sie denken, dass sie ganz toll sind.
6. Martin: Moment... wo sind wir eigentlich? Diese Städtenamen kommen mir nicht bekannt vor. Sie waren nicht auf der Karte.
7. Caroline: Scheiße! Wir hätten vor einer Viertelstunde schon auf eine andere Autobahn wechseln sollen!
8. Martin: Verdammt! Was machen wir jetzt?
9. Caroline: Wir nehmen die nächste Ausfahrt und fahren zurück in die Richtung, aus der wir gekommen sind.
10. Martin: Okay, lass uns das tun.

ENGLISH

1. Martin: People like him shouldn't drive cars. I could kill him!
2. Caroline: Kill? Aren't you exaggerating a little?

CONT'D OVER

3. Martin: I hate people like this! ... If you can't drive a car, then stay off the street.
4. Caroline: The problem is, that these people don't know, that they can't drive.
5. Martin: Haha, that's true. They think they're really great.
6. Martin: One moment... where are we actually? These city names don't seem familiar to me. They weren't on the map.
7. Caroline: Shit! We should have changed to another interstate already a quarter of an hour ago!
8. Martin: Damn! What do we do now?
9. Caroline: We take the next exit and drive back in the direction, from which we came.
10. Martin: Okay, let's do that.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
übertreiben	to exaggerate	verb	er übertreibt, er übertrieb, er hat übertrieben
verdammt	damn, cursed	adjective	
wechseln	to switch, exchange	verb	
Stunde	hour	noun	feminine; plural: Stunden
Viertel	quarter; borough	noun, neuter, das; 1/4; Stadtteil	neuter; plural: Viertel

bekannt	known, well-known		
vorkommen	to occur; (with Dative) to seem	verb	"vor" splits off; er kommt vor, er kam vor, er ist vorgekommen
eigentlich	actually	adverb	
Moment	moment	noun; masculine, der	plural: Momente
toll	great	adjective	
Straße	street	noun	feminine; plural: Straßen
solch	such	adjective	
Ausfahrt	exit (only for cars)	noun; feminine, die	plural: Ausfahrten

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Übertreibst du nicht ein bisschen? Aren't you exaggerating a little?	Verdammt! Jetzt habe ich den letzten Bus verpasst. Damn! Now I missed the last bus.
Ich wechsle im nächsten Monat den Stromanbieter. I switch my electricity provider next month.	Ich warte schon seit einer ganzen Stunde! I'm already waiting for a whole hour!
Deutsche sind bekannt im Ausland für ihre Biederkeit. Germans are well-known abroad for their conventionality.	Claudia Schiffer ist ein bekanntes deutsches Model. Claudia Schiffer is a famous German model.

Die Jungfrau von Orléans ist eine bekannte historische Person, der jede Menge Bücher und Lieder gewidmet sind. The Maiden of Orleans is a very well known historical figure, with many books and songs dedicated to her.	Das kommt mir komisch vor. It sounds weird to me.
Das kommt schon mal vor. That does happen sometimes.	Es kommt vor, dass diese zwei Zahlen nicht übereinstimmen. It happens that these two figures aren't the same.
Wo bist du eigentlich? Where are you actually?	Moment, ich komme gleich. One sec, I'll be there right away.
Im Moment ist der Vorname 'Christian' wieder sehr beliebt. Right now 'Christian' is very popular as a first name again.	Ich finde diesen neuen Film wirklich toll. I think the new movie is really great.
Geh die Straße entlang. Go along the street.	Er hatte solch eine Angst vor der Prüfung, dass er in Schweiß ausbrach. He was so scared because of the assessment, that he broke out in a sweat.
Wir nehmen die nächste Ausfahrt und fahren zurück in die Richtung, aus der wir gekommen sind. We take the next exit and drive back in the direction, from which we came.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Compound nouns in this lesson - Städtenamen = names of cities; Viertelstunde = quarter

of an hour

2. Expression „mir vorkommen“ = seems to me. For example „Die Fahrt kommt mir zu lange vor.“ = The drive seems too long to me.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is an overview of prepositions.

Wenn du nicht Auto fahren kannst, dann bleib von der Straße.

"If you can't drive a car, then stay off the street."

Let's look at the prepositions that were used in this lesson's dialog. You've studied them individually before, but now is a good time to compare and contrast.

wie = like, as. Leute wie er = People like him

von = of, away from. Einer von ihnen = one of them | Bleib von der Straße. = Stay away from the street.

aus = from. Ich komme aus Deutschland. = I come from Germany. Careful not to use „von“ there!

auf = on, onto. Auf der Straße = On the street | This preposition can also describe a direction, for example „auf die Autobahn“ = onto the interstate

vor = before (a place or time), ago. Vor der Ausfahrt = before the exit | Vor einer Stunde = One hour ago Note that in German, this word comes before the indication of time, not after, like in English!

in = in, into. In der Kirche = in the church | In die Kirche = into the church

These are not all German prepositions, but the most important ones.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Autobahn

If there is one place where speed addicts love to drive in Germany, it is the Autobahn. Long sections of these expressway like streets do not possess a restriction on their speed limit, so one can speed along as fast as one wants - or at least as fast as the car driven allows. Also, there is no toll for driving on the Autobahn (as long as you are not driving a mercantile truck -

those are handled differently) so many people from other countries who visit Germany enjoy taking a drive along the Autobahn.

For the most part, an Autobahn is at least double-tracked. A large part of it even offers three lanes for even more convenient driving, as depending on the speed one wants to drive at, one can choose the appropriate lane for it - the more to the left someone is driving, the faster he might want to go.

Germany possesses a large Autobahn network which includes routes connecting big cities and crossing the whole country as well as so called "Stadtautobahnen" (city motorways) which can be found inside larger cities. The latter ones however are very restricted on their speed limit, usually one is not allowed to drive faster than 80km/h (about 50mph) on these. However, as there are no pedestrians or traffic lights, and no cyclists or other slower vehicles can be found on the Stadtautobahn, most people prefer to drive there instead of the normal streets even inside the city.

If you are driving in Germany, and you want to use the Autobahn, be on the look-out for blue colored road signs, as those are used to signal the Autobahn.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #36

Don't Let Desperation Lead You Down a Lonely Highway in Germany!

CONTENTS

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

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GERMAN

1. Martin: So, jetzt sind wir nicht mehr auf der Autobahn. Soll ich rechts oder links abbiegen?
2. Caroline: Hmm, normalerweise ist die andere Autobahnauffahrt links, oder?
3. Martin: Okay, ich biege links ab.
4. ...
5. Martin: Diese Landstraße ist langweilig, und ich sehe die andere Autobahnauffahrt immer noch nicht!
6. Caroline: Hmm, ich auch nicht. Fahr einfach weiter, bis wir sie sehen.
7. Martin: Ich glaube nicht, dass die Auffahrt noch auf dieser Straße ist. Ich werde in die nächste Stadt fahren.
8. ...
9. Caroline: Das sieht nicht gut aus. Wir sind allein auf einer Landstraße, mitten in der Nacht, und es scheint noch nicht einmal andere Städte hier zu geben.
10. Martin: *gähnt* Ich bin müde. Wir sollten bald anhalten.
11. Caroline (panicking): Es gibt hier nichts! Keine Stadt, kein Hotel, gar nichts! Wo werden wir schlafen?? Und wie finden wir je zurück?
12. Martin: Mach dir keine Sorgen! Deutschland ist nicht so groß. Wenn wir auf einer Landstraße bleiben und immer geradeaus fahren, werden wir bald in einer Stadt ankommen, und von dort aus finde ich schon zurück.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Martin: So, now we are no longer on the interstate. Should I turn right or left?
2. Caroline: Hmm, normally the other interstate entrance is on the left, isn't it?
3. Martin: Okay, I'll turn left.
4. ...
5. Martin: This highway is boring, and I still don't see the other entrance to the interstate!
6. Caroline: Hmm, me neither. Just keep driving until we see it.
7. Martin: I don't believe that the entrance is on this street still. I will drive to the next city.
8. ...
9. Caroline: This is not looking good. We are alone on a highway, in the middle of the night, and there doesn't even seem to be other cities around here.
10. Martin: *yawns* I am tired. We should stop soon.
11. Caroline (panicking): There is nothing here! No city, no hotel, nothing! Where will we sleep?? And how will we ever find [our way] back?
12. Martin: Don't worry! Germany is not very big. If we stay on a highway and always go straight ahead, we will soon arrive at a city, and from there I'll find my way back.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
links	left	adverb	
je	ever	adverb	
schlafen	to sleep	verb	
anhalten	to stop (a car)	verb	
bald	soon	adverb	
müde	tired	adjective	
Nacht	night	noun	feminine
mitten	amid, in the middle of	preposition	
langweilig	boring	adjective	
Landstraße	highway	noun; feminine, die	
normalerweise	normally	adverb	
abbiegen	to turn (by car), to turn	verb	
rechts	right	adverb	
dort	there	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Wenn du nach links gehst dann siehst du auf der linken Seite das Büro.

"When you go to the left you see on the left side the office."

Links sehen Sie die berühmte Kathedrale und rechts das Geschichtsmuseum.

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

Ob es je anders wird... Whether it will ever change...	Ich schlafe oft vor dem Fernsher ein. I fall asleep often while watching TV.
Ich liebe schlafen. I love to sleep.	Ich schlafe jeden Tag bis 10 Uhr. I sleep until 10 am every day.
Hältst du bitte da vorne an? Would you please stop up there?	Bald werden sie mehr wissen. Soon, they will know more.
Marion kriegt bald ihr erstes Kind. Marion will soon have her first baby.	Das Pferd ist müde. The horse is tired.
Heute bin ich etwas müde, ich hoffe ihr seht das nicht. Today I am a little tired, I hope you don't see it.	Heute bin ich sehr müde. I am very tired today.
Manchmal liege ich in der Nacht da und bin wach. Sometimes I lie there awake at night.	In der Nacht sinken die Temperaturen auf unter null Grad. At night, temperatures drop to below zero degrees.
Auf dem Marktplatz gibt es eine große Menschenmenge, und Paul ist mitten unter ihnen. On the market square there is a large crowd of people, and Paul is in the middle of them.	Das Spielzeug ist langweilig. The toy is boring.
Mir ist nie langweilig, ich finde immer etwas. I am never bored, I always find something.	Ich finde dieses Lied wirklich langweilig. I find this song to be really boring.

Auf der Autobahn ist Stau, also nehme ich heute die Landstraße. There's a traffic jam on the interstate, so I'll take the highway today.	Normalerweise würde ich das nicht tun, aber für dich mache ich eine Ausnahme. Normally I wouldn't do this, but for you I'll make an exception.
Wenn du hier links abbiegst kommst du in eine Sackgasse. If you turn left here, you will come to a dead end.	An der Ampel biegen Sie rechts ab. Turn right at the traffic light.
Rechts sehen Sie das Geschichtsmuseum. On your right you see the history museum.	Ich habe dein Handy dort gelassen. I left your phone over there.
Sandra ist dort drüben. Sandra is over there.	Dort ist das Kino. The cinema is (over) there.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Autobahnauffahrt is a combination of „Autobahn“ (interstate) and „Auffahrt“, a place where you can drive onto it. „Auffahrt“ is closely related to „Ausfahrt“, an exit. 2. Landstraße, literally country-street, is the German equivalent of a highway. It's a street connecting cities, but unlike the Autobahn the opposite lane is right next to you, there are traffic lights occasionally and the speed limit is 100 kilometers per hour / 62 miles per hour.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson are certain adverbs and adverb combinations.

Ich sehe die andere Autobahnauffahrt immer noch nicht!

"I still don't see the other entrance to the interstate!"

Some German adverbs have to be studied further, because they don't quite match up to their English equivalents.

For example, „noch“ means „still“, but „noch nicht“ is „not yet“.

Guckst du noch Fernsehen? - Are you still watching TV?

Guckst du noch nicht Fernsehen? - Aren't you watching TV yet?

If you mean to say „Are you still not watching TV?“, that would be „Guckst du immer noch nicht Fernsehen?“. So you have to add the „immer“ to get the meaning that you have in English. „immer noch nicht“ is „still not“.

There is also „nicht mehr“, which means „not anymore“. „Guckst du nicht mehr Fernsehen?“ - „Don't you watch TV anymore?“. However, the opposite of that is not „mehr“ (which simply means „more“), it's „weiter“ (further, continue to). „Doch, ich gucke weiter Fernsehen“ - „Yes, I'm still watching TV.“

In colloquial German, you will find people use „einmal“ (once) or the shorter „mal“ a lot. This just makes a request more informal, kind of like saying „if you have time“. This „einmal“ has nothing to do with the one in „nicht einmal“ - „not even“. For example „Er grüßt mich nicht einmal“ - „He doesn't even greet me“.

This part of German is quite illogical and difficult, but if you now pay attention to what is said in German, you will intuitively learn all these expressions.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

When coming to Germany, you have several options of where to stay. • Hotels - You could stay at a hotel and most will probably do that. Depending on your need for luxury, you can spend little or very much money. Unlike in Africa for example, the German star ranking of hotels corresponds closely to the international star ranking. • Hostels - A hostel might be called Gasthaus or Pension in German and it will typically be a cheaper, less luxurious and more homely place to stay. • Youth Hostels – A special case are the Jugendherbergen (youth hostels), which mainly cater to school- or college-aged kids and families. If you don't mind the very basic furnishings and the noise, they may well be a good option for you. They are not limited to young people, though you may pay a higher fee per-night if you're past a certain age. • Motels – Germany has few classic road-side motels. • Homestays – An interesting way to see Germany, especially if you're traveling as an individual, is through a homestay with a German family. That way, you get to speak a lot more German and you experience the real German culture. Several companies offer to organize homestays along with language courses – or you can just sign up for a hospitality network online like Couchsurfing and make the contact yourself. When staying with a German family, it is

customary to bring a gift from your region. Unless you're paying them, you should also help with chores like washing dishes, or buy some groceries sometime, like any member of the household. • Emergency shelters – In a really bad emergency, if you're about to sleep under a bridge, you can go to the *Bahnhofsmision* instead. This is a shelter available at most train stations. Homeless people go there a lot, but the *Bahnhofsmision* only lets you stay one or two nights.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #37

On That Lonely German Road, You Will Be Happy to Have Us Along!

CONTENTS

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

37

GERMAN

1. Caroline: Sieh mal, Martin! Da drüben ist ein blaues Schild. Das könnte die Autobahn sein. Bieg' schnell ab!
2. Martin: Okay.
3. Caroline: Das ist es! Das ist die A9 Richtung München! Fahr schnell drauf!
4. Martin: Ja, ja, hetz' mich nicht! Die Autobahn wird nicht verschwinden.
5. Caroline: Ich freue mich nur so!
6. Martin: Guck mal, wir sind gar nicht mal so weit von München.
7. Caroline: Nicht schlecht! Meinst du, du schaffst es noch, bis nach München zu fahren? Oder sollen wir ein Hotel auf dem Weg suchen?
8. Martin: Ich schaffe das noch.
9. Caroline: Du bist ein Schatz! Ich bin froh, dass ich dich habe.

ENGLISH

1. Caroline: Martin, have a look! There is a blue sign over there. That could be the interstate. Turn quickly!
2. Martin: Okay.
3. Caroline: That's it! This is the interstate 9 in direction of Munich! Enter it quickly!
4. Martin: Yeah yeah, don't hurry me! The interstate will not disappear.

CONT'D OVER

5. Caroline: I'm just so happy!
6. Martin: Look, we're not even that far from Munich.
7. Caroline: Not bad! Do you think you'll manage to drive to Munich? Or should we search for a hotel on the way?
8. Martin: I will manage.
9. Caroline: You're a treasure! I'm glad to have you.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
drauf	onto it	adverb	
hetzen	to hurry somebody along	verb	
verschwinden	to disappear	verb	
weit	wide, large, far, broad		
meinen	to mean, to think	verb	
Hotel	hotel	noun	neutral
Weg	way, path	noun; masculine, der	
Schatz	treasure	noun; masculine, der	masculine
froh	glad	adjective, adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Bei Computern hat er wirklich was drauf. He really has skills with PCs.	Musst du mich immer so hetzen?! Do you always have to hurry me along like this?!
Er verschwand genauso schnell, wie er gekommen war. He disappeared just as quickly as he had come.	Neuseeland ist so weit weg... New Zealand is so far away...
Die Sozialwissenschaften sind ein weites Feld, welches viele andere wissenschaftliche Bereiche mit einschließt. The social sciences are a broad field which also includes other scientific areas.	Der Wolf wittert seine Beute schon von weitem. The wolf scents its prey already from afar.
Das meinst du nicht ehrlich, oder? You don't seriously mean that, do you?	Mit Sternen wird die Qualität von Hotels gemessen. The quality of a hotel is measured in stars.
Wenn du eine Kreuzfahrt machst, ist das Schiff dein Hotel. When you are on a cruise, the ship will be your hotel.	Das Hotel befindet sich an der Strandpromenade, ganz in der Nähe des Meeres. The hotel is at the boardwalk, really close to the sea.
Können Sie mir den Weg beschreiben? Can you describe the way to me?	Der Fahrradweg ist dort. The bike path is over there.
Die Piraten machten sich auf die Suche nach dem Schatz. The pirates went out to search for the treasure.	Ich bin froh, dass es nicht so weit gekommen ist. I am glad that it hasn't come to that.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Sieh mal! / Guck mal!
2. auf dem Weg = on the way

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson are the Accusative forms of personal pronouns.

Ich bin froh, dass ich dich habe.

"I am glad to have you."

The Accusative of personal pronouns is used when a personal pronoun is used as the direct object of a sentence, for example in „Hetz' mich nicht!“ (Don't hurry me) or „Ich bin froh, dass ich dich habe“ (I am glad I have you).

We've seen the Accusative forms all over the course, now let's have the full overview.

ich – mich
du – dich
er – ihn
es – es (unchanged)
sie – sie (unchanged)
wir – uns (same as Dative)
ihr – euch (same as Dative)
sie – sie / Sie – Sie (unchanged)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

About affectionate terms in German

- No "sugar" or "honey"
- Süßer or Süße (sweetie) works though, also "Liebling" (darling), or "Schatz" (treasure), which can be made cuter as "Schatzi".
- Other choices include some words for animals, usually with the -chen diminutive, and a lot of terms that don't make much sense, that derived from people's names or from things that people said.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #38

How Many Ways Can You Say 'No' in German?!

CONTENTS

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

38

GERMAN

1. Caroline: Ah, ein Münchener Hotel! Sollen wir hier übernachten?
2. Martin: Es ist sehr spät, ich weiß nicht, ob sie noch freie Zimmer haben. Aber wir können es versuchen.
3. Caroline: Ja. Am besten redest du, du sprichst besser Deutsch.
4. Martin: Okay.
5. ...
6. Hotelangestellte: Guten Abend! Willkommen im Hotel „Zur Post“.
7. Martin: Guten Abend! Wir suchen ein Doppelzimmer für diese Nacht.
8. Hotelangestellte: Was ist Ihre Reservierungsnummer?
9. Martin: Wir haben keine Reservierung...
10. Hotelangestellte: Sie kommen erst jetzt und wollen noch ein Zimmer für die Nacht??
11. Martin: Haben Sie noch ein Doppelzimmer frei?
12. Hotelangestellte: Wieso haben Sie nicht eher mit uns telefoniert und ein Zimmer reserviert?
13. Martin: Wir waren nicht sicher, ob wir heute noch München erreichen. Also, haben Sie ein Zimmer für uns?
14. Hotelangestellte: Ja. Vierter Stock, ein Doppelzimmer mit Bad. Wie lange bleiben Sie?

CONT'D OVER

15. Martin: Nur diese Nacht.
16. Hotelangestellte: Hmpf. Hier ist Ihr Schlüssel. Zimmer 413. Den Weg finden Sie schon.
17. Martin: Danke.

ENGLISH

1. Caroline: Ah, a Munich hotel! Shall we spend the night here?
2. Martin: It is very late, I don't know if they still have free rooms. But we can try.
3. Caroline: Yes. It would be best if you talk, you speak better German.
4. Martin: Okay.
5. ...
6. Hotel clerk: Good evening! Welcome to the hotel "Zur Post".
7. Martin: Good evening! We are looking for a double room for tonight.
8. Hotel clerk: What is your reservation ID?
9. Martin: We don't have a reservation...
10. Hotel clerk: You are only coming now and you want a room for the night??
11. Martin: Do you have a free double room?

CONT'D OVER

12. Hotel clerk: Why didn't you call us earlier and reserve a room?
13. Martin: We weren't sure if we would reach Munich today. So, do you have a room for us?
14. Hotel clerk: Yes. Fourth floor, a double room with a bath. How long are you staying?
15. Martin: Just this night.
16. Hotel clerk: Hmpf. This is your key. Room 413. You'll find the way.
17. Martin: Thanks.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
übernachten	to spend the night	verb	weak verb
Bad	bath, bathroom	noun; neuter, das	plural: Bäder
Stock	floor; stick	noun; masculine, der	plural: Stöcke
erreichen	to reach; achieve, accomplish	verb	weak verb
reservieren	to reserve	verb	weak verb
telefonieren	to call; make a phone call	verb	weak verb
Doppel-	double	prefix	
besser	better		comparative of "gut"
reden	to talk	verb	weak verb
am besten	the best; it would be best if	expression	

versuchen	to try	verb	weak verb
Zimmer	room	noun	neuter; plural is the same
frei	free		
Schlüssel	key	noun	plural is the same

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Sollen wir hier übernachten? Shall we spend the night here?	Vielleicht sollte ich ein entspannendes Bad nehmen. Maybe I should take a relaxing bath.
Ich wohne nicht im Erdgeschoss, sondern im fünften Stock. I don't live on the first floor but on the sixth.	Er hat erreicht, dass wir diesen Raum umsonst gekriegt haben. He managed to get us this room for free.
Wie kann ich Sie am besten erreichen? How can I best reach you?	Man kann die Fachhochschulreife auch durch ein Fachabitur erreichen. Dieses kann auch an einen Realschulabschluss angeschlossen werden und beinhaltet eher praktische Fächer wie BWL. One can also gain a permission to enter a technical school through vocational diploma. This can also be obtained after reaching the Realschul-diploma (after 10 years of school) and includes more technical subjects like business studies.

Telefonierst du immer noch mit deiner Freundin? Ihr könnt vielleicht reden! Are you still in a phone call with your friend? You two can talk!	Ich hätte gern ein Einzelzimmer, kein Doppelzimmer. I would like a single room, not a double room.
Das kannst du besser. You can do that better.	Lass uns noch einmal über die Sache reden. Let's talk about this thing once more.
Ich weiß nicht, ob du die Grippe hast. Am besten bleibst du im Bett. I don't know if you have the flu. It would be best if you stay in bed.	Am besten nimmst du die S-Bahn bis Friedrichsstraße und steigst da in die U-Bahn um. Best if you take the lightrail to Friedrichsstraße and change to the subway there.
Ich habe als Kind stundenlang versucht, auf einem Grashalm zu pfeifen. As a child I have tried for hours to whistle on a blade of grass.	Tierschutzaktivisten haben am Wochenende versucht, Welpen aus einem Zwinger zu befreien. Animal welfare campaigners tried to liberate puppies from a kennel this weekend.
Ich versuche schon seit Stunden, seine Schrift zu enträtseln. Since hours I am trying to de-mystify his writing.	Wo ist euer Badezimmer? Where is your bathroom?
Der Eintritt ist frei/kostenlos. Admission is free/free of charge.	Ich habe heute frei. I have off (from work) today.
Der Schlüssel ist in meiner Hosentasche. The key is in my pants pocket.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Am besten... = It would be best if... . Use this to politely make a suggestion.

2. Reservierung = reservation. The noun based on "reservieren" (to reserve).

Reservierungsnummer = reservation number, reservation id or code

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the use of "kein" (no)

Wir haben keine Reservierung.

"We don't have a reservation."

The word „kein“ (no) is used more often in German than in English.

For example, to say „I don't drink beer“, you can't say „Ich trinke nicht Bier“ in German, you have to say „Ich trinke kein Bier“. Similarly, in today's dialog, Martin said „Wir haben keine Reservierung“ for „We don't have a reservation“. He did NOT say „Wir haben nicht eine Reservierung“ - that would sound extremely bad to a German.

The rule seems to be that whenever you combine „nicht“ and „ein“, you have to use „kein“ in German. Also if your sentence contains a direct object without any article, neither „der, die, das“ nor „ein“ nor „mein“ or the like, then you also have to use „kein“.

When you have an object introduced with a form of „der, die, das“, you can't use „kein“. Instead, you will typically put the object before the „nicht“ - as in „Ich trinke das Bier nicht“ (I am not drinking the beer.)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Language knowledge in Germany

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

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

learn German of course!

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

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #39

You Can't Fathom Doing More Than a Single Thing in Germany without First Learning This!

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GERMAN

1. Caroline: Verdammt! Ich kann meine Zahnbürste nicht mehr finden.
2. Martin: Bist du sicher, dass sie nicht in einem deiner Koffer ist? Nimm doch alles einmal heraus.
3. Caroline: Okay... T-Shirts, Hosen, Röcke, Kleider, Handtücher...
4. Martin: Mann, was trägst du alles mit dir herum!
5. Caroline: Bücher, Geld, Familienfotos, Fahrkarten...
6. Martin: Wow...
7. Caroline: Das ist alles, siehst du? Meine Zahnbürste ist weg.
8. Martin: Na, das Hotel gibt dir sicher eine Zahnbürste für heute.
9. Caroline: Meinst du? Die Frau war so unhöflich!
10. Martin: Hmm, vielleicht ist es doch besser, erst einen Hotelgast zu fragen. Ah, da ist einer!
11. Caroline: Entschuldigung, haben Sie vielleicht eine Zahnbürste übrig?
12. Gast: Hmm...
13. Caroline: Ich kann meine Zahnbürste einfach nicht mehr finden.
14. Martin: Wir waren lange unterwegs und jetzt haben die Geschäfte schon zu und wir können keine Zahnbürste kaufen.
15. Gast: Ich glaube ich habe eine, lasst mich mal sehen.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Caroline: Damn! I can't find my toothbrush anymore.
2. Martin: Are you sure that it isn't in one of your suitcases? How'bout you take everything out once.
3. Caroline: Okay... t-shirts, trousers, skirts, dresses, towels...
4. Martin: Man, what are you carrying around with you!
5. Caroline: Books, money, family photos, tickets...
6. Martin: Wow...
7. Caroline: That's all, see? My toothbrush is gone.
8. Martin: Well, the hotel will surely give you a toothbrush for today.
9. Caroline: You think so? The woman was so impolite!
10. Martin: Hmm, maybe it is better to first ask a hotel guest. Ah, there's one!
11. Caroline: Excuse me, do you maybe have an extra toothbrush?
12. Guest: Hmm...
13. Caroline: I just can't find my toothbrush anymore.
14. Martin: We've been on the road for a long time and now the shops are already closed and we can't buy a toothbrush.
15. Guest: I believe I have one, let me see.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Zahnbürste	toothbrush	noun	plural: Zahnbürsten
Gast	guest	noun; masculine, der	plural: Gäste
unhöflich	impolite		"höflich" is polite.
weg	gone, not there; away	adverb	
Foto	photo	noun	neuter; plural: Fotos
herum	around	adverb	
Handtuch	towel	noun	plural: Handtücher
Rock	skirt	noun	plural: Röcke
Hose	trousers, pants	noun; feminine, die	one pair of pants = eine Hose; plural: Hosen
(he)raus	out of	adverb	raus is more colloquial than heraus
Koffer	suitcase	noun	plural is the same
Geschäft	shop, business	noun; neuter, das	plural: Geschäfte

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hast du zufällig noch eine Zahnbürste? Ich habe meine vergessen. Do you by any chance have a spare toothbrush? I forgot mine.	Tun Sie einfach so, als ob Sie eingeladen wären, und folgen Sie den anderen Gästen. Just do as if you had been invited, and follow the other guests.
Unter den Gästen befindet sich auch Arnold Schwarzenegger. Among the guests there is also Arnold Schwarzenegger.	Die Hotelangestellte war so unhöflich zu uns! The (female) hotel clerk was so impolite to us!

Neuseeland ist so weit weg... New Zealand is so far away...	Du kannst den Rest wegwerfen. You can throw away the rest.
Bitte schalt das weg. Ich mag diese Sendung wirklich nicht. Could you please switch to something else? I really don't like that show.	Ich habe Fotos gemacht. I took some pictures.
Der Tiger schnüffelt um das Holz herum. The tiger snoops around the wood.	Du trägst viele Sachen mit dir herum! You are carrying around a lot of stuff!
Du brauchst kein Handtuch einpacken, das Hotel gibt uns welche. You don't need to pack a towel, the hotel will give us some.	Jetzt tragen die Mädchen alle kurze Röcke. Now all the girls are wearing short skirts.
Der Schlüssel ist in meiner Hosentasche. The key is in my pants pocket.	Können Sie diese Hose etwas kürzen? Can you shorten these pants somewhat?
Ich muss mit dem Hund rausgehen. I have to go out with the dog. / I have to walk the dog.	Er kam herein und ging sofort rückwärts wieder raus. He came in and immediately went back out backwards.
Bitte bring den gelben Sack mit Müll raus. Please take out the yellow sack of garbage.	Dieser Koffer ist wirklich leicht - hast du nichts gepackt? This suitcase is really light - didn't you pack anything?
Vor dem Geschäft war eine lange Schlange. In front of the shop there was a long line.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. heraus = out of. This is used to form a lot of separable German verbs, for example „herausnehmen“ (to take something out), „herausgeben“ (to give out), „herauskommen“ (to come out), „herausgehen“ (to go out of a building) and so on. In colloquial speech, it is shortened to just „raus“.
2. herum = around. This, too, is used for German verbs, albeit less commonly, e. g. „herumgehen“ (to go around) or „herumsehen“ (to look around).

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson are other ways of forming the plural.

T-Shirts, Hosen, Röcke, Kleider, Handtücher...

"t-shirts, trousers, skirts, dresses, towels..."

So far we've talked about German nouns which form the plural by not changing at all (e. g. der Koffer – die Koffer), those which add an -s like in English (e. g. das T-Shirt – die T-Shirts; das Foto – die Fotos) and those which add -(e)n (e. g. die Hose – die Hosen, die Zahnbürste – die Zahnbürsten).

Now let's look at the last two common ways of forming the plural.

Masculine words, and some non-masculine ones, often add -e. As before, you may additionally see one of the vowels become an Umlaut vowel. Examples

das Geschäft – die Geschäfte

der Rock – die Röcke

der Gast – die Gäste

Neuter words often add -er. Again, you may see the vowel change in addition. Examples

das Kleid – die Kleider

das Handtuch – die Handtücher

das Buch – die Bücher

The most important thing is to learn the plural form of a noun at the same time as you learn the noun. That way, you won't have to guess what kind of plural it will form.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Opening hours

1. Germans are not used to having shops that are open every day or all day, that's a very recent thing and only available in the biggest cities
2. typical shops are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 8pm, maybe even only 6pm if you're in a small town. On Saturday, opening hours may also be reduced and nothing is open on Sundays. This means that on Saturday many people rush to the shops to get supplies for Sunday.
3. if you absolutely need to buy something after hours, there are kioks in some regions, which mainly stock sweets, cigarettes and booze but also a limited supply of emergency household items. These kioks are not bound to regular opening hours.
4. restaurants are open on Sundays, but typically closed on Mondays or another day of the week. Also, restaurants typically aren't open in the mornings and may not be open for lunch, or if they are, they may close between 2 and 5pm and only re-open for dinner afterwards. As most Germans adhere rather strictly to their lunch hours, this is only a problem for foreigners and workaholics.
5. it is a very rare thing to eat breakfast out unless you're meeting with a business partner. Also keep in mind that German breakfast usually isn't warm and you can't get pancakes for breakfast. If you do want to eat out for breakfast, a café or bakery is your best bet.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #40

You Won't Be Disappointed! Expand Your German Skills Over Breakfast with Us!

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- 2 German
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
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GERMAN

1. Martin: Guten Morgen, Caroline!
2. Caroline: Guten Morgen!
3. Martin: Hast du gut geschlafen?
4. Caroline: Ja, danke.
5. Martin: Ich auch. Ich war sehr müde.
6. Caroline: Was möchtest du heute machen?
7. Martin: Erst einmal frühstücken. Danach sollten wir uns München angucken.
8. Caroline: Klingt gut. Weißt du, ob es hier im Hotel noch Frühstück gibt?
9. Martin: Normalerweise gibt es in Hotels bis 10 Uhr Frühstück, aber dieses Hotel bietet anscheinend kein Frühstück an. Wir können in der Stadt ein Café finden und dort frühstücken.
10. Caroline: Okay, das geht auch.
11. Martin: Sollen wir heute Abend weiter nach Heidelberg fahren?
12. Caroline: Hmm, ich möchte mehr Zeit in München haben, aber Heidelberg ist auch interessant, und Paris...
13. Martin: Ich denke nicht, dass es sich lohnt, nach Paris zu fahren. Man braucht Zeit, um Paris zu sehen.

CONT'D OVER

14. Caroline: Wirklich? Aber... aber wie kann man nach Europa reisen und Paris nicht sehen!

ENGLISH

1. Martin: Good morning, Caroline!
2. Caroline: Good morning!
3. Martin: Have you slept well?
4. Caroline: Yes, thanks.
5. Martin: Me too. I was very tired.
6. Caroline: What do you want to do today?
7. Martin: First (I want to) have breakfast. Afterwards we should sight-see Munich.
8. Caroline: Sounds good. Do you know if they still serve breakfast at this hotel?
9. Martin: Normally hotels serve breakfast until 10am, but this hotel doesn't seem to offer any. We can find a café in the city and have breakfast there.
10. Caroline: Okay, that works, too.
11. Martin: Should we drive on to Heidelberg tonight?
12. Caroline: Hmm, I'd like to have more time in Munich, but Heidelberg is also interesting, and Paris...

CONT'D OVER

13. Martin: I don't think it's worthwhile to go to Paris. You need time to see Paris.
14. Caroline: Really? But... but how can one travel to Europe and not see Paris!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Frühstück	breakfast	noun; neuter, das	neuter; verb: frühstücken
danach	afterwards	conjunction	
klingen	to sound	verb	
anbieten	to offer	verb	er bietet an, er bot an, er hat angeboten
anscheinend	seemingly, it seems that	adverb	
Café	café	noun	plural: Cafés
interessant	interesting	adjective	
es lohnt sich	it is worthwhile	expression	
reisen	to travel	verb	weak verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Es gibt Brot zum Frühstück. There's bread for breakfast.	Kurz danach verstummte die Musik und alle schauten zur Bühne. Shortly afterwards the music fell silent and everybody looked towards the stage.
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Das klingt gut. Sounds good.	Muttersprachler bietet günstigen Französischunterricht. Native speaker offers cheap French lessons.
Dieser Professor bietet auch die Vorlesung "Intensivkurs Deutsche Literaturgeschichte" an. This professor is also offering the lecture "Intensive course of German literature history".	Die Technische Universität Berlin bietet viele interessante Kurse an. Berlin Technical University offers a lot of interesting courses.
Anscheinend hat sich ein Vogel in unsere Wohnung verirrt. It seems that a bird lost its way and entered our apartment.	Ich sehe ein gutes Café. I see a good café.
Es gibt viele Cafés hier. There are many cafés here.	Seine Arbeit ist nicht sehr interessant. His work isn't very interesting.
Der Anfang dieses Films ist wirklich langweilig, aber danach wird es interessanter. The beginning of this movie is really boring, but afterwards it gets more interesting.	Berlin ist eine wirklich interessante Metropole. Berlin is a really interesting metropolis.
Es lohnt sich, dieses Buch nochmal zu lesen. Beim zweiten Mal entdeckt man viele interessante Kleinigkeiten. It is worthwhile to read this book again. The second time you discover many interesting details.	Wegen der Vogelgrippe sind viele Leute nicht nach Asien gereist. Because of the bird flu many people didn't travel to Asia.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. frühstücken is the verb based on Frühstück. Very often you can form a German verb just by adding -en.
2. es lohnt sich = it is worthwhile. Used with an infinitive, for example "Es lohnt sich, Computer jetzt zu kaufen." (It's worthwhile to buy computers now). Don't get confused by the adjusted word order in our dialog ("Ich denke nicht, dass es sich lohnt" = I don't think it's worthwhile)

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson are phrases to help you expand your German.

Weißt du, ob es hier im Hotel noch Frühstück gibt?

"Do you know if they still serve breakfast at this hotel?"

This is the end of the 2nd season of the beginner series. If you travel to Germany now, you should be able to get by. However, you should not lean back now, you should keep improving your German. Here are some phrases you can use in order to learn more from native speakers.

Wie kann ich das sagen? = How can I say that?

Was bedeutet ... ? = What does ... mean?

Können Sie das übersetzen? = Can you translate that?

Können Sie das aufschreiben? = Can you write that?

Wie spricht man das aus? = How do you pronounce that?

Warum ist das so? = Why is it like this?

Wissen Sie, ob ...? = Do you know if ... ?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Breakfast

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

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



Intro

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- 2 What's Your Business Here?
- 3 Haven't You Read my Books?
- 4 Fear for Your Life in Berlin!
- 5 What are your plans?
- 6 The Things You Do
- 7 It's Your Turn!
- 8 Do You Have What It Takes?
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- 10 You Don't Work Here!
- 11 Money Rules the World
- 12 Giving Orders in German: The Letter Says, "Stay at Home!"
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- 18 You Could Be the Luckiest Person in Germany! I Can Hardly Believe it!
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- 20 How is Your German Future Looking?
- 21 Are You Always This Apathetic at Work in Germany?
- 22 What You MUST Know to Master Anxiety in Germany!
- 23 You're So Impatient! Don't Make This Conversation Mistake in Germany!
- 24 I'm Proud to Be Making Progress in German!
- 25 If You Had Any Doubts About Your German...They End Here!
- 26 Don't Be Afraid...After All, What Are the Odds of This Happening to You in Germany?
- 27 It's Time For Some Uniquely German Schadenfreude!
- 28 Planes, Trains, or Automobiles—or Maybe a German Bus!
- 29 Checkpoint Charlie, Traffic Light Men, and Fake Souvenirs—More Cool Reasons to Visit Germany!
- 30 This Dissatisfaction Could Compel You To Do Something Different in Germany!
- 31 Coulda, Shoulda, Woulda— Showing Regret, German Style
- 32 Jealous? A German Woman Could Wear a Dress Like That Any Day!
- 33 Are You Certain You Are Ready for the Fast Lane in Germany?!
- 34 If You Can't Swim with the Big Fish, Stay Off the German Autobahn!
- 35 If You Can't Drive, Then Stay Off the Street in Germany!
- 36 Don't Let Desperation Lead You Down a Lonely Highway in Germany!
- 37 On That Lonely German Road, You Will Be Happy to Have Us Along!
- 38 How Many Ways Can You Say 'No' in German?!
- 39 You Can't Fathom Doing More Than a Single Thing in Germany without First Learning This!
- 40 You Won't Be Disappointed! Expand Your German Skills Over Breakfast with Us!