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LEVEL

7

Volume I



German

Intermediate



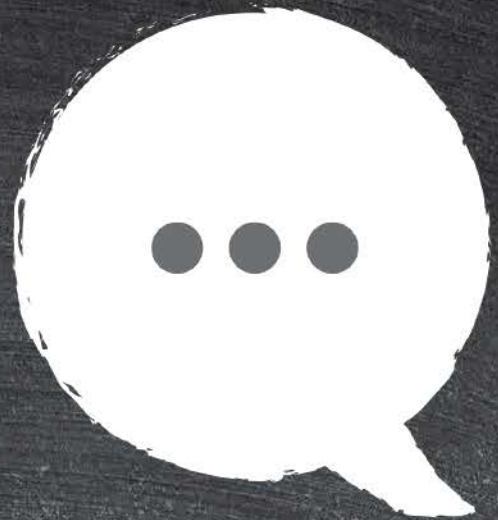
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LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #1

Long Time, No See in Germany

CONTENTS

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

#1

GERMAN

1. A: Anke Löwen.
2. J: Hallo Anke, hier ist Joe!
3. A: Joe? Oh, Joe Cardigan aus Kanada?
4. J: Ja, genau.
5. A: Schön von dir zu hören, Joe! Wie geht es dir?
6. J: Gut, danke, und dir?
7. A: Auch gut.
8. J: Wie ist das Wetter in Berlin?
9. A: Es ist ein wunderschöner Tag hier. Nicht zu warm und nicht zu kalt. Ich werde gleich wieder nach draußen gehen, um die Sonne zu genießen.
10. J: Ahh, sehr gut! Hier regnet es im Moment, aber heute Nachmittag soll es schön werden.
11. A: Das ist gut. Warum rufst du an? Nur um zu plaudern?
12. J: Nein. Ich möchte dir auch sagen, dass ich im August wieder in Deutschland bin.
13. A: Oh, in welche Stadt reist du dieses Mal?
14. J: Wieder nach Berlin. Es gibt dort eine interessante Konferenz und ich komme, um Kontakte zu knüpfen.

CONT'D OVER

15. A: Toll! Das freut mich, dass du wieder hierhin kommst. Denkst du, dass du neben der Konferenz auch Zeit haben wirst, dich mit mir zu treffen?
16. J: Bestimmt. Die Zeit nehme ich mir.
17. A: Dann gib Bescheid, wenn du weißt, wann du ankommst und wie lange du bleibst.
18. J: Ja, mache ich.
19. A: Bis dann!
20. J: Bis dann!

ENGLISH

1. A: Anke Löwen.
2. J: Hello Anke, it's Joe!
3. A: Joe? Oh, Joe Cardigan from Canada?
4. J: Yes, exactly.
5. A: Great to hear from you, Joe! How are you?
6. J: Good, thanks, and you?
7. A: Also good.
8. J: How's the weather in Berlin?

CONT'D OVER

9. A: It's a gorgeous day here. Not too warm, and not too cold. I'm going back outside again soon, to enjoy the sun.
10. J: Ahh, great! Here it's raining currently, but this afternoon is supposed to be nice.
11. A: That's good. Why are you calling? Just to chat?
12. J: No. I'd also like to let you know that I'll be back in Germany in August.
13. A: Oh, which city are you going to this time?
14. J: Back to Berlin again. There's an interesting conference there, and I'm coming to do some networking.
15. A: Great! I'm happy that you're coming back here. Do you think that you'll have time outside the conference in which to meet me?
16. J: Certainly. I'll take the time.
17. A: Then let me know when you know when you're arriving and how long you're staying.
18. J: Yes, I'll do that.
19. A: Until then!
20. J: Until then!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
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knüpfen	to knot, tie	verb	weak verb
hören	to hear, to listen	verb	weak verb
wunderschön	gorgeous		
um	in order to	conjunction	
Konferenz	conference	noun; feminine, die	plural: Konferenzen
hierhin	here	adverb; Compare to "hier". "hier" denotes a place, whereas "hierhin" is the direction.	Compare to "hier". "hier" denotes a place, whereas "hierhin" is the direction.
August	August	noun	plural: Auguste
genießen	enjoy	verb	
Bescheid	legal notice, notification	noun; masculine, der	plural: Bescheide
sich freuen	to be happy	verb	sich freuen AUF etw. = look forward to
plaudern	to chat, gossip	verb	weak verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ich reise demnächst nach Leipzig, um dort Kontakte zu knüpfen. I will travel to Leipzig soon in order to make new contacts there.	In Zentralasien knüpfen selbst kleine Kinder Teppiche. In Central Asia, even small kids knot carpets.
Hörst du mich überhaupt? Do you even hear me?	In ihrem wunderschönen Ballkleid schwebte sie nur so dahin. In her beautiful ballroom dress she just floated like that.

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?	Die Rednerin hat auf einer Konferenz gesprochen. The speaker spoke at the conference.
Komm sofort hierhin! Come here immediately!	Im August haben die meisten deutschen Schüler Sommerferien. In August, most German pupils have summer holidays.
Ich genieße es wirklich, heute nicht zur Arbeit zu müssen. I'm really enjoying not having to [go to] work today.	Hast du den Bescheid vom Ausländeramt schon erhalten? Did you receive your notification from the foreigners' office already?
Sag Bescheid, wenn du genug hast. Say when it's enough.	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.	Ich freue mich auf mein Lieblingsessen. I am looking forward to my favorite dish.

Hast du gerade Zeit, mit mir zu plaudern?

Do you now have time to chat with me?

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Kontakte knüpfen = to socialize. „knüpfen“ is „to knot“ or „to knit“, so you can imagine two strings representing two people, and then you make a knot in these strings. This is the image behind „Kontakte knüpfen“.

2. Das freut mich = That delights me / That gives me pleasure. This is a set expression, because normally „freuen“ is used with a real subject, for example „ich freue mich“ (I am

happy).

3. Die Zeit nehme ich mir. = I'm taking that time. = I will make time for that. This sentence is perhaps doubly hard to understand because „die Zeit“ is the object, yet it has been moved to the beginning of the sentence for emphasis.

4. „Bescheid“ can be an official letter from an institution. However, there are two unrelated German expressions - „Bescheid geben“ and „Bescheid sagen“. Both mean „to let someone know“. For example, if someone is pouring you a drink, he may tell you „Sag Bescheid, wenn du genug hast“ (Let me know when you have enough). A common joke is to wilfully misunderstand this and say „Bescheid!“ when you have enough.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is zu and um zu.

Ich werde gleich wieder nach draußen gehen, um die Sonne zu genießen.
"I'm going back outside again soon to enjoy the sun."

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

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

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

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

„zu“ is essential when making a subclause with „um“. „um“ always requires a „zu“ somewhere later in the phrase. Here are some examples of such phrases;

Ich komme nach Deutschland, um Kontakte zu knüpfen. = I come to Germany in order to socialize.

Es ist zu kalt, um rauszugehen. = It is too cold to go out.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Making friends in Germany

1. easy places to meet: clubs, conferences, fairs, crowded cafés where you have to sit at somebody else's table

2. it takes time; even to switch to “du” can take time (wait for the older or socially superior one to make the move)
3. for the beginning, meet in larger groups and public places, such as restaurants, or do an outing together
4. avoid questions related to money, age, religion
*questions related to politics may come up!

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #2

Planning a Flight to Germany

CONTENTS

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

2

GERMAN

1. A: Anke Löwen.
2. J: Ja, hallo Anke, hier ist nochmal Joe.
3. A: Hallo Joe...
4. J: Störe ich gerade?
5. A: Ich bin gerade beim Kochen, aber ein bisschen Zeit habe ich.
6. J: Okay, dann mache ich's kurz. Ich habe jetzt meinen Flug.
7. A: Ah, sehr gut. Wann kommst du hierhin?
8. J: Am dritten August. Wenn alles gut geht, landet mein Flugzeug um 18 Uhr 26 in Berlin.
9. A: An welchem Flughafen? Berlin-Tegel?
10. J: Ja, Berlin-Tegel.
11. A: Ist das ein Direktflug aus Washington oder steigst du irgendwo um?
12. J: Ich steige in Paris um... der Flughafen dort heißt Charles de Gaulle.
13. A: Ja, das ist der große Pariser Flughafen.
14. J: Warst du schon einmal dort? Wie ist dieser Flughafen?
15. A: Paris ist eine wunderschöne Stadt, aber der Flughafen ist nichts Besonderes. Irgendwie sind alle Flughäfen gleich.

CONT'D OVER

16. J: Stimmt.
17. A: Wenn du da ankommst, dann lass dir direkt von irgendjemandem den Weg zeigen. In diesem Flughafen kann man sich verlaufen.
18. J: Mhmm. Ich habe drei Stunden Zeit bis zu meinem nächsten Flug. Das ist genug Zeit, um sich zu verlaufen und den Weg wieder zu finden. Irgendetwas muss ich doch in der Zeit tun.
19. A: Okay, wie du willst. Schickst du mir eine SMS, falls dein Flug Verspätung hat?
20. J: Na klar.
21. A: Toll! Ich freue mich schon darauf, mit dir zu plaudern.
22. J: Ich auch, und ich freue mich darauf, wieder in Berlin zu sein. Die Stadt ist einfach toll!
23. A: Okay, dann bis bald!
24. J: Bis bald!

ENGLISH

1. A: Anke Löwen
2. J: Yes, hello Anke, it's Joe again.
3. A: Hello Joe...
4. J: Am I interrupting?

CONT'D OVER

5. A: I'm currently cooking, but I have a bit of time.
6. J: Okay, then I'll make it short. I have my flight now.
7. A: Ah, great. When are you coming here?
8. J: On August 3rd. If all goes well, my plane will land at 6:26pm in Berlin.
9. A: At which airport? Berlin-Tegel?
10. J: Yes, Berlin-Tegel.
11. A: Is it a direct flight from Washington, or are you transferring somewhere?
12. J: I'm transferring in Paris... the airport there is called Charles de Gaulle
13. A: Yes, that's the big Paris airport.
14. J: Have you been there? What's this airport like?
15. A: Paris is a gorgeous city, but the airport is nothing special. Somehow all airports are the same.
16. J: It's true.
17. A: When you arrive there, then get directions from somebody right away. You can get lost in that airport.
18. J: Mhmm. I have 3 hours until my next flight. That's enough time to get lost and then find my way again. I'll have to do something with my time.

CONT'D OVER

19. A: Okay, whatever you want. Will you send me an SMS if your flight is delayed?
20. J: Sure.
21. A: Great! I look forward to chatting with you.
22. J: Me too, and I'm looking forward to being back in Berlin again. The city is simply great!
23. A: Okay, then until soon!
24. J: Until soon!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Flughafen	airport	noun	masculine
stören	to disturb	verb	
gleich	shortly		
kochen	to cook	verb	
falls	if	subjunction	
Flug	flight	noun	masculine
besonders / besonderer	especially; special	adjective	
direkt	direct(ly)		
sich	oneself, themselves, each other	pronoun	
landen	to land	verb	

sich verlaufen	to get lost	verb
Weg	way, path	noun; masculine, der
schicken	to send	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Heute werden keine Flüge den Flughafen verlassen wegen des Sturms. There are no flights leaving the airport today, due to the stormy weather.	Ich komme gerade vom Flughafen. I'm coming right from the airport.
Sie wurden wiederholt beim Abendbrot gestört. They were repeatedly disturbed during dinner.	Alle Menschen sind gleich. All men are equal.
Ich bin gleich wieder da. I will be back shortly.	Immer wenn ich zu den Feiertagen heim komme, kocht meine Mutter mein Lieblingessen. My mother always cooks my favorite meal when I come home for the holidays.
Was kochst du uns heute? What are you cooking for us today?	Falls du wirklich so gut bist, warum zeigst du es dann nicht? If you're really that good, why don't you show it?
Der Flug war furchtbar. This flight was awful.	Welchen Flug nimmst du? Which flight will you take?

Dieses Stück ist etwas ganz Besonderes. Es ist viel älter als die anderen Stücke, die Sie hier sehen. This piece is something special. It is much older than the other pieces you can see here.	Die besten Rouladen kriegt man beim Fleischer. Sie machen immer besonders große, damit man danach vielleicht noch ein wenig Gehacktes kauft. You can buy the best roulades at a butcher. They always make especially big ones, so one might buy a bit of ground meat later.
Gibt es eine direkte Zugverbindung zwischen Berlin und Moskau? Is there a direct train connection between Berlin and Moscow?	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.
Sie befinden sich direkt nebeneinander. They are directly next to each other.	Der Flug aus Indien landet mit zwei Stunden Verspätung. The flight from India is landing with two hours' delay.
Ich habe mich schon wieder verlaufen! I have gotten lost yet again!	Können Sie mir den Weg beschreiben? Can you describe the way to me?
Der Fahrradweg ist dort. The bike path is over there.	Wenn ich ihn sehe, schicke ich ihn zu dir. When I see him, I'll send him to you.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „beim ... sein“ (to be doing something). You know that in German, there is no difference between saying „I cook“ or „I am cooking“. Just from the verb, you cannot tell if someone

regularly does something or is doing it right now. So when it becomes important to indicate that you're in the middle of something, you can use „beim ... sein“, for example „beim Kochen sein“ is to be in the middle of cooking, „beim Essen sein“ is to be in the middle of a meal, and so on.

2. freuen + auf. We already had „freuen“ in sentences like „es freut mich“ (it pleases me / it makes me happy). However, there is another really common use of this verb. This is the form „ich freue mich auf...“. It means „I'm looking forward to“. The „auf“ is vital here. It's like „I'm being happy in anticipation of ...“.

3. „Direktflug“ means „direct flight“. In German, this is expressed as one word, we don't say „ein direkter Flug“ but „ein Direktflug“.

4. „besonders“ means „especially“, but it also has an adjective form, which is „besonderer, besondere, besonderes“. This adjective means „special“.

5. „einmal“ is basically the same as saying „ein Mal“, so it means „one time, once“. However, it also means „sometime“ or „ever“.

GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is irgend-
Steigst du irgendwo um?
"Are you transferring somewhere?"**

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

There are

irgendwo – somewhere

irgendwohin – to some place

irgendwann – some time

irgendwie – somehow

irgendjemand (colloquially „irgendwer“) - somebody

irgendetwas (colloquially „irgendwas“) - something

This is not the end of it though. There is also „irgendein“ (some; any), which is used in the same way as the word „ein“. For example „Irgendein Restaurant hat dann bestimmt offen“ (There is certainly some restaurant that's open then). The word „ein“ doesn't have a plural, so for plural we use „irgendwelche“. The same example sentence in plural would be „Irgendwelche Restaurants haben dann bestimmt offen“ (There are certainly some restaurants that are open then).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Culture: airlines & airports

The two biggest German airports are Frankfurt am Main and Düsseldorf. Don't confuse Frankfurt am Main with Frankfurt an der Oder, the latter is a rather small city in the very east of Germany. Frankfurt am Main is abbreviated Frankfurt a. M. when necessary.

Berlin, Munich and Hamburg also have big international airports of course, but not as many intercontinental flights arrive there directly. You may find that your flight from the states to Berlin actually goes to Düsseldorf or Frankfurt am Main and you have to take a national flight to Berlin from there.

Lufthansa is probably the biggest German airline. There are smaller ones as well though, and there are lots of cheap airlines that you can take advantage of when in Europe. Companies like AirBerlin, RyanAir, EasyJet, SkyEurope, Whizzair and of course the holiday airlines often offer very good deals for those who want to see other European cities as well. The only drawback is that these cheap airlines typically fly into small airports that are not as conveniently located as the major ones and you will probably spend more time and money on transportation into the city center.

Germany is a great place to visit just about any time of the year except January/February (unless you go to a ski resort). Winters can be quite cold and dreary here, but in November and December that is offset by numerous unique traditions, such as the Saint Martin parades, the Christmas markets, mulled wine and advent specialties, which you can only experience at that time of the year. Another very interesting time to visit Germany is the Karneval - like during the Mardi Gras in Louisiana, large parts of Germany are a special place during the Carnival week. And of course there's the Oktoberfest, which is however a purely Bavarian tradition. And when the days are warmer and there are no special festivities in sight, it's the best time to go sight-seeing.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #3

This is Your German Captain Speaking

CONTENTS

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

3

GERMAN

1. Kapitän: Meine Damen und Herren, herzlich willkommen an Bord dieses Air France Fluges von Paris Charles de Gaulle nach Berlin-Tegel.
2. Kapitän: Mein Name ist Andreas Büchner und ich bin der Kapitän dieses Flugzeugs.
3. Kapitän: Wir möchten Sie darauf hinweisen, dass dieser Flug ein Nichtraucherflug ist. Auch in den Toiletten ist das Rauchen verboten.
4. Kapitän: Die Notausgänge dieser Maschine sind vorne und an den Seiten. Bitte sehen Sie jetzt nach, wo der nächste Notausgang ist, damit Sie sich später nicht verlaufen.
5. Kapitän: Das Wetter ist heute gut, also erwarten wir einen ruhigen Flug. In etwa einer Stunde sind wir in Berlin.
6. Kapitän: Im Moment sind es 26 Grad in Berlin und die Sonne scheint. Hoffentlich bleibt es so bis zu unserer Ankunft. Wir sagen Ihnen am Ende unseres Fluges noch einmal Bescheid.
7. Kapitän: Vielen Dank und guten Flug!

ENGLISH

1. Captain: Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome on board this Air France flight from Paris Charles de Gaulle to Berlin-Tegel.
2. Captain: My name is Andreas Büchner and I'm the captain of this aircraft.
3. Captain: We would like to point out that this flight is a non-smoking flight. Smoking is also forbidden in the washrooms.

CONT'D OVER

4. Captain: The emergency exits of this craft are at the front and on the sides. Please find your nearest emergency exit now, so that later you won't get lost.
5. Captain: The weather is good today, so we expect a calm flight. We'll be in Berlin in about an hour.
6. Captain: Currently it's 26 degrees in Berlin and sunny. Hopefully it'll stay that way until our arrival. We'll give another report at the end of the flight.
7. Captain: Thanks very much, and have a good flight!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Dame	lady, madam	noun; feminine, die	plural: Damen
herzlich	hearty, heartfelt		
Willkommen	Welcome	expression	
Bord	board, shelf	noun; neuter, das	plural: Borde
Kapitän	captain	noun; masculine, der	plural: Kapitäne
Notausgang	emergency exit	noun	plural: Notausgänge
Toilette	toilet	noun	plural: Toiletten
verbieten	to forbid	verb	er verbietet, er verbot, er hat verboten
hinweisen	to indicate, suggest	verb	er weist hin, er wies hin, er hat hingewiesen
Ende	end	noun; neuter, das	neuter
Maschine	machine	noun	plural: Maschinen

erwarten	expect, await	verb	
Ruhe	tranquility, calm	noun; feminine, die	no plural
etwa	approximately; (in questions:) surely not?	adverb; note the question use!	note the question use!

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Die Damenbekleidung finden Sie im Erdgeschoss und im ersten Stock. You will find women's clothing on the ground floor and on the first floor.	Meine Damen und Herren, bitte stehen Sie auf für die Nationalhymne. Ladies and gentlemen, please stand up for the national anthem.
Meine Damen und Herren, herzlich willkommen an Bord! Ladies and Gentlemen, a hearty welcome aboard!	Willkommen in Deutschland! Welcome to Germany!
Meine Damen und Herren, herzlich willkommen an Bord! Ladies and Gentlemen, a hearty welcome aboard!	Der Kapitän meldete sich persönlich aus dem Cockpit, um den Passagieren die Angst zu nehmen. The captain personally made an announcement from the cockpit, in order to alleviate the passengers' fears.
Der Notausgang dieses Kinosaals befindet sich rechts und links jeweils auf halber Höhe. The emergency exit of this cinema hall is located on the right and on the left, half way to the top.	Die Toilette ist gerade besetzt. The toilet is currently occupied.

Wo befinden sich die Behindertentoiletten? Where are the disabled people's bathrooms located?	Verbieten Sie Ihren Kindern nicht alles, was Spaß macht! Don't forbid your kids to do everything that's fun!
Es ist verboten, mit einem alten Auto in die Umweltzone zu fahren. It is forbidden to drive an old car into the environmental zone.	Weisen Sie die Teilnehmer auch auf unser kostenloses Buffet hin. Do alert the participants to our free buffet.
Am Ende zählt nur, ob das Team gewinnt. In the end it only matters if the team wins.	Mehr Besteck findest du in der Geschirrspülmaschine. You can find more silverware in the dish washer.
Dieses Kleid kannst du nicht in der Waschmaschine waschen, du musst unbedingt damit in die Reinigung. You can't wash this dress in the washing-machine, you absolutely have to take it to the dry-cleaner's.	Ich erwarte noch einen Brief. I'm still awaiting a letter.
Ich suche eine Wohnung in ruhiger Lage. I am looking for an apartment in a quiet part of town.	Magst du etwa Tokio Hotel? Surely you don't like Tokio Hotel?
Sie war etwa 3 Jahre alt. She was approximately 3 years old.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „Meine Damen und Herren“ is a set expression, meaning „Ladies and gentlemen“. You will

hear „Meine Damen und Herren“ at the beginning of a lot of speeches. There is also a similar expression for letters, that one is „Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren“ (Very honored ladies and gentlemen). „Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren“ is what you should put at the beginning of every formal letter, unless you know the exact person you are writing to.

2. Strangely enough, „verboten“ is a word that a lot of people know in German. „verboten“ means „forbidden“. It is actually the past participle of the verb „verbieten“, which means „to forbid“.

3. „nachsehen“, literally „to look after“, is the German word for „to check“ or „to look up“.

4. „Notausgang“ (emergency exit) actually consists of two words. „Not“ (distress, misery or emergency) and „Ausgang“ (exit).

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Genitive singular

Ich bin der Kapitän dieses Flugzeugs.

"I'm the captain of this airplane"

In the beginner and upper beginner lessons we already had a general overview of German cases. Now it is time to study some of them in-depth. Today we shall start by looking at the Genitive singular.

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 key ending for the Genitive singular is -es. You will find it in various forms for masculine and neuter nouns. For example, the definite article is „des“ and the indefinite article is „eines“ for Genitive singular for masculine AND neuter nouns. Since the key ending is already present in the article, the adjective then only takes the bland -en ending. However, some nouns will also add -(e)s. So you say „des (guten) Mannes“, „eines (guten) Mannes“, „des (guten) Kindes“ or „eines (guten) Kindes“. The same ending even applies to possessive pronouns, for example „am Ende unseres Fluges“ (at the end of our flight / at our flight's end).

For feminine nouns, we don't see any -s anywhere. The nouns don't change and the articles both end in -r – they are „der“ and „einer“. Again any adjectives just take the neutral -en ending, so we have „der (guten) Frau“ or „einer (guten) Frau“. Considering that -r is normally reserved for masculine words, suddenly seeing it with a feminine word should shake you awake and alert you to the fact that you're dealing with a Genitive.

Be aware that the Genitive is slowly going out of use. In spoken German, 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, and German teachers may get angry at you for not using the Genitive in writing.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What you may (not) bring to Germany

If you bring goods worth more than 150 EUR into Germany (e. g. as gifts, not something you will take with you again), you will need to pay taxes on them. There are also things that you just mustn't bring into Germany.

1. endangered animals and their products
2. medicine from outside the EU, except for your personal use
3. drugs and drug ingredients
4. fireworks, except in very specific circumstances
5. dangerous dog races, except for short-term touristy visits
6. certain foods, like potatoes or wild mushrooms
7. pirated products, imitations
8. media with unconstitutional content (racism, Nazi content and symbols, anti-democratic ideas)
9. porn involving children or animals
10. certain animals and animal products that may carry a disease
11. weapons, weapon parts and ammunition (incl. butterfly knives). German weapon laws are very strict.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #4

Get Yourself Ready For German!

CONTENTS

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

#4

GERMAN

1. J: Joe Cardigan.
2. A: Hallo Joe! Wie geht's?
3. J: Gut, danke. Und selbst?
4. A: Auch gut. Bist du jetzt in deinem Hotel?
5. J: Ja. Ich bin gerade beim Auspacken.
6. A: Ich kann es kaum erwarten, dich zu sehen. Hast du Lust, heute mit mir zu Abend zu essen?
7. J: Heute? Ja, wieso nicht. Gehen wir in ein Restaurant oder kochst du etwas?
8. A: Ich habe heute keine Lust, etwas zu kochen. Außerdem ist heute ein besonderer Tag. Lass uns in ein Restaurant gehen.
9. J: Okay.
10. A: Ich kann dich in etwa einer halben Stunde in deinem Hotel abholen.
11. J: In einer halben Stunde?? Das ist zu bald. Ich muss erst fertig auspacken....
12. A: Das dauert doch keine halbe Stunde!
13. J: Und dann möchte ich mich erst duschen, mir die Zähne putzen und mir etwas anderes anziehen. Nach einem langen Flug fühle ich mich immer so dreckig.

CONT'D OVER

14. A: Das verstehe ich. Also, wann sollen wir uns treffen?
15. J: Komm in einer Stunde, dann bin ich auf jeden Fall fertig.

ENGLISH

1. J: Joe Cardigan.
2. A: Hello Joe! How's it going?
3. J: Good, thanks. And yourself?
4. A: Also good. Are you in your hotel now?
5. J: Yes. I'm currently unpacking.
6. A: I can hardly wait to see you. Would you like to eat dinner with me this evening?
7. J: Today? Yes, why not. Are we going to a restaurant or are you cooking?
8. A: Today I don't want to cook something. Besides, today is a special day. Let's go to to a restaurant.
9. J: Okay.
10. A: I can pick you up at the hotel in about a half hour.
11. J: In a half hour?? That's too soon. I have to finish unpacking first...
12. A: That doesn't take a half hour!

CONT'D OVER

13. J: And then I'd like to have a shower, brush my teeth, and put something else on. After a long flight I always feel so dirty.
14. A: I understand. So, when should we meet?
15. J: Come in an hour, then I'll be ready for sure.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
dreckig	filthy, dirty	adjective	
sich fühlen	to feel (a certain way)	verb	weak verb
sich anziehen	to get dressed	verb	er zieht sich an, er zog sich an, er hat sich angezogen
fertig	completed, ready		
selbst	oneself, myself, yourself; even	adverb	
packen	to pack	verb	weak verb
kaum	hardly	adverb	
abholen	to pick up	verb	"ab" splits off
Zahn	tooth	noun	plural: Zähne
Stunde	hour	noun	feminine; plural: Stunden
Lust	passion, inclination	noun; feminine, die	no plural
putzen	to brush	verb	weak verb
duchen	to shower	verb	reflexive; weak verb
außerdem	besides	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mein Auto ist ein bisschen dreckig. My car is a little dirty.	Wenn alle rauchen und ich nicht, fühle ich mich nicht wohl. When everybody is smoking and I'm not, I don't feel comfortable.
Ich fühle mich in diesem Land wie zu Hause. I feel like at home in this country.	Ich ziehe mich gerade an. I'm just getting dressed. (dressing myself)
Das Mittagessen ist gleich fertig. Lunch will soon be ready.	Ich habe so viel Arbeit, ich muss selbst am Wochenende schuften. I have so much work, I even have to plod during weekends.
Ich habe mir Französisch selbst beigebracht. 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.
Dieser Koffer ist wirklich leicht - hast du nichts gepackt? This suitcase is really light - didn't you pack anything?	Kaum war ich aus dem Haus, fing es an zu regnen. I had hardly stepped out of the house when it started to rain.
Ich möchte mein Paket abholen. I would like to pick up my package.	Mein Zahn tut weh. My tooth does hurt.
Ich warte schon seit einer ganzen Stunde! I'm already waiting for a whole hour!	Worauf hast du Lust? What are you in the mood for?

Ich habe gar keine Lust auf Kino. I'm in absolutely no mood for the movies.	Hast du Lust auf ein Drama oder lieber eine Komödie? Are you in the mood for a drama or rather a comedy?
Die Frau putzt ihre Zähne. The woman is brushing her teeth.	Ich sollte mich zuerst duschen. I should shower first.

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

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

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „und selbst?“ is a very colloquial way of asking „und du?“. „selbst“ normally means „oneself“ when you want to indicate „he did that himself“, „they did that themselves“ or the like.
2. From „packen“ we derive „auspacken“ (to unpack). The prefix aus- is suitable because things wind up being OUTside your suitcase. There is also „einpacken“ (to pack up) for packing stuff INto your container.
3. „Lust haben“ is a set expression meaning „to be in the mood“. „Keine Lust haben“ is not to be in the mood.
4. „zu Abend essen“ means „to have dinner“. Similarly, you could say „zu Mittag essen“ (to have lunch), but „zu Morgen essen“ doesn't work!
5. „fertig“ can be translated as „ready“, but it always implies being done with something. You can't say „Ich bin fertig“ if you've just been relaxing and are ready to go out now. For that we'd use the word „bereit“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is reflexive verbs

Wann sollen wir uns treffen?

"When should we meet?"

Reflexive verbs are verbs that refer back to the subject. In English, you can recognize such a verb because it is used with a pronoun ending in –self or –selves, for example “I dry myself off” – in German “Ich trockne mich ab”.

You probably recognize the “mich” as the Accusative of “ich”. In German, there are no special pronouns for these reflexive verbs, they just use the Accusative personal pronouns – except that the 3rd person (singular and plural) is always “sich”. So it is “Er wäscht sich” (He washes himself) rather than “Er wäscht ihn”, which would mean he washes some other male person – or the “ihn” could also reference an object that is grammatically masculine in German.

A lot of verbs can be reflexive or not, as the above case demonstrates. You can wash yourself, which would be reflexive, but you can also wash your car, which would not be reflexive.

A special case is when you are washing something that is a part of you, for example your face (*das Gesicht*). Then the verb is still considered reflexive, but on the other hand you need an Accusative object to indicate what you are washing. And that is a problem, because German sentences must not have two Accusative objects at the same time (you, to indicate it being reflexive, and your face). So what happens is that the pronoun will be Dative instead then (but still “sich” if it’s 3rd person). You’d say “Ich wasche mir das Gesicht”, which translates rather funnily to “I wash myself the face”. This is the only quirky part about reflexive verbs in German, but you’ll get used to it quickly as you hear it more often.

In today’s lesson, we saw the reflexive verbs “sich duschen” (to shower), “sich anziehen” (to dress), “sich fühlen” (to feel), “sich treffen” (to meet) and “sich die Zähne putzen” (to brush one’s teeth). These are not translated reflexively in English, but the “sich” in the German dictionary entry tells you that you have to use them with a reflexive pronoun in German. There are a LOT of German verbs that are reflexive when the English ones are not.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

German bathrooms

1. turning off water while showering, environmental
2. being able to stop flushing -> ways of flushing the toilet
3. ability to hold the shower head
4. liquid shower gel
5. light switches often outside the room

6. washing-machine in bathroom or in basement; shared space for hanging up clothes in big apartment buildings; dryers are not used as often
7. laundromats much less common
8. sauna is more popular

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #5

A Must-See Building in Berlin

CONTENTS

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

5

GERMAN

1. J: Was essen wir heute?
2. A: Ich weiß noch nicht. Auf was hast du Lust?
3. J: Hmm, diesen Teil der Stadt kenne ich nicht so gut. Welche Restaurants gibt es hier in der Nähe? Kannst du etwas empfehlen?
4. A: Hier auf der Oranienburger Straße befinden sich viele gute Restaurants. Es gibt alles, sogar Essen aus Kuba oder aus Singapur.
5. J: Kubanisch klingt interessant. Lass uns da essen!
6. A: Okay!
7. J: ... Was ist denn das für ein Gebäude?
8. A: Was? Das da?
9. J: Ja.
10. A: Das ist das Kunsthaus Tacheles.
11. J: Das ist so alt, und voller Graffiti, das passt gar nicht zum Aussehen der anderen Gebäude. Alle anderen Gebäude hier sind moderne, schicke Restaurants.
12. A: Stimmt. Das Tacheles ist ein besetztes Haus. Das ist schon seit 1990 so. Immer wieder will man es abreißen, aber die Hilfe der Berliner hält es am Leben. Mittlerweile ist es ziemlich bekannt, du siehst ja die Schlange der Touristen...

CONT'D OVER

13. J: Die wollen alle das Kunsthaus Tacheles sehen?
14. A: Ja.
15. J: Vielleicht sollten wir später zurückkommen und es uns dann ansehen. Nach dem Essen oder so.

ENGLISH

1. J: What shall we eat today?
2. A: I don't know yet. What are you in the mood for?
3. J: Hmm, I don't know this part of the city that well. Which restaurants are there nearby? Can you recommend something?
4. A: Here on Oranienburger street there are many good restaurants. There's everything, even food from Cuba or Singapore.
5. J: Cuban sounds interesting. Let's eat there!
6. A: Okay!
7. J: ... What sort of building is that?
8. A: What? That one there?
9. J: Yes.
10. A: That's the Tacheles art-house.

CONT'D OVER

11. J: It's so old, and full of graffiti, it doesn't match the appearance of the other buildings at all. All the other buildings here are modern trendy restaurants.
12. A: That's right. Tacheles is a squat. It has been that way since 1990. They keep wanting to tear it down, but the support of Berliners keeps it alive. In the mean time, it has become well-known. You can see the line of tourists...
13. J: They all want to see the Tacheles art-house?
14. A: Yes.
15. J: Maybe we should come back later and take a look. Maybe after the meal.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
voll	full		
Nähe	vicinity, nearby area	noun; feminine, die	
schick	trendy, chic	adjective	
sogar	even	adverb	
seit	for, since	preposition	
sich befinden	to be located	verb	
Hilfe	help, aid	noun; feminine, die	
Gebäude	building	noun	neutral
modern	modern		

passen	to fit, to go with sth. [clothing]; to pass/ fold [in a game]	verb
besetzt	occupied, squatted	adjective
mittlerweile	nowadays	adverb
leben	to live	verb
abreißen	to tear down, demolish	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Der Zug ist am Wochenende immer voll. The train is always full on the weekends.	Der Tintenfisch schwimmt in der Nähe von einem Korallenriff. The squid is swimming near the coral reef.
Mittlerweile befindet sich ein schickes Restaurant in diesem Gebäude. Nowadays there is a chic restaurant in this building.	In diesem Kleid siehst du wirklich schick aus! In that dress you're looking really good!
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!
Wir wohnen seit März zusammen. We've lived together since March.	Ich warte schon seit einer ganzen Stunde! I'm already waiting for a whole hour!

In der Nähe des Freizeitparks befinden sich viele Hotels. Many hotels are located near the amusement park.	Was befindet sich zwischen dem Haus und der Garage? - Dazwischen ist nichts, die Garage grenzt direkt an das Haus. What is located between the house and the garage? - There is nothing in between there, the garage is immediately bordering the house.
Sie befinden sich direkt nebeneinander. They are directly next to each other.	Der Laden befindet sich gleich um die Ecke. The store is just around the corner.
Deine Hilfe bedeutet mir viel. Your help means a lot to me.	Letzte Nacht gab es ein Feuer im Gebäude auf der anderen Straßenseite. Last night, there was a fire in the building on the other side of the street.
Dieses Gebäude ist 100 Jahre alt. This building is 100 years old.	Ich wohne lieber in einem modernen Haus als in einem Altbau. I prefer living in a modern house than in an old building.
Es ist schwer herauszufinden ob ein Schlüssel passt, wenn alles dunkel ist. It is hard to find out if a key fits when it's all dark.	Dieses Hemd passt mir nicht; es ist zu eng! This shirt doesn't fit me; it's too tight!
Nach dem zweiten Weltkrieg wurde Deutschland von den Siegern besetzt. After the 2nd world war, Germany was occupied by the winners.	Mittlerweile kann man wieder mehr Platten im Laden kaufen. By now you can buy more vinyl in the stores again.

Ich werde ab nächstem Jahr im Iran leben. I will be living in Iran from next year.	Der Mann hat in Sydney, Australien, gelebt. The man lived in Sydney, Australia.
Der Besitzer will dieses Haus abreißen, weil es heruntergekommen ist. The owner wants to tear down this house, because it is run-down.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „in der Nähe“ is a German expression that translates literally to „in the vicinity“. However, it's much more often used in German than that would imply. German doesn't have any other word to express the concept of „near“, so I would translate „in der Nähe“ as „near“ or „nearby“.
2. Kuba, Singapur, Graffiti = Cuba, Singapore, graffiti. Not listed in the vocabulary list because they're proper words and they're basically identical to the English.
3. „das Aussehen“ (appearance) is the noun based on „aussehen“ (to look, appear). You can turn any verb into a noun by simply capitalizing the first letter, and these nouns will always be neuter. Another example is „das Leben“ (life), based on „leben“ (to live) of course.
4. „am Leben halten“ is another expression. It means „to keep alive“. „halten“ is „to hold“ or „to keep“, so the German expression is not too far from the English. „am Leben halten“ - „to keep alive“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the Genitive plural.

Das passt gar nicht zum Aussehen der anderen Gebäude.

"That doesn't match the appearance of the other buildings at all."

In lesson 3 we had a look at the Genitive singular endings, so now it's time to cover the Genitive plural.

The key ending for the Genitive plural is -er and there are no differences between masculine, feminine and neuter. So the definite article is „der“, no matter if you're talking about men, women or children. The indefinite article doesn't exist in plural. This means that the adjective or the possessive pronoun will have to carry the key -er ending if „der“ is not present. On the other hand, if the -er ending is already present, then adjectives will only get the bland -en ending.

So we say „der (guten) Männer, guter Männer, der (guten) Frauen, guter Frauen, der (guten) Kinder, guter Kinder“.

For the Genitive it's not possible to just have the noun stand on its own, because the meaning would be unclear. You can say „Ich liebe Hunde“, „Hunde“ standing alone as an Accusative plural form here, but you can't say „Ich liebe das Fell Hunde“ (I love the fur - dogs), you definitely need the „der“ in there - „Ich liebe das Fell der Hunde“. The „der“ has the same purpose as the English word „of“ here, so we'll use it even when talking about an unspecific group. It doesn't have to be „der“ specifically though – if you have any other word that goes with „Hunde“, that's fine, too, just so the key -er ending is used up somewhere to mark this as a Genitive phrase.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Sushi is perhaps the most common Asian food in Berlin.

It's true that there are lots and lots of foreign restaurants in Berlin, including some really exotic ones, for example offering Cuban, Sri Lankan, Nepali or Georgian food.

Mexican food is chic and readily available, but not authentic at all, because it's mostly Germans or Turks preparing the food. There are not nearly enough Mexicans in Germany to fuel the demand for tacos, burritos, nachos and salsa, as these have become the fashion.

Thai food is so popular in Berlin that even your neighbourhood europeanized Chinese restaurant will probably offer a few Thai dishes and you will find frozen ready-made Thai dishes in your supermarket.

Mango Lassi, an Indian kind of mango milkshake, is available not just at Indian restaurants but at just about every Asian restaurant and some Turkish ones.

All of these trends are specific to Berlin, or big cities at least. In other parts of Germany, particularly smaller towns, Italian, Turkish and europeanized Chinese are the only foreign foods you can easily get.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #6

Let's Have an Exciting German Discussion...About Work

CONTENTS

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

6

GERMAN

1. A: Ein Tisch für zwei bitte.
2. Kellner: Da oben vielleicht?
3. J: Ja, da ist gut.
4. Kellner: Kann ich Ihnen schon etwas zu trinken bringen?
5. A: Ja, ich hätte gern ein kubanisches Bier.
6. J: Kubanisches Bier? Das klingt interessant, aber heute Abend möchte ich keinen Alkohol. Für mich bitte eine große Cola.
7. A: Bist du sicher? Wenn du jetzt eine Cola trinkst, kannst du bestimmt nicht vor 2 Uhr schlafen.
8. J: Egal, ich brauche jetzt etwas, das mich aufweckt. Ansonsten schlafe ich ein, bevor das Essen da ist.
9. A: Mach, was du willst.
10. J: Wie läuft deine Arbeit?
11. A: Ach, so wie immer.
12. J: Was meinst du?
13. A: Es ist jeden Tag das Gleiche. Egal wie viel langweiligen Papierkram ich erledige, es gibt immer noch mehr. Aber es ist eine sichere Arbeitsstelle und es gibt kaum Stress, ziemlich angenehm.
14. J: Klingt nicht spannend.

CONT'D OVER

15. A: Es ist nicht spannend.
16. J: Wie findest du den Chef?
17. A: Er ist okay. Er ist kaum im Büro, also ist es meistens ruhig.

ENGLISH

1. A: A table for two, please.
2. Waiter: Up there perhaps?
3. J: Yes, that's good.
4. Waiter: Can I bring you something to drink?
5. A: Yes, I'd like a Cuban beer.
6. J: Cuban beer? That sounds interesting, but tonight I don't want any alcohol. A large cola for me, please.
7. A: Are you sure? If you drink a cola now, then you certainly won't be able to sleep before 2am.
8. J: Whatever, right now I need something that'll wake me up. Otherwise I'll fall asleep before the food is here.
9. A: Do what you like.
10. J: How's your job going?
11. A: Oh, same as always.

CONT'D OVER

12. J: What do you mean?
It's the same every day. No matter how much boring paper work I take care of, there's always more. But it's a secure job and there's barely any stress, quite pleasant.
13. J: Doesn't sound exciting.
14. A: It's not exciting.
15. J: What do you think of the boss?
16. A: He's okay. He's barely in the office, so it's mostly quiet.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Arbeitsstelle	position, workplace	noun; feminine, die	plural: Arbeitsstellen. Abbreviated as "Stelle" in colloquial German.
Alkohol	alcohol	noun	plural: Alkohole (only used in scientific context)
schlafen	to sleep	verb	ich schlafe, ich schliefe, ich habe geschlafen
Chef	boss	noun	plural: Chefs; feminine: Chefin
aufwecken	to wake up	verb	„auf“ splits off
erledigen	to carry out, handle	verb	weak verb

angenehm	pleasant	Can be used to mean the entire phrase „Es ist angenehm, Sie kennenzulernen" (It's pleasant to meet you).	
Kram	stuff, odds and ends	noun; masculine, der	no plural
ansonsten	otherwise	adverb	
spannend	thrilling		
Stress	stress	noun, masculine, der	masculine
meistens	mostly, most of the time	adverb	
Papier	paper	noun	plural: Papiere
Büro	office	noun	plural: Büros

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Im Moment gibt es nicht viele freie Arbeitsstellen. At the moment there aren't many available jobs.	Ich suche eine Stelle als Verkäufer in Teilzeit. I am looking for a position as a salesperson working part-time.
Sie dürfen nicht mehr als die vorgeschriebene Menge Alkohol einführen. You must not bring more than the prescribed amount of alcohol into the country.	Exzessiver Alkoholgenuss ist, wenn man viel zu viel Alkohol trinkt. Excessive use of alcohol is when you drink way too much alcohol.

Ich schlafe jeden Tag bis 10 Uhr. I sleep until 10 am every day.	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.
Mich hat der Hund von unserem Nachbarn heute aufgeweckt. Our neighbour's dog woke me up today.	Es gibt tausend Dinge, die man erledigen muss... There are thousands of things that you have to get done...
Die Aufgaben sind einfach, die sind blitzschnell erledigt. The tasks are simple, they will be done in no time (as fast as lightning)	Das habe ich schon längst erledigt. I already did that a long time ago.
Angenehm, Sie kennenzulernen. Nice to meet you. (get to know you)	Der Wind ist heute angenehm. The wind is pleasant today.
Räum heute bitte endlich deinen Kram auf! Please finally tidy up your things today!	Wir müssen das unbedingt heute noch erledigen, ansonsten wird es zeitlich eng. We absolute have to get this done today, otherwise it will be difficult time-wise.
Ich fand den Film sehr spannend. I found the movie to be very thrilling.	Ich habe viel Stress auf der Arbeit. I have a lot of stress at work.
Meistens hat er Recht. He's right most of the time.	Der Kopierer hat einen Papierstau. The copier has a paper jam.
Deine Papiere sind ganz durcheinander. All your papers are in disorder.	Ab 8 Uhr bin ich im Büro. I'm at the office starting at 8 o'clock.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „einschlafen“ is related to „schlafen“, as you can guess. The difference is that „schlafen“ means to be sleeping, while „einschlafen“ is to fall asleep. The separable „ein“ prefix is for the transition INTO sleep.
2. „Wie läuft ...“ means „How is .. going?“. The literal meaning of „laufen“ is „to jog“.
3. „so wie immer“ means „as always“ or „as usual“. „wie“ can mean „how“, but it can also mean „as“.
4. „das Gleiche“ is a fixed expression meaning „the same“, „more of the same“. This doesn't mean that there's a noun „Gleiche“ though. It's only this one expression.
5. „Papierkram“ is a compound German noun. It means „paper work“, but in a negative way. „Kram“ always has negative connotations. „Papierkram“ is paper work that you really shouldn't have to do. Somebody coined an English word for it, „bumf“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Accusative singular

Ich hätte gern ein kubanisches Bier.

"I'd like a Cuban beer."

Today we're looking at the Accusative singular endings, since the dialog contained lots of them.

For **masculine** nouns such as “der Mann” or “der Anzug” (suit), the key ending is -en for the Accusative. The key ending always has to be present. So the masculine Accusative singular form of “the” is “den” and the equivalent form of “a” is “einen”. Also, any adjectives will get the ending -en as well. Ich mag den Anzug, ich mag den grauen Anzug, ich mag einen Anzug. Finally, there are a few masculine nouns, such as “der Mensch”, that will also adopt the -en ending for Accusative, e. g. “den Menschen”.

For **feminine** nouns such as “die Frau” or “die Größe” (size), the key ending is -e. Actually feminine nouns are exactly the same in the Nominative, which is the base form, and the Accusative, so this is easy. Always choose the form that ends in -e, so the forms will be “die”, “eine” and “andere”. Ich mag die Größe, ich mag die andere Größe, ich mag eine Größe.

Finally, for **neuter** nouns such as “das Kind” or “das Kleid” (dress), the key ending is -s. Neuter nouns are also exactly the same in Accusative as in the Nominative, so you're again saving yourself some work. The correct form of “der, die, das” for Accusative singular is obviously “das”. Here we have the issue though that “ein”, the equivalent indefinite form, does not carry the key ending -s. This cannot be helped when you're just saying “ein Kleid” or

something like that, but once you add an adjective, that adjective has to end in -s (-es for pronunciation reasons). If the article is "das" however, then the adjective doesn't need that additional -s, it will just end in -e. Ich mag das Kleid, ich mag das schwarze Kleid, ich mag ein Kleid, ich mag ein schwarzes Kleid.

Memorize these forms well and have another look at the dialog to identify all the Accusative forms. Make sure you can figure out now why they have the endings that they have! Post your results in the comments.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

German working conditions

1. law guarantees 4 weeks of movable holidays, so that translates to 20 days if you have a 5-day work week or 24 days if you have a 6-day work week.
2. young workers (up to 18 years old) get more, but keep in mind that your choice of work and your amount of weekly work hours are restricted when you're young, to prevent child labor
3. additionally there 9 to 13 non-moveable public holidays. The exact amount depends on the state, because some states recognize different religious holidays than others, depending on the state's prevalent confession (Catholic or Protestant).
4. you typically don't have to worry about running out of paid sick days or losing your job because of sickness unless you're missing for more than a few months. However, to prevent abuse, you need to see a doctor and have him certify that you're actually sick.
5. it's impossible to get out of health insurance unless you're filthy rich. You can choose your health insurance company, but you have to be insured. The money for the insurance goes straight out of your salary and your employer contributes half. If you're not employed, your health insurance is covered by the state, and non-working family members are covered by the working parent's health insurance.
6. if you're an employee, it's also impossible to opt out of the national pension system. As a freelancer you're responsible for that yourself.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #7

Making Friends in the German Workplace

CONTENTS

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

#7

GERMAN

1. J: Sind deine Mitarbeiter in Ordnung?
2. A: Ja, wir verstehen uns meistens gut. Wir essen auch zusammen zu Mittag und wir planen manchmal gemeinsame Aktivitäten.
3. J: Was denn zum Beispiel?
4. A: Na, wir organisieren Feste, oder wir machen Ausflüge zusammen... letzts waren wir zusammen in Potsdam.
5. J: Nicht schlecht.
6. A: Ich mag die gemeinsamen Ausflüge. Ich finde, sie machen uns zu einem Team.
7. A: Wie läuft das bei dir eigentlich? Du bist ja Übersetzer. Arbeitest du bei einer Firma?
8. J: Nein, im Moment bin ich Freiberufler. Ich arbeite von zu Hause aus.
9. A: Ist das nicht langweilig? Du bist ja den ganzen Tag allein.
10. J: Ich finde es nicht schlecht. So kann ich mehr Zeit mit meiner Familie und mit meinen Freunden verbringen. Als Angestellter verbringt man viel Zeit mit Leuten, die man vielleicht gar nicht mag.
11. A: Ja, ich habe Glück mit meiner Firma. Ich mag alle.
12. J: Das ist nicht oft so. Meistens gibt es zumindest einen, der Stress macht.
13. A: Der Chef?

CONT'D OVER

14. J: Der auch. Na ja, es ist schön, frei zu sein, aber manchmal hätte ich lieber jeden Monat sicheres Geld.

15. A: Und manchmal wäre ich lieber Freiberufler. Dann würde ich nur interessante Projekte machen, nicht immer den gleichen Papierkram. Und ich könnte morgens länger schlafen.

ENGLISH

1. J: Are your co-workers okay?

2. A: Yes, we mostly get along well. We also eat together at lunch and we sometimes plan activities together.

3. J: Like what, for example?

4. A: Well, we organize parties or we go on an outing together...recently we went to Potsdam together.

5. J: Not bad.

6. A: I like the outings we do together. I find that they make us a team.

7. A: How's it going with you, actually? You're a translator. Do you work at a company?

8. J: No, at the moment I'm a freelancer. I work from home.

9. A: Isn't that boring? You're alone for the entire day.

CONT'D OVER

10. J: It's not bad. That way I can spend more time with my family and with my friends. As an employee, one spends a lot of time with people that you perhaps don't like at all.
11. A: Yes, I'm lucky with my company. I like everyone.
12. J: It's not often like that. Most of the time there's at least one person that causes stress.
13. A: The boss?
14. J: Him too. Well, it's nice to be free, but sometimes I'd prefer to have reliable money every month.
15. A: And sometimes I'd prefer to be a freelancer. Then I'd only do interesting projects, not always the same paper work. And I could sleep longer in the mornings.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Projekt	project	noun; neuter, das	plural: Projekte
letztens	recently	adverb	
Ordnung	order	noun; feminine, die	plural: Ordnungen
sich verstehen	to get along well	verb	er versteht sich, er verstand sich, er hat sich verstanden
Angestellter	employee	noun	
planen	to plan	verb	weak verb
organisieren	to organize	verb	weak verb

Freiberufler	freelancer	noun, masculine, der; literally means "free-profession-er"	masculine; literally means "free-profession-er"
Beispiel	example	noun; neuter, das	plural: Beispiele
gemeinsam	common, together	adjective / adverb	
verbringen	to spend [a period of time]	verb	er verbringt, er verbrachte, er hat verbracht
Firma	company	noun	plural: Firmen
Aktivität	activity	noun; feminine, die	plural: Aktivitäten
Leute	people	noun; plural, die	always plural

SAMPLE SENTENCES

An welchem Projekt arbeitest du gerade? Which project are you presently working on?	Ich habe mich entschieden, diesen Projektvorschlag abzulehnen. I decided to reject this project proposal.
Letztens habe ich Martina wiedergesehen. I recently saw Martina again.	Er kann in seinem Zimmer nie Ordnung halten! He can't maintain order in his room! / He can't keep his room tidy!
Die Mitarbeiter dieser Firma verstehen sich gut. The employees of this company get along well.	Die Angestellten haben im Büro gearbeitet. The employees worked at the office.

Planst du, bei dem Treffen dabei zu sein? Do you plan to be there for the meet-up?	Es ist schwer, eine große Konferenz zu organisieren, vor allem, wenn man nicht selbst in der Stadt wohnt. It is hard to organize a large conference, especially if you're not living in the conference city yourself.
Ich bin Freiberufler. I am a freelancer.	Es gibt viele Biersorten in Deutschland, zum Beispiel Pils, Alt, Weizen... There are many types of beer in Germany, for example pilsner, alt, wheat beer...
Du bist ein sehr schlechtes Beispiel für die Kinder. You are a very bad example to the kids.	Sie haben gemeinsam einen Berg erklommen. Together they crested the mountain.
Die Familie frühstückt gemeinsam. The family is eating breakfast together.	Sie verbringen viel Zeit in ihrem Ferienhaus in der Dominikanischen Republik. They spend a lot of time in their holiday home in the Dominican Republic.
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.	Wir planen gemeinsame Aktivitäten. We plan common activities.

Ein paar Leute wissen immer noch nicht, was passiert ist.

A few people still don't know what happened.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. Mit- as a noun prefix means „fellow“. Mitarbeiter = fellow worker. Mitschüler = fellow student. Mitmensch = fellow human.
2. „in Ordnung“ is a German expression for „okay“. It was a lot more common before „Okay“ invaded the German language.
3. „zum Beispiel“ means „for example“. This is a really handy expression, remember it well.
4. We already saw „ich hätte gern“, meaning „I would like to have“. Now there is something very similar - „ich hätte lieber“. This is „I would prefer to have“. „lieber“ means „rather“, so „lieber haben“ is „to prefer“. There is no better word for it in German.
5. „wäre“ means „would be“ in German. It's the conditional form of „sein“ (to be). So instead of „würde sein“, you should say „wäre“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Accusative plural

Let's continue our studies of the Accusative. Today we shall go over the plural forms. Fortunately, the plural forms largely correspond to those of feminine nouns. Also, there is no difference between Accusative plural and Nominative plural; the forms are exactly the same.

This means that the key ending is -e. The definite article is “die”, as in “die Männer”, “die Frauen” and “die Kinder”. The indefinite article does not exist in plural, but related words like “kein” and “mein” use “keine” and “meine” for plural, so they also use the key ending -e. Stand-alone adjectives also get the ending -e, but if they are preceded by an article, a possessive pronoun or something like that, then they instead use the ending -en. We can see this pattern in a lot of places – adjectives take the ending -en if another word is already using the key ending of the case.

So what does this mean in practise? Ich mag die Anzüge, ich mag die neuen Anzüge, ich mag meine neuen Anzüge, ich mag neue Anzüge.

The forms for “Frauen” and “Kinder” are the same, because in plural there is no difference between the genders in German.

Okay, this was less painful than expected. So maybe we should have one more word about when to use the Accusative. The Accusative is used

1. for the direct object, e. g. "ich gebe meinem Freund den Hund" (I give the dog to my friend); "meinem Freund", the indirect object, is Dative instead.
2. for movement into a direction, e. g. "ich gehe in den Park" (I go into the park) or "ich lege das Buch auf den Tisch" (I put the book on the table)
3. after the prepositions durch, für, gegen, ohne and um
4. when you're talking about time without using a preposition, for example „den ganzen Tag“ (all day) or „jeden Morgen“ (every morning).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Etiquette on the job

1. In all but the smallest companies, you should expect to always use formal language with your boss and for him to maintain a certain distance.
2. Colleagues of roughly the same standing however tend to form tightly-knit groups, who also regularly spend free time together.
3. You may have to prove yourself before you'll be part of that kind of circle. Also you should wait for older colleagues to offer you the use of informal language before you start doing so, anything else would seem disrespectful and make for a bad job climate.
4. Once you have shown each other respect this way, the switch to informal language marks the beginning of a friendship.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #8

Participate in a Business Lunch in German

CONTENTS

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

8

GERMAN

1. J: Ich hatte mal Arbeit als angestellter Übersetzer bei einer Firma in Washington.
2. A: Wirklich? Es gibt nicht so viele angestellte Übersetzer, oder?
3. J: Stimmt. Die Firma war auch echt komisch. Ich nenne keine Namen, aber... das Büro war in einem halb abgerissenen Gebäude und alles war heruntergekommen, aber wir sollten trotzdem im Anzug zur Arbeit kommen.
4. A: Hattet ihr feste Arbeitszeiten?
5. J: Ja, wir waren schon jeden Tag von 9 Uhr morgens bis 6 Uhr abends im Büro, egal ob es Aufträge gab oder nicht. Es war schrecklich.
6. A: Ja, das kann ich mir vorstellen. Wenn man nichts zu tun hat, ist die gefühlte Zeit viel länger.
7. J: Außerdem gab es keine Restaurants in der Nähe des Büros, nur eine Kantine, und das Essen da schmeckte immer wie gekochtes Papier.
8. A: Ääh. Da nehme ich mir dann doch lieber einen Snack mit und esse abends erst richtig.
9. J: In Amerika ist das sowieso normal. Wir essen oft nur ein einen Snack zu Mittag. Trotzdem. Der Kaffee aus der Kantine war auch schrecklich.
10. A: Hatte diese Arbeit denn zumindest ein Gutes?
11. J: Ja. Ich habe dadurch viele Leute kennengelernt...

CONT'D OVER

12. A: ... und die geknüpften Kontakte helfen dir heute als Freiberufler. Du kriegst sicher viele Aufträge auf diesem Weg, oder?
13. J: Genau.
14. A: Nicht schlecht.

ENGLISH

1. J: I once worked as a salaried translator at a company in Washington.
2. A: Really? There aren't so many salaried translators, right?
3. J: That's right. The company was also really weird. I won't name any names, but... the office was in a half torn-down building and everything was rundown, but despite that we still had to wear a suit to the office.
4. A: Did you have set working hours?
5. J: Yes, we were in the office every day from 9am to 6pm....., regardless of whether there were tasks to do or not. It was horrible.
6. A: Yes, I can imagine. When you have nothing to do, time seems to go slower.
7. J: Besides that, there were no restaurants near the office, only a company cafeteria, and the food there always tasted like boiled paper.
8. A: Ugh, then I'd rather take a snack along and eat a proper meal in the evening.

CONT'D OVER

9. J: In America that's normal anyway. We often just eat a snack at lunch. Anyway. The coffee from the cafeteria was also horrible.
10. A: Was there at least something good about this job?
11. J: Yes. I met many people there.
12. A: ... and the contacts you made there help you today as a freelancer. You certainly get a lot of jobs this way, right?
13. J: Exactly.
14. A: Not bad.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
morgens	in the morning	adverb	
anstellen	to employ; (with sich) to get in line; to act as if	verb	„an“ splits off
komisch	strange, weird; funny	adjective	
sowieso	anyway	adverb	
herunterkommen	to come down, run down	verb	er kommt herunter, er kam herunter, er ist heruntergekommen
Auftrag	assignment, task	noun; masculine, der	plural: Aufträge
fest	solid	adjective	
trotzdem	despite that, anyway		
Kantine	company cafeteria	noun; feminine, die	plural: Kantinen

schrecklich	awful, terrible	adjective / adverb	
kriegen	to receive	verb	weak verb
Anzug	suit	noun	plural: Anzüge
sich vorstellen	to imagine; introduce oneself	verb	"vor" splits off
Leute	people	noun; plural, die	always plural

SAMPLE SENTENCES

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.	Wir wollen Sie als Sekretärin in Teilzeit anstellen. We want to employ you as a part-time secretary.
Stellen Sie sich hinten an, wie jeder andere auch! Go to the end of the line, like everybody else!	Mein Nachbar ist komisch. My neighbor is strange.
Du brauchst gar nicht bei diesem Gewinnspiel anrufen, du gewinnst sowieso nichts! You don't have to call at this sweepstakes, you're not going to win anything anyway!	Diese Gegend ist wirklich heruntergekommen. This area is really run-down.
Der Besitzer will dieses Haus abreißen, weil es heruntergekommen ist. The owner wants to tear down this house, because it is run-down.	Ich habe noch keinen neuen Auftrag von unserem Kunden erhalten. I haven't yet got a new assignment from our client.

Der Nagel sitzt nicht ganz fest, bring mir mal einen Hammer. The nail isn't quite firmly attached, fetch me a hammer.	Er kann mehrere Tage jetzt keine feste Nahrung zu sich nehmen. He can't eat any solid foods for several days starting now.
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. He doesn't like Brussels sprouts, but he eats it anyway.
Meine Kollegen wollen immer in der Kantine essen. Ich finde das Essen da schrecklich. My colleagues always want to eat at the cafeteria. I find that the food is terrible there.	Ich kriege noch Geld von dir! You still owe me money!
Dich kriege ich noch! I will get you!	Für dein Vorstellungsgespräch solltest du unbedingt einen Anzug tragen. You should definitely wear a suit to your job interview.
Stellst du mich deinen Verwandten vor? Are you introducing me to your relatives?	Ein paar Leute wissen immer noch nicht, was passiert ist. A few people still don't know what happened.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „es gab“ (there was) is the past tense of „es gibt“ (there is). And for those who don't remember, „hatte“ (had) is the past tense of „haben“ (to have).
2. dadurch = through that
3. ein Gutes = one good thing (-es for neuter, i. e. thing)
4. auf diesem Weg = this way

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the past participle

Das Essen da schmeckte immer wie gekochtes Papier.

"The food there always tasted like boiled paper."

Participles are forms of verbs that can be used like adjectives or adverbs. In English, an example of such a participle could be "torn down" in the phrase "this torn-down building." This sentence clearly shows that the verb "to tear down" has been turned into something resembling an adjective, and the meaning is passive - the building isn't tearing down anything, somebody else has torn down the building.

In German, this past participle is normally formed by adding a "ge-" before the 3rd person singular (he/she/it) present tense form of a verb.

sagen → er sagt → gesagt (said) kochen

There are also irregular forms. One peculiarity though is for verbs with prefixes.

If there is a non-separable prefix, one that would not normally split off, then we don't add any ge- for the participle. The participle remains the same as the 3rd person singular form then.
verschicken

If the verb has a prefix that would normally split off, the rule is that the past participle consists of first the prefix, and then the ge- and the rest of the participle as we have already seen, so the ge- actually winds up in the middle of the word, something like

ansagen

In this lesson's dialog we saw two such forms, „heruntergekommen" and „abgerissen." In this case, there's the additional problem that these verbs are irregular. The participle of „kommen" is „gekommen." For „reißen" (to tear), the participle is „gerissen." Students of German typically learn these irregular forms by heart, just like students of English have to learn that the irregular participle of „to tear" is „torn" and the participle of „to wake" is „woken." The only bright side is that all derived verbs also use the same irregular forms, so you learn them once and can re-use them a lot. For example, once you know that the participle of „kommen" is NOT „gekommt" but „gekommen," you also know that it should be „hingekommen," „zurückgekommen," „angekommen" and „heruntergekommen" and so on.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

German Lunch

1. Lunch is the biggest meal of the day.

2. For many German families it's the only time of the day that they have warm food, as breakfast and dinner.
3. Lunch is often just one dish, which contains meat, staple and vegetables.
4. Dessert is common, too, but many families would only have an appetizer, soup or salad before the main meal at restaurants.
5. Germans commonly drink water, Apfelschorle (apple juice mixed with mineral water) or juice with lunch. Soda is more common with young people, beer and wine are typically kept for later meals, unless you're in the South, where beer is an acceptable beverage any time of the day.
6. Before starting to eat, you must wish everybody a „Guten Appetit." Only a minority of families pray before the meal though.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #9

Visiting a Famous German Artists' Community

CONTENTS

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

9

GERMAN

1. A: So, wollen wir uns jetzt das Tacheles ansehen? Es gibt keine Schlange mehr.
2. J: Ja, klingt gut.
3. ...
4. A: Hier hinten im Hof gibt es zwei Bereiche. Einmal gibt es links diesen Strand, den die Leute abends als Klub benutzen.
5. J: Was ist denn das hier? Eine Art Schaukelpferd aus Metall?
6. A: Haha, ja, es gibt sehr interessante Sitzmöglichkeiten hier. Auch ausgebaute Autositze, oder Sitze aus Flugzeugen...
7. J: Nicht schlecht.
8. A: Der zweite Bereich ist da drüben. Da kann man interessante Skulpturen aus Altmetall sehen.
9. J: Ich seh' schon.
10. A: Eigentlich gucke ich mir nicht oft Kunst an, aber das hier ist etwas Besonderes.
11. J: Ja, das stimmt.
12. ...
13. (wieder draußen)
14. A: Und, was sagst du jetzt?

CONT'D OVER

15. J: Es ist ein interessanter Ort. Ich hoffe, dass das Tacheles so bleibt, wie es jetzt ist.
16. A: Und die Skulpturen?
17. J: Die meisten Skulpturen sind sehr gut gemacht. Nur eine verstehe ich nicht.
18. A: Welche?
19. J: Die zwischen dem großen Mann und der Frau. Was sollte die darstellen?
20. A: Hmm, ich weiß noch nicht, welche Skulptur du meinst.
21. J: Die kleine Skulptur mit einem Computerchip.
22. A: Ohh. Ich weiß auch nicht, was die darstellen soll. Tut mir leid.

ENGLISH

1. A: So, should we go see Tacheles? There's no more line-up.
2. J: Yes, sounds good.
3. ...
4. A: Back here in the courtyard there are two areas. On the left there's this "beach," which people use as a club in the evening.
5. J: What's this here? Some sort of rocking-chair made of metal?

CONT'D OVER

6. A: Haha, yes, there are very interesting seating options here. Also seats removed from cars, or seats from airplanes...
7. J: Not bad.
8. A: The second area is over there. There you can see interesting sculptures made of scrap metal.
9. J: I see already.
10. A: I don't actually look at art often, but here it's something special.
11. J: Yes, that's right.
12. ...
13. (outside again)
14. A: And what do you say now?
15. J: It's an interesting place. I hope that Tacheles stays just like it is now.
16. A: And the sculptures?
17. J: Most of the sculptures are quite well done. There's only one that I don't understand.
18. A: Which?
19. J: The one between the large man and the woman. What is it supposed to represent?
20. A: Hmm, I still don't know which sculpture you mean.

CONT'D OVER

21. J: The small sculpture with a computer chip.
22. A: Ohh. I don't know what it's supposed to represent either. Sorry.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Schaukelpferd	rocking-horse	noun; neuter, das	neuter; plural: Schaukelpferde
hinten	behind	adverb	
Hof	courtyard, court [of a king]	noun; masculine, der	plural: Höfe
darstellen	to portray, depict	verb	„dar“ splits off
Bereich	area, field	noun; masculine, der	plural: Bereiche
Art	type, kind	noun; feminine, die	plural: Arten
ausbauen	to expand, restore; to remove, dismantle	verb	"aus" splits off
benutzen	to use	verb	weak verb
Strand	beach	noun	plural: Strände
zwischen	between	preposition	
Metall	metal	noun; neuter, das	plural: Metalle
Klub	(night)club	noun; masculine, der	plural: Klubs
Kunst	art	noun	plural: Künste
meiste	most	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Es ist sehr schwer geworden, ein Schaukelpferd zu finden. It has become very difficult to find a rocking-horse.	Die Kinder spielen wieder Fußball im Hof. The kids are playing soccer in the yard again.
Das ist ein Bereich, in dem ich mich überhaupt nicht auskenne. That's an area with which I'm not at all familiar.	Hast du schon Erfahrung in diesem Bereich? Do you already have experience in this area?
In diesem Jobangebot wurde die Art der Arbeit nicht beschrieben. In this job offer, the type of work was not described.	Darf ich Ihre Toilette benutzen? May I use your bathroom?
Benutzt du immer noch Windows 95?? Das ist so alt! Are you still using Windows 95?? That is so old!	Ich habe mir einen Benutzer-Account für diese Internetseite geholt. I got myself a user account for this internet site.
Ich gehe zwischen Georg und Susanne. I walk between Georg and Susanne.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „der Sitz" (seat) is a noun based on „sitzen" (to sit). It's also used to form various related compound nouns, such as „Sitzplatz"(reserved seat), „Autositz" (car seat) and now „Sitzmöglichkeit" = seating possibility = seat
2. die Skulptur = sculpture. This is not a word you need to learn.
3. das Altmetall = scrap metal

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Dative singular

Die kleine Skulptur mit einem Computerchip.

"The small sculpture with a computer chip."

So far we studied the Genitive and the Accusative cases in depth, now it's time to look at the last one that we haven't treated yet – the Dative. Today we're looking at the Dative singular endings,

since the dialog contained quite a few of them.

For masculine nouns such as "der Mann," the key ending is -em for the Dative. The key ending always has to be present. So the masculine Accusative singular form of "the" is "dem" and the equivalent form of "a" is "einem." Since the article will already contain the key ending, adjectives will only get the bland -en ending, and same for those nouns that add endings. Bei dem Mann, bei dem netten Mann, bei einem Mann, bei einem Menschen .

For feminine nouns such as "die Frau," the key ending is -er, so the articles will be "der" or "einer." Again the key ending is used up by the article already and all that's left for any adjective is the bland -en ending. bei der Frau, bei der netten Frau, bei einer Frau.

Finally, neuter nouns such as "das Kind" behave exactly like masculine nouns in the Dative. So the articles are "dem" or "einem" and the adjectives end in -en. Bei dem Kind, bei dem netten Kind, bei einem Kind.

Memorize these forms well and have another look at the dialog to identify all the Dative forms. Make sure you can figure out now why they have the endings that they have! Also review the Dative personal pronouns, such as "mir," "dir" or "Ihnen."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

When coming to Germany, you will find that the towns feel quite different than American towns. The difference is greatest in the suburbs, which all feature sidewalks, maybe bicycle paths, and enough opportunities to do shopping or eat out without needing a car.

The inner cities feel different too, though. For one thing, people are less likely to own a lot of space; Germany is a lot more populated than the US. City-dwellers tend to rent gardens outside the center so that they won't have to forego the pleasure of having a cook-out and a relaxing night outside in summer.

Another thing is that streets all twist and turn, and not all houses are in fact at the street. Some houses can only be reached by passing through an archway and crossing a yard – in this lesson, you learned that it's called "Hof" in German. If there's such a yard, the house near the street is called "Vorderhaus" and the house away from the street is called "Hinterhaus."

In Berlin, there are several areas where a maze of houses are connected through such archways and common yards. One famous such example are the Hackeschen Höfe.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #10

Use Your German to Help Tourists Find Their Way

CONTENTS

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

10

GERMAN

1. Tourist: Entschuldigen Sie, können Sie uns helfen? Wo geht es denn zu den Hackeschen Höfen?
2. (Anke geht weiter)
3. Joe: Anke, willst du den Touristen nicht helfen und ihnen antworten?
4. Anke: Oh, Entschuldigung! Was war die Frage?
5. Tourist: Wir suchen die Hackeschen Höfe. Können Sie uns sagen, wie wir von hier aus dahin kommen?
6. Anke: Hmm, einen Moment... Ja, gehen Sie einfach weiter geradeaus, und biegen Sie dann links in die Rosenthaler Straße ab. Auf der Rosenthaler Straße befindet sich ein Eingang, um in die Hackeschen Höfe zu kommen, er ist aber etwas versteckt.
7. Joe: Am besten zeigst du diesen Menschen, wo der Eingang ist. Sie scheinen Ausländer zu sein.
8. Tourist: Nicht nötig, wir finden ihn schon.
9. Anke: Besuchen Sie auf jeden Fall den Ampelmann-Shop in den Hackeschen Höfen.
10. Tourist: Ampelmann? Okay, danke für den Tipp.
11. Anke: Nichts zu danken. Schönen Tag noch!
12. Tourist: Danke, gleichfalls!
13. ...

CONT'D OVER

14. Joe: Was sind die Hackeschen Höfe?
15. Anke: Hmm, das ist schwer zu erklären. Es sind Häuser, die alle durch Höfe verbunden sind, ohne Straßen.
16. Joe: Wie?
17. Anke: Am besten gucken wir uns auch die Hackeschen Höfe an. Das sollte man gesehen haben.
18. Joe: Klingt gut, dann mal los!

ENGLISH

1. Tourist: Excuse me, could you help us? Which way to the Hackesche courtyards?
2. (Anke keeps walking)
3. Joe: Anke, don't you want to help the tourists and answer them?
4. Anke: Oh, sorry! What was the question?
5. Tourist: We're looking for the Hackesche courtyards. Could you tell us how we get there from here?
6. Anke: Hmm, one moment... Yes, simply walk straight ahead, and then turn left onto Rosenthaler street. On Rosenthaler street there's an entrance into the Hackeschen courtyards, but it's a bit hidden.
7. Joe: It'd be best if you showed these people where the entrance is. They seem to be foreigners.

CONT'D OVER

8. Tourist: Not necessary, we'll find them.
9. Anke: Make sure to visit the traffic-light-man shop in the Hackeschen courtyards.
10. Tourist: Traffic-light man? Okay, thanks for the tip.
11. Anke: It was nothing. Have a nice day!
12. Tourist: Thanks anyway!
13. ...
14. Joe: What are the Hackeschen courtyards?
15. Anke: Hmm, it's difficult to explain. It's houses that are all connected through courtyards instead of streets.
16. Joe: How?
17. Anke: It's best to go look at the Hackeschen courtyards ourselves. It's something you should see.
18. Joe: Sounds good, let's go!

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class
am besten	the best; it would be best if	expression
antworten	to answer, reply	verb
schwer	heavy, difficult	adjective
abbiegen	to turn (by car)	verb

verstecken	to hide	verb
nötig	necessary, required	adjective
Ausländer	foreigner	noun; masculine, der
verbinden	to connect; to bandage	verb
bester	best	adjective
erklären	to explain	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

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.
Bitte antworten Sie so schnell wie möglich. Please answer as quickly as possible.	Der Schrank ist schwer. The wardrobe is heavy.
Das war eine schwere Aufgabe. That was a difficult task.	An der Ampel biegen Sie rechts ab. Turn right at the traffic light.
Es gibt viele Osterbräuche, z. B. den Osterhasen, der Ostereier und Osternester versteckt. There are many Easter customs, for example the Easter bunny that hides Easter eggs and Easter nests.	Die alltägliche Streiterei ist so unnötig. The everyday quarreling is so unnecessary.
Dieser gewaltsame Tod war unnötig. This violent death was unnecessary.	In diesem Stadtteil leben viele Ausländer. Many foreigners live in this part of town.

Seine Wunde muss dringend verbunden werden. His wound urgently has to be bandaged.	Verbinden Sie die Punkte. Connect the dots.
Die besten Rouladen kriegst man beim Fleischer. Sie machen immer besonders große, damit man danach vielleicht noch ein wenig Gehacktes kauft. You can buy the best roulades at a butcher. They always make especially big ones, so one might buy a bit of ground meat later.	Können Sie mir das nochmal erklären? Can you explain that to me once more?
Der Vertrag ist für nichtig erklärt worden. The contract was declared void.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. von hier aus dahin = from here to there
2. etwas versteckt. Versteckt = past participle of 'verstecken' = hidden; „etwas“ is used as „a bit“.
3. „Schönen Tag“ or „Guten Tag“ at the end of a conversation is understood as „Have a nice day!“
4. „Das sollte man gesehen haben“ = literally „That should one seen have“ = „One should have seen that“, it's a sight that you don't want to miss.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Dative plural

Let's look at the last remaining chapter of German declensions, the Dative plural endings. The dialog contained quite a few of them.

As with all plural forms, there is no distinction between the genders, so “Männer”, “Frauen” and “Kinder” will all receive the same articles and adjectives.

The key ending for the Dative plural is -en. This means that the definite article is “den”, as in “den Frauen”, and those nouns that decline receive an additional -n as well, as in “den Männern” and “den Kindern”. Finally, adjectives also get the ending -en, no matter if they are stand-alone or preceded by an article, because in this case the key ending matches the bland ending.

So what does this mean in practise? *Bei den netten Männern, bei netten Männern; bei den netten Frauen, bei netten Frauen; bei den netten Kindern, bei netten Kindern.*

When do we use the Dative? The Dative is used

- for the indirect object, e. g. “ich gebe **meinem Freund** den Hund” (I give the dog to my friend); “meinem Freund”, the indirect object, is Dative, while “den Hund”, the direct object, is Accusative instead. Besides, you can usually see that people are Dative and animals or objects are Accusative, when you have more than one object in the sentence.
- for locations (but not directions!), e. g. “Ich sitze **in der Kirche**” (I am sitting in church) or “Das Buch ist auf dem Tisch” (The book is on the table)
- after the prepositions aus, bei, mit, nach, von, zu, seit

Congratulations! You now know all there is to know about German cases! That wasn't so bad, was it?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

So there's a shop dedicated exclusively to the design of the traffic light men. They have t-shirts, post cards, towels, bathrobes, cutting boards, ice trays and even gummi bears in the shape of traffic light men.

This is because at one point, Germany wanted to get rid of the East German type of traffic light men and replace them with the West German type, to standardize the appearance. However, the East German design is a lot cuter and some might say less ambiguous, so there was a protest with a lot of people urging the government to leave the East German traffic lights in place. In the course of this protest, an artist had the idea to use the traffic light men as a design on lots of items.

The government eventually relented, so only part of the traffic lights have been swapped out. In Berlin in particular you can see a mix of designs, depending on where you are in the city.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #11

Will there be Presentations in Klingon at this German Conference?

CONTENTS

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

11

GERMAN

1. Joe: (gähnt) Jetzt bin ich wirklich müde.
2. Anke: Echt? Aber es ist doch erst 10 Uhr!
3. Joe: Ja, es ist sicher Jetlag. Ich freue mich jetzt auf mein Bett. Ich werde bestimmt gut schlafen.
4. Anke: Na dann bringe ich dich jetzt zurück zum Hotel.
5. Joe: Danke. Es war ein wirklich schöner Abend.
6. Anke: Was hast du morgen vor?
7. Joe: Die Konferenz natürlich.
8. Anke: Ah, ja, wann fängt die an?
9. Joe: Morgens um 10 Uhr ist die Eröffnung, aber vielleicht komme ich ein bisschen später, damit ich ausschlafen kann.
10. Anke: Die Reden zur Eröffnung sind meistens äußerst langweilig. Die kannst du ruhig verpassen.
11. Joe: Wirklich? Bist du sicher?
12. Anke: Ich kenne keine Ausnahme, zumindest nicht hier in Deutschland. Zur Eröffnung einer Konferenz gibt es immer langweilige Reden. Die Regierung und die Sponsoren, alle wollen sie etwas sagen, und die meisten reden sehr lang.

CONT'D OVER

13. Joe: Lange Reden sind nichts für mich. Dann schlafe ich morgen einfach aus und gehe nach dem Mittagessen zu den wirklich guten Vorträgen.
14. Anke: Auf welcher Sprache sind die Vorträge?
15. Joe: Das ist gemischt. Viele sind auf Englisch, aber es gibt auch welche auf Deutsch.
16. Anke: Keine auf Klingonisch?
17. Joe: Klingonisch??? ... Ach so, weil ich ein bisschen Klingonisch spreche? Nein, keine Vorträge auf Klingonisch, haha.

ENGLISH

1. Joe: (yawning) Now I'm really tired.
2. Anke: Really? But it's only 10 o'clock!
3. Joe: Yes, it's certainly jet lag. I'm looking forward to my bed now. I'll certainly sleep well.
4. Anke: Then I'll bring you back to your hotel now.
5. Joe: Thanks. It was a really great evening.
6. Anke: What are you planning for tomorrow?
7. Joe: The conference, of course.
8. Anke: Oh yeah, when is it starting?

CONT'D OVER

9. Joe: The official opening is in the morning at 10 o'clock, but maybe I'll come a bit later so that I can sleep in.
10. Anke: The opening speeches are mostly extremely boring. You can calmly skip them.
11. Joe: Really? Are you sure?
12. Anke: I can't think of any exceptions, at least not here in Germany. At the openings of conferences there are always boring speeches. The government and the sponsors, they all want to say something, and most of them talk for a long time.
13. Joe: Long speeches are not my thing. Then I'll just sleep in and go after lunch to the really good talks.
14. Anke: What language are the talks in?
15. Joe: It's mixed. Many are in English, but there are also some in German.
16. Anke: None in Klingon?
17. Joe: Klingon??? ... Ahh, because I speak a little bit of Klingon? No, no talks in Klingon, haha.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Regierung	government	noun; feminine, die	plural: Regierungen
Bett	bed	noun	plural: Betten
Eröffnung	opening, opening ceremony	noun; feminine, die	plural: Eröffnungen

ausschlafen	to sleep in	verb	er schläft aus, er schlief aus, er hat ausgeschlafen. Note: er ist ausgeschlafen = he is smart (colloquial).
Ausnahme	exception	noun; feminine, die	plural: Ausnahmen
Vortrag	lecture, presentation	noun; masculine, der	plural: Vorträge
verpassen	to miss [a scheduled connection]	verb	weak verb
äußerst	extremely	adverb	
Sponsor	sponsor	noun; masculine, der	plural: Sponsoren
Rede	speech	noun; feminine, die	plural: Reden
mischen	to mix, shuffle	verb	weak verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Der Kanzler setzte das neue Regierungsprogramm durch. The chancellor enforced the new government program.	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.
Den Minister habe ich bei der Eröffnung der neuen Autobahn getroffen. I met the minister at the opening ceremony for the new highway.	Ich konnte in den Ferien jeden Tag ausschlafen. An diesen Luxus könnte ich mich echt gewöhnen. On vacation I could sleep in every day. I could really get used to this luxury.
Bewerber, die kein Deutsch sprechen, sind eher die Ausnahme. Applicants who don't speak German are an exception really.	Wollen Sie auch zu dem Vortrag über außerirdisches Leben? Are you also going to the lectures about extraterrestrial life?

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!	Also ich finde, die neue Haarfarbe steht dir äußerst gut! Well I think that the new hair color suits you extremely well!
Wir suchen dringend noch Sponsoren für den Stadtmarathon. We are still urgently looking for sponsors for the city marathon.	Der Politiker hielt eine lange Rede über Terrorismus und nationale Sicherheit. The politician gave a long speech about terrorism and national security.

Ich glaube, du hast die Karten nicht gut genug gemischt.

I believe you haven't shuffled the cards well enough.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „die“ in „Wann fängt die an?“ is a reference to „die Eröffnung“. In spoken German, it is possible to say „die“ instead of „sie“, and „der“ instead of „er“. Doing it to people is not polite though.
2. „das Mittagessen“ is a combination of „Mittag“ (noon) and „Essen“ (meal) and means „lunch“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is adjectives and adverbs

Jetzt bin ich wirklich müde.

"Now I'm really tired."

As we've seen before, German adjectives have to adopt various endings when they are combined with a noun. German adverbs do not have any special ending.

What is the difference between an adjective and an adverb? In English, adverbs typically end in -ly. However, „well“ is also an adverb, whereas „good“ is the corresponding adjective. In German, the adverb is typically the same as the adjective, so Germans have a lot of problems with the concept of adverbs when learning English. Also the concept does not seem

completely transposable, because in English any word in a sentence with „be“ is an adjective... so in German, it should acquire endings, shouldn't it? In Romance languages, these adjectives actually do get endings just as if they were placed next to a noun. However, in German they are treated as adverbs, so they are unchangeable.

Compare the word „langsam“ in these contexts.

Die langsame alte Frau geht die Treppe rauf. The slow old woman walks up the stairs. La lente vieille femme monte l'escalier. (traditional adjective)

Die alte Frau geht langsam die Treppe rauf. The old woman slowly walks up the stairs. La vieille femme monte l'escalier lentement. (traditional adverb)

Die alte Frau ist langsam. The old woman is slow. La vieille femme est lente. (adverb or adjective?)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Jet lag tips

1. try to sleep at regular hours
2. use the excitement of being abroad to keep you awake
3. have meals at the local times, because eating will also tell your body that it's supposed to stay awake for a while yet
4. don't drink alcohol within 48 hours of landing
5. drink lots of water
6. you may want to use coffee, tea or coke to help you stay awake, but keep in mind that caffeine only wears off after 6 hours. This means it's counter-productive to drink these if you want to get a good night's rest sometime soon.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #12

Registering at the Conference in Germany

CONTENTS

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

12

GERMAN

1. Joe: Hallo, ich möchte meinen Teilnehmergeausweis abholen.
2. Frau: Sie möchten sich für die Konferenz anmelden?
3. Joe: Nein, ich habe mich schon vor einigen Wochen online angemeldet und auch schon bezahlt.
4. Frau: Wie ist Ihr Name?
5. Joe: Joe Cardigan.
6. Frau: Kardigen mit K?
7. Joe: Nein, mit C.
8. Frau: Können Sie Ihren Nachnamen bitte buchstabieren?
9. Joe: Ja. Das ist C-A-R-D-I-G-A-N. Cardigan.
10. Frau: Danke. Ah, da habe ich Sie. Ja, Sie sind schon angemeldet. Sie sind auch Sprecher, oder?
11. Joe: Ein Sprecher?
12. Frau: Ja, Sie sind eingetragen für einen Vortrag über die Internationalisierung von Firmenwebseiten, am Donnerstag.
13. Joe: Ohh... Das hatte ich vergessen...
14. Frau: Möchten Sie den Vortrag noch halten, oder lieber absagen?

CONT'D OVER

15. Joe: Ja, ich halte ihn. Das geht schon. Die Materialien habe ich schon fast alle.
16. Frau: Okay. Hier ist Ihr Teilnehmerausweis und Ihr Programmheft. Wenn Sie sich beeilen, können Sie einen Teil der Eröffnungsrede noch hören.
17. Joe (sarkastisch): Ja, die würde ich ungern verpassen.

ENGLISH

1. Joe: Hello, I'd like to pick up my name badge.
2. Woman: You'd like to sign up for the conference?
3. Joe: No, I already signed up online a few weeks ago and I've already paid.
4. Woman: What's your name?
5. Joe: Joe Cardigan.
6. Woman: Kardigen with a K?
7. Joe: No, with a C.
8. Woman: Could you please spell your last name?
9. Joe: Yes, it's C-A-R-D-I-G-A-N. Cardigan.
10. Woman: Thanks. Ah, here it is. Yes, you're already signed up. You're also a speaker, right?

CONT'D OVER

11. Joe: A speaker?
12. Woman: Yes, you're registered for a lecture about the internationalization of corporate websites, on Thursday.
13. Joe: Ohh... I forgot about that...
14. Woman: Would you still like to give the lecture, or would you prefer to cancel?
15. Joe: Yes, I'll give it. It'll work out. I already have almost all the materials.
16. Woman: Okay. Here's your name badge and your program. If you hurry, you can still listen to part of the opening speech.
17. Joe (sarcastically): Yes, I wouldn't want to miss it.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
sich beeilen	to hurry	verb	weak verb
Heft	notebook, booklet	noun; neuter, das	plural: Hefte
Teilnehmer	participant	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same
Ausweis	identification, identity card	noun; masculine, der	plural: Ausweise
anmelden	to register; to sign up (when used reflexively)	verb	"an" splits off
bezahlen	to pay	verb	weak verb
Webseite	webpage, website	noun; feminine, die	plural: Webseiten

eintragen	to enter, record	verb	er trägt ein, er trug ein, er hat eingetragen
Firma	company	noun	plural: Firmen
buchstabieren	to spell	verb	weak verb
Donnerstag	Thursday	noun	plural: Donnerstage
absagen	to cancel	verb	„ab“ splits off
Material	material	noun	plural: Materialien
Programm	program, TV channel	noun; neuter, das	plural: Programme

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Komm, wir müssen uns beeilen, das Theaterstück geht gleich los! Come, we have to hurry, the theatre play is about to start!	Der Lehrer hat mich gefragt, ob ich heute schon wieder mein Heft vergessen habe. The teacher asked me whether I forgot my notebook yet again today.
Zum Großteil sind die Teilnehmer Studenten. A majority of the participants are students.	Weisen Sie die Teilnehmer auch auf unser kostenloses Buffet hin. Do alert the participants to our free buffet.
Um sich in diesem Bereich aufhalten zu dürfen, brauchen Sie einen besonderen Ausweis. For you to be allowed to be in this area, you have to have a special identity card.	Hast du dich schon für das Seminar angemeldet? Have you registered for the seminar yet?
Er musste Strafe bezahlen, weil er im Halteverbot geparkt hatte. He had to pay a fee, because he had parked his car in a clearway.	Ich würde gerne bezahlen. I would like to pay. / The bill, please.

Auf diesen Webseiten können Sie sich über Esperanto informieren. On these websites you can inform yourself about Esperanto.	Hast du deinen Namen für den Kurs eingetragen? Did you enter your name for the course?
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.	Er geht jeden Donnerstag schwimmen. He goes swimming every Thursday.
Am Donnerstag, dem 8.9., habe ich noch eine mündliche Prüfung. Wenn ich die bestehe, bin ich mit der Uni fertig. On Thursday, September 8th, I have one more oral exam. If I pass that one, I will graduate.	Ich muss die Party morgen Abend leider absagen, ich muss Überstunden machen. Unfortunately I have to cancel the party tomorrow night, I have to work extra hours.
Ruß ist ein schwarzes Material, das bei Verbrennung entsteht. Soot is a black material that is created during burning.	Ich weiß nicht, wovon dieses Theaterstück handelt; im Programmheft steht nichts darüber. I don't know what this theater play is about; the program booklet doesn't say anything about that.
Schalt doch endlich mal dieses langweilige Programm ab. Will you please finally turn of that boring program?	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „Sprecher“ (speaker) is a noun based on „sprechen“ (to speak). -er usually means a person who does something.
2. „Internationalisierung“ means „internationalization“ - all German words in -isierung end in -ization in English. For example also „Globalisierung“ (globalization).
3. „Das hatte ich vergessen“ means „I had forgotten that“. We'll get the grammar later.
4. „ungern“ is the opposite of „gern“ - as you may have guessed from the un- prefix. So „ungern“ could be translated as „reluctantly“ or „unwillingly“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Compound Nouns

ich möchte meinen Teilnehmergebiet abholen.

"I'd like to pick up my name badge."

As you've seen on plenty of occasions, German nouns are often shoved together. The higher the level of language, the more likely it is that you will see huge compounds of nouns. But even in everyday language there are a fair amount of them.

There is no upper limit as to how many nouns you can put into a single compound noun. However, in everyday language most compounds consist of only two parts, three at maximum.

Compound nouns enrich the language. Unfortunately, they are not as straightforward as you might hope. For one thing, compounds often don't consist of just two nouns. There may be verb stems or preposition prefixes involved, for example as in „Nachname“ or „Anrede“. There may also be in-between sounds -(e)s- or -(e)n- that are just there for the flow. Plus the nouns may be singular or plural.

Another thing is that the semantic relation between the two nouns can be very different. For example, „Schweineschnitzel“ is definitely a schnitzel made of pork, as opposed to a „Kalbschnitzel“, which is made of calf meat. However, „Jägerschnitzel“ is most definitely not made of hunter (Jäger)! It's a schnitzel „hunter-style“.

Let's have some examples of compound nouns from this dialog.

Webseite (web site) – a classic example where English also uses a compound noun.

Programmheft (program, as in the brochure that tells you the program) – here German uses a compound noun in order to be more precise

Teilnehmergebiet (name badge, „participant ID“) - a special type of ID that is for participants

Firmenwebseite (company website) – for some inexplicable reason, German uses the plural of „company“ here, probably because „Firmawebseite“ doesn't flow as neatly as „Firmenwebseite“. A website for a company.

Eröffnungsrede (opening speech) – Note that there's an extra S in between „Eröffnung“ and „Rede“, also for reasons of flow. „Eröffnungsrede“ is a talk at the time of opening, or maybe for the purpose of opening a conference.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Words on forms

When registering for a conference, a German course, for a visa or similar, you are bound to fill out many forms, and those don't contain just easy German. In fact, there are some words you won't find anywhere else. Here are the most common words you'll need to be able to recognize on forms.

1. Titel / Anrede (title / address)
2. Name / Vorname / Nachname (name / given name / family name)
3. Geschlecht (gender) - here you'd put „m“ for man or „w“ for woman, the German words are „männlich“ (male) and „weiblich“ (female)
4. Alter (age)
5. Nationalität / Staatsangehörigkeit (nationality / citizenship)
6. Stadt (city); Postleitzahl (postal code); Land (country)
7. Telefonnummer (phone number)
8. Beruf (profession)
9. Unterschrift (signature)

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #13

How Many of the German Sights have you Already Seen?

CONTENTS

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

13

GERMAN

1. Christina: Sie wollen zur Eröffnung?
2. Joe: Ja.
3. Christina: Da brauchen Sie nicht hingehen. Ich komme gerade von da und die Reden sind sehr langweilig.
4. Joe: Danke, das habe ich mir schon gedacht. Ich habe mich einfach gerade angemeldet und jetzt habe ich nichts anderes zu tun, bis die Workshops und Fachvorträge anfangen.
5. Christina: Ich habe auch nichts zu tun, aber die Reden sind mir trotzdem zu langweilig. Wieso unterhalten wir uns nicht einfach? Ich bin übrigens Christina Baumeister.
6. Joe: Angenehm, Sie kennen zu lernen. Ich heiße Joe Cardigan. Hier ist meine Visitenkarte.
7. Christina: Danke. Ahh, Sie kommen aus Washington?
8. Joe: Na ja, ich wohne in Washington, aber ich habe einen kanadischen Pass.
9. Christina: Und wie lange sind Sie jetzt schon in Berlin?
10. Joe: Erst seit gestern.
11. Christina: Oh. Sie sind nur für die Konferenz hier?
12. Joe: Ja, dieses Mal habe ich nicht viel Zeit, Berlin zu besuchen. Aber ich war letztes Jahr schon in Berlin. Letztes Jahr habe ich viel von Berlin gesehen.

CONT'D OVER

13. Christina: Was denn?
14. Joe: Na, ich habe alle bekannten Sehenswürdigkeiten besichtigt und ich habe auch ein bisschen davon mitgekriegt, wie Deutsche leben. Zum Beispiel haben mich Deutsche eingeladen, mit ihnen zusammen Fußball zu gucken!
15. Christina: Haha, ja, Fußball ist ein sehr beliebter Sport in Deutschland, aber ich habe mir noch nie gerne Fußballspiele angeguckt.
16. Joe: Warum nicht?
17. Christina: Ich interessiere mich einfach nicht dafür. Haben Sie auch andere Teile von Deutschland gesehen?
18. Joe: Ja, ich habe auch einen Zug nach München genommen, aber leider habe ich die anderen Städte zeitlich nicht mehr geschafft. Vielleicht ein anderes Mal.

ENGLISH

1. Christina: You want to go to the opening ceremony?
2. Joe: Yes.
3. Christina: You don't need to go. I just came from there and the speeches are really boring.
4. Joe: Thanks, that's what I thought. I just signed in and now I have nothing else to do until the workshops and technical lectures start.
5. Christina: I also have nothing to do, but the speeches are still too boring for me. Why don't we just talk? I'm Christina Baumeister, by the way.

CONT'D OVER

6. Joe: Pleased to meet you. I'm Joe Cardigan. Here's my business card.
7. Christina: Thanks. Ahh, you come from Washington?
8. Joe: Well, yes, I live in Washington, but I have a Canadian passport.
9. Christina: And how long have you been in Berlin?
10. Joe: Just since yesterday.
11. Christina: Oh, you're just here for the conference?
12. Joe: Yes, this time I don't have much time to see Berlin. But last year I was already in Berlin. Last year I saw a lot of Berlin.
13. Christina: Like what?
14. Joe: Well, I saw all of the well-known attractions and I learned a bit about how Germans live. For example, Germans invited me to watch soccer together with them!
15. Christina: Haha, yes, soccer is a very popular sport in Germany, but I never really enjoyed watching soccer games.
16. Joe: Why not?
17. Christina: I'm just not interested in it. Have you also seen other parts of Germany?
18. Joe: Yes, I also took a train to Munich, but unfortunately I wasn't able to go to other cities due to time constraints. Maybe another time.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Seminar	workshop, seminar	noun; neuter, das	plural: Seminare
Fach	subject, field of expertise	noun; neuter, das	plural: Fächer
sich unterhalten	to have a conversation, entertain each other	verb	er unterhält sich, er unterhielt sich, er hat sich unterhalten
übrigens	by the way	interjection	
Jahr	year	noun	neuter; plural: Jahre
kanadisch	Canadian	adjective	
gestern	yesterday	noun	
Visitenkarte	business card	noun; feminine, die	plural: Visitenkarten
zeitlich	chronological; temporal; due to time constraints	adjective / adverb	
mitkriegen	to get a share; to pick up on sth.	verb	„mit“ splits off
einladen	to invite	verb	er lädt ein, er lud ein, er hat eingeladen
beliebt	popular	adjective	
sich interessieren	to be interested, interest	verb	weak verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hast du dich schon für das Seminar angemeldet? Have you registered for the seminar yet?	Seine Leistungen sind in allen Fächern sehr schwach. His performance is very weak in all (school) subjects.
--	--

Physik und Mathematik sind die Fächer, die ich am wenigsten mag. Physics and maths are the subjects that I like least.	Worüber habt ihr euch unterhalten? What did you talk about?
Ich verstehe nur Bahnhof, wenn sich zwei Schwaben unterhalten. I understand exactly nothing when two Swabians are talking.	Ich habe gestern den Direktor gesehen; er unterhielt sich mit einem der Lehrer. I saw the principal yesterday; he was having a conversation with one of the teachers.
Ich bin 18 Jahre alt. I'm 18 years old.	Dieses Gebäude ist 100 Jahre alt. This building is 100 years old.
Ich habe einen kanadischen Reisepass gefunden, wo kann ich ihn abgeben? I found a Canadian passport, where can I hand it in?	Übrigens: Ich habe gestern Peter getroffen. By the way: I met Peter yesterday.
Wir haben auf der Messe Visitenkarten ausgetauscht. We swapped business cards at the fair.	Wir müssen das unbedingt heute noch erledigen, ansonsten wird es zeitlich eng. We absolute have to get this done today, otherwise it will be difficult time-wise.
Ich kriege in letzter Zeit so wenig von meiner Umwelt mit, es ist als würde ich in einem Erdloch wohnen. Lately I am interacting so little with my surrounding, it is like I am living in a hole in the ground.	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.

Bratapfel ist ein beliebtes Gericht für Wintertage. Baked apple is a popular dish for winter days.	Hör auf, darüber zu reden, es interessiert mich wirklich nicht. Stop talking about it, it really doesn't interest me.
--	---

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „Die Reden sind mir zu langweilig“ = „I find the speeches too boring“, literally „they are too boring to me“. Similarly, you could say „es ist mir zu einfach“ - „it is too easy for me“.
2. „Fach-“ in compound nouns means „technical“ or „professional“ relating to one field of knowledge. For example „Fachwörter“ (technical vocabulary), „Fachvortrag“ (lecture for professionals) and „Facharbeiter“ (skilled worker).
3. „sich interessieren“ (to be interested) requires the preposition „für“ in German. So „ich interessiere mich FÜR etwas“ (literally 'I am interested FOR something'). This is why we had to use „dafür“ in the phrase „Ich interessiere mich nicht dafür“ (I am not interested in that).
4. „etwas zeitlich nicht schaffen“, literally „not accomplish something chronologically“ is a German way of saying „to not have enough time“. It sounds really weird in English, but in German it's okay to say.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the past participle and perfect tense

Ich habe auch einen Zug nach München genommen.

"I've also taken a train to Munich."

Let's continue our study of the German past participle.

In lesson 8, we already learned that it is typically formed by adding ge- before the 3rd person singular (he/she/it) present tense form of a verb. For example, "sagen" becomes "gesagt". However, there is one large group of verbs for which this isn't true; the vowel-changing verbs. Whenever there would be a vowel change for this particular form, the participle is formed based on the infinitive instead. Some examples.

sehen → er sieht → gesehen (seen)

geben → er gibt → gegeben (given)

Keep in mind that when you have a verb with a prefix, it will always behave in the same way as the base verb. For example.

ansehen → er sieht an → angesehen (looked at)
vergeben → er vergibt → vergeben (forgiven)
ankommen → er kommt an → angekommen (arrived)
bekommen → er bekommt → bekommen (received)

Past participles are not just used on their own, they are also necessary for various tenses. In today's dialog we already saw them used with the auxiliary verb "haben" to form the perfect tense. This tense works just like in English -

"ich habe gearbeitet" = "I have worked"

"Haben Sie München gesehen?" = "Have you seen Munich?"

"er hat hier gewohnt" = "he has lived here"

and so on...

Be sure to practise!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Here are some destinations you should consider seeing in Germany.

1. if you're into history, Berlin is a must-see. There are also Roman ruins on the left side of the Rhine and there are medieval castles in the south-west. Germany is also home to the Neanderthal valley, where you can learn about the Neanderthal man.
2. the Black Forest in South-Western Germany is a popular area for hiking. So is all of the south really. And the southern part of Germany is the only place where you can find high mountains.
3. Northern Germany is mostly very flat, making it excellent for cycling. Also, beach fans need only come to the north. Germany even has some islands, a fact that few foreigners know.
4. Frankfurt has the most modern architecture and it's the home to the German stock exchange. Dresden, Cologne, Heidelberg, Nuremburg and Munich are all good places to see beautiful old architecture.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #14

Take Some German Advice from a Pro

CONTENTS

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

14

GERMAN

1. Joe: Kommen Sie aus Berlin?
2. Christina: Ja, ich bin von hier.
3. Joe: Sind Sie Freiberuflerin oder Angestellte?
4. Christina: Ich bin Angestellte. Ich habe letztes Jahr erst meinen Abschluss in Übersetzung gemacht. Jetzt arbeite ich seit ein paar Monaten bei Running Translations, in Friedrichshain.
5. Joe: Nicht in Berlin?
6. Christina: (lacht) Doch, Friedrichshain ist ein Stadtteil von Berlin. Was ist mit Ihnen? Bei welcher Firma arbeiten Sie?
7. Joe: Ich bin Freiberufler. Ich habe drei Jahre lang bei einer Übersetzungsagentur in Washington gearbeitet, aber vor anderthalb Jahren habe ich mich selbstständig gemacht.
8. Christina: Also sind Sie schon ein erfahrener Übersetzer. Ich fange ja gerade erst an. Vielleicht können Sie mir helfen...
9. Joe: Ja, sicher.
10. Christina: Ich überlege mir gerade, ob es vielleicht falsch war, die Stelle bei einer Übersetzungsagentur anzunehmen, weil sie nicht gut bezahlen und so viele Übersetzer ja Freiberufler sind. Was denken Sie?
11. Joe: Ich denke, dass es für einen Anfänger eine gute Idee ist, zunächst bei einer Agentur zu arbeiten. Wenn Sie dort ein paar Jahre lang gearbeitet haben, wissen Sie, wie es läuft.

CONT'D OVER

12. Christina: Sie meinen, um Erfahrung zu sammeln?
13. Joe: Ja. Dann haben Sie auch mehr Erfolg als Freiberufler. Oder Sie bleiben angestellt, um ein sicheres Einkommen zu haben. Das vermisse ich manchmal.
14. Christina: Danke, das hilft mir weiter.

ENGLISH

1. Joe: Are you from Berlin?
2. Christina: Yes, I'm from here.
3. Joe: Are you a freelancer, or employed?
4. Christina: I'm employed. I just got my degree in translation last year. Now I've been working for a few months at Running Translations, in Friedrichshain.
5. Joe: Not in Berlin?
6. Christina: (laughing) Actually yes, Friedrichshain is a part of Berlin. What about you? Which company do you work for?
7. Joe: I'm a freelancer. I worked for a translation agency in Washington for three years, but I became self-employed one and a half years ago.
8. Christina: So you're already an experienced translator. I'm just starting out. Maybe you could help me...
9. Joe: Yes, certainly.

CONT'D OVER

10. Christina: I'm wondering whether it was perhaps wrong to accept a position with a translation agency, because they don't pay well and so many translators are self-employed. What do you think?
11. Joe: I think that it's a good idea for a beginner to work for an agency at first. Once you've worked there for a couple years, then you'll know how it works.
12. Christina: To get experience, you mean?
13. Joe: Yes. Then you'll have more success as a freelancer. Or you'll stay employed in order to have a secure income. I miss that sometimes.
14. Christina: Thanks, that helps.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Abschluss	completion, closure; degree	noun; masculine, der	plural: Abschlüsse
Monat	month	noun	plural: Monate
Agentur	agency	noun; feminine, die	plural: Agenturen
vermissen	to miss a person, place etc	verb	weak verb
anderthalb	one and a half	adjective	
falsch	wrong	adjective	
erfahren	to experience, learn of sth.; experienced	verb	
sich überlegen	to ponder	verb	
selbstständig	independent, self- reliant, self-employed	adjective	

Einkommen	income	noun; neuter, das	plural is the same
annehmen	to accept	verb	er nimmt an, er nahm an, er hat angenommen
zunächst	initially, at first	adverb	
sammeln	to collect	verb	
Erfolg	success	noun; masculine, der	plural: Erfolge

SAMPLE SENTENCES

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.	Für einen Monat. For 1 month.
Ich war drei Monate in Australien. I was in Australia for three months.	Sie hat eine Künstleragentur im Großraum Berlin gegründet. She founded an agency for artists in the greater Berlin area.
Ich vermisse meine Großmutter. I miss my grandmother.	Möchtest du ein oder zwei Brötchen? - Hmm, am liebsten anderthalb. Do you want one or two rolls? - Hmm, I'd really love one and a half.

Dieser Satz ist falsch. Soll ich ihn korrigieren? This sentence is wrong. Shall I correct it?	Gestern habe ich erfahren, dass ich noch eine weitere Tante habe. Yesterday I learned that I have another aunt.
Er ist ein erfahrener Schwimmer. He is an experienced swimmer.	Ich habe es mir lange überlegt. I pondered it for a long time.
Ich bin selbstständig tätig. I am self-employed.	Meine Tochter ist schon sehr selbstständig; sie kocht, wenn ich nicht da bin. My daughter is very self-reliant already; she cooks when I'm not there.
Sein Einkommen liegt deutlich über dem Durchschnitt. His income is neatly above average.	Ich nehme deine Entschuldigung an. I accept your apology.
Sie hielten die Luftballons zunächst für UFOs. They first considered the balloons to be UFOs.	Sammelst du Briefmarken? Do you collect stamps?
In dieser kurzen Zeit hat er schon beachtliche Erfolge erzielt. In this short period of time he already achieved sizeable success.	Die Mission war ein Misserfolg. The mission was not a success.
Der Erfolg ist zweitrangig; auf den Weg kommt es an. Success is secondary; the path is the important thing.	Dein Stiefvater muss deinen Erfolg anerkennen. Your father-in-law must acknowledge your success.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „ich bin von hier“ is a common way of saying that you're a native of this city or that you have lived here long enough to know it. If you're a tourist needing information, ask the person „Sind Sie von hier?“ to see if they are able to help you.
2. „Stadtteil“ (borough) is a combination of „Stadt“ (city) and „Teil“ (part). A part of a city is a borough.
3. „Was ist mit Ihnen?“ is a more elaborate way of asking „Und Sie?“. So it means „What about you?“
4. „Anfänger“ (beginner) is the person who does „anfangen“ (to begin). -er does this to words, while -ung words are more general nouns, for example „Erfahrung“ (experience) based on „erfahren“ (to experience) and „Übersetzung“ (translation) based on „übersetzen“ (to translate).

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is seit

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

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

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

„I have lived here for three years“ → Ich wohne seit drei Jahren hier.

„I lived in Germany for three years“ → Ich habe drei Jahre lang in Deutschland gewohnt.

„I lived in Germany three years ago“

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Time distribution in a typical German life

1. 4 years of primary school, starting at the age of 6 or 7
2. at least 6 or 9 years of secondary school, depending on the school type, possibly more years if you have to repeat a year

3. >2 or 3 years at a trade school or at least 4.5 years at a university, usually more because you make your own time table for most degrees
4. for men: 9 months of compulsory military service or (if rejected for reasons of conscience) equivalent community service in positions that are otherwise hard to fill
5. all this means that if you're a university graduate, you only enter the work force at the age of 24, in the very best of cases. There are plenty of university graduates only starting to work at the age of 30 or similar.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #15

The Case of the Lost iPhone in Germany

CONTENTS

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

15

GERMAN

1. Christina: Wollen Sie sich vielleicht meine E-Mail Adresse aufschreiben?
Dann können wir in Kontakt bleiben.
2. Joe: Ja, das ist eine gute Idee.
3. Christina: Haben Sie einen Stift?
4. Joe: Nicht nötig; ich trage sie einfach in mein iPhone ein... Moment... Wo ist es?? ... Ich kann mein iPhone nicht mehr finden!
5. Christina: Wo haben Sie es denn als letztes gehabt?
6. Joe: Hmm... bei der Anmeldung hatte ich es noch. Ich war in der Schlange und habe mir die Zeit mit einem Spielchen vertrieben.
7. Christina: Haha. Und wo haben Sie es dann hingetan?
8. Joe: In meine Jackentasche, aber ~~jetzt~~ ist es nicht da.
9. Christina: Wo sind Sie nach der Anmeldung hingegangen?
10. Joe: Ich bin hierhin gekommen.
11. Christina: Sind Sie irgendwo stehen geblieben?
12. Joe: Nein, ich bin einfach hierhin gelaufen, ohne stehen zu bleiben und ohne Umwege.
13. Christina: Komisch. Haben Sie das iPhone zwischendurch wirklich nicht mehr benutzt?
14. Joe: Nein. Ich weiß nicht, was passiert ist.

CONT'D OVER

15. Christina: Es ist möglich, dass jemand es gestohlen hat, aber ich will es nicht hoffen. Gucken Sie noch einmal gründlich überall nach und fragen Sie das Organisationsteam der Konferenz, ob jemand es vielleicht gefunden hat.
16. Joe: Und wenn nicht?
17. Christina: Dann müssen Sie zur Polizei oder zum Fundbüro.
18. Joe: Danke, das werde ich tun.

ENGLISH

1. Christina: Perhaps you'd like to write down my email? Then we can stay in touch.
2. Joe: Yes, that's a good idea.
3. Christina: Do you have a pen?
4. Joe: Not necessary; I'll just put it into my iPhone... Wait... Where is it?? ... I can't find my iPhone anymore!
5. Christina: Where did you last have it?
6. Joe: Hmm... at the registration I still had it. I was in the line and was wasting some time playing a game.
7. Christina: Haha. And where did you put it?
8. Joe: In my jacket pocket, but now it's not there.

CONT'D OVER

9. Christina: Where did you go after registration?
10. Joe: I came here.
11. Christina: Did you stop anywhere?
12. Joe: No, I just walked over here, without stopping and without detours.
13. Christina: Strange. And you really didn't use the iPhone in between?
14. Joe: No. I don't know what happened.
15. Christina: It's possible that someone stole it, but I hope not. Take another look around everywhere and ask the conference organizers whether anyone found it.
16. Joe: And if not?
17. Christina: Then you'll have to go to the police or to the lost-and-found office.
18. Joe: Thanks, I'll do that.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Stift	pen, pencil, crayon	noun; masculine, der	plural: Stifte
nötig	necessary, required	adjective	
vertreiben	to expel, banish	verb	er vertreibt, er vertrieb, er hat vertrieben
Polizei	police	noun; feminine, die	plural: Polizeien (very uncommon)

Tasche	bag; pocket	noun; feminine, die	plural: Taschen
passieren	to happen	verb	weak verb
komisch	strange, weird; funny	adjective	
zwischen	in-between	adverb	
Umweg	detour	noun; masculine, der	plural: Umwege
Organisation	organization	noun; feminine, die	plural: Organisationen
möglich	possible		
stehlen	to steal, to thieve	verb	er stiehlt, er stahl, er hat gestohlen
gründlich	thorough(ly)		
überall	everywhere	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Füllen Sie das Formular mit einem Kugelschreiber aus, nicht mit einem Bleistift. Fill out the form with a pen, not with a pencil.	Lutsch nicht an deinem Bleistift, das ist ungesund. Don't suck on your pencil, that's bad for your health.
Die alltägliche Streiterei ist so unnötig. The everyday quarreling is so unnecessary.	Dieser gewaltsame Tod war unnötig. This violent death was unnecessary.
Womit vertreibst du dir die Zeit? What do you do to kill time?	Es gibt zu viele Berichte von Menschen, die aus ihrer Heimat vertrieben wurden. There are too many reports of people who were banished from their home country.

Tun Sie nichts, sonst rufe ich die Polizei! Don't do anything, or I'll call the police!	Der Schlüssel ist in meiner Hosentasche. The key is in my pants pocket.
Bitte geben Sie am Eingang Ihre Taschen ab. Please give away your bags at the entrance.	Ein paar Leute wissen immer noch nicht, was passiert ist. A few people still don't know what happened.
Mein Nachbar ist komisch. My neighbor is strange.	Zwischendurch konnte man immer wieder das Quietschen der Räder hören. In-between you could hear the squeaking of the wheels every so often.
Wegen der Absperrung müssen wir einen Umweg machen. We have to do a detour because of the blocking-off of the road.	Sie arbeiten bei einer nicht kommerziellen Organisation. They work for a non-profit organisation.
Es ist möglich, dass du Recht hast. It's possible that you're right.	Eines der zehn Gebote lautet "Du sollst nicht stehlen!" One of the ten commandments says "Thou shalt not steal!"
Wo hast du gesteckt? Ich habe dich überall gesucht! Where have you been? I looked for you all over the place!	Mit seiner unpassenden Kleidung wirkt er überall wie ein Exot. With his improper clothing he always seems like an exotic (creature).

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. als letztes = last / lastly
2. sich die Zeit vertreiben = literally „to expel one's time“ = to kill time, pass the time

3. „hingetan“ in „Wo haben Sie das iPhone dann hingetan?“ is the participle of „hintun“ (to put there). „tun“ is „to do“ but can also be used for „to put“ in colloquial German. So „Wo haben Sie das iPhone dann hingetan?“ means „Where did you put the iPhone then?“.

4. „Fundbüro“ is the lost and found office. The name is a combination of „der Fund“ (the find) and „das Büro“ (the office).

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is perfect with sein.

Ich bin hierhin gekommen.

"I came over here"

We already mentioned that the German perfect tense is often formed just like in English, with a form of the auxiliary “haben” (to have) and the past participle. What we didn't yet talk about are the cases where German verbs use the auxiliary “sein” (to be) instead.

You may be familiar with this from French, where there are also some verbs that use “to have” and others that use “to be” for their perfect tense. In German, the basic idea you can learn is that verbs of motion will use “to be” and almost everything else will use “to have”. However, there are still exceptions to this rule. Let's look at some perfect forms.

ich bin gekommen – I have come (verb of motion, hence it uses sein)

ich bin gegangen – I have gone (verb of motion, hence it uses sein)

ich bin geflogen – I have flown (verb of motion, hence it uses sein)

ich bin gesprungen – I have jumped (verb of motion, hence it uses sein)

ich bin gewesen – I have been (not a verb of motion, but it uses sein anyway)

There are some more examples in today's dialog – can you spot them?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

innovation in Germany

Compared to Americans or a lot of other countries, Germans are less open to new ideas and new products. For example, when cell phones first appeared, people didn't really adopt them for a while, until studies had been done to show that the waves are pretty harmless and do not cause cancer. A good effect of this is that Germans immediately got to use cell phones with better functionality.

Another effect of this different mentality is that restaurants and other places are less likely to have a website in Germany, and quite a few restaurants are unable to accept credit cards. There is simply less of a “new = good” mentality – if anything, there's a “known & familiar = good” mentality, while new things have to earn respect first.

This doesn't mean that Germans won't innovate though. There are 95 Nobel Prize winners from Germany.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #16

It Doesn't Do to be Late in Germany

CONTENTS

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

16

GERMAN

1. Joe: Hallo Christina!
2. Christina: Hallo Joe! Schön, dich wieder zu sehen! Hast du dein iPhone wiedergefunden?
3. Joe: Nein, leider nicht. Ich möchte heute Morgen noch einmal hier nachsehen, ob jemand es vielleicht beim Aufräumen gefunden hat. Heute Nachmittag gehe ich dann zum Fundbüro.
4. Christina: Ich denke, dass es unwahrscheinlich ist, dass jemand das iPhone hier bei der Konferenz findet und dann im Fundbüro abgibt. Finde ich etwas auf einer Konferenz, frage ich erst einmal die anderen Teilnehmer, ob sie das verloren haben.
5. Joe: Ja, das denke ich auch.
6. ...
7. Christina: Weißt du schon, welchen Vortrag du dir als nächstes anhörst?
8. Joe: Nein, ich habe noch nicht ins Programm für heute geschaut.
9. Christina: Ich gehe auf jeden Fall zu dem Vortrag, der gleich hier in dem Raum stattfindet.
10. Joe: Wovon handelt der?
11. Christina: Das ist ein Vortrag über neue Software für Übersetzer. Der Sprecher ist ein sehr erfahrener Übersetzer, den alle Konferenzteilnehmer zu schätzen scheinen. Zumindest haben mich mehrere Leute, die ich kenne, auf diesen Vortrag hingewiesen.

CONT'D OVER

12. Joe: Na, dann muss ich mir diesen Vortrag auch anhören! Und kommst du später zu dem Vortrag, den ich halte?
13. Christina: Wann ist der?
14. Joe: Um zwei Uhr, in dem Raum, der genau ein Stockwerk über diesem liegt.
15. Christina: Okay, das werde ich mir merken. Komm, lass uns jetzt einen Platz suchen, sonst müssen wir stehen!
16. Joe: Ich finde es schrecklich, in Deutschland muss man immer ganz früh zu Veranstaltungen erscheinen, um einen Sitzplatz zu finden.

ENGLISH

1. Joe: Hello Christina!
2. Christina: Hello Joe! Great to see you again! Have you found your iPhone?
3. Joe: No, unfortunately not. This morning I'd like to check once more whether someone perhaps found it while cleaning up. This afternoon I'll go to the lost-and-found office.
4. Christina: I think that it's unlikely that someone would find the iPhone here at the conference and then handed it in at the lost-and-found office. If I found something at a conference, I'd first ask the other participants if they lost something.
5. Joe: Yes, that's what I think too.
6. ...

CONT'D OVER

7. Christina: Do you know which lecture you're going to listen to next?
8. Joe: No, I haven't looked at the program for today yet.
9. Christina: In any case, I'm going to the lecture that's happening right here in this room.
10. Joe: What's it about?
11. Christina: It's a lecture about new software for translators. The speaker is a very experienced translator that all the conference participants seem to hold in high regard. At least several people that I know have suggested this lecture to me.
12. Joe: Well, then I'll have to listen to this lecture! And are you coming later, to the lecture that I'm giving?
13. Christina: When is it?
14. Joe: At two o'clock, in the room that's exactly one floor above this one.
15. Christina: Okay, I'll remember that. Come on, let's go find a place, otherwise we'll have to stand!
16. Joe: It's horrible how you have to show up so early to events in Germany in order to get a seat.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
erscheinen	to appear	verb	er erscheint, er erschien, er ist erschienen

aufräumen	to tidy up	verb	„auf“ splits off
wahrscheinlich	probably	adverb	
abgeben	to give away, hand in	verb	er gibt ab, er gab ab, er hat abgegeben
verlieren	to lose	verb	er verliert, er verlor, er hat verloren
Stockwerk	floor, story	noun; neuter, das	plural: Stockwerke
stattfinden	to take place	verb	"statt" splits off; es findet statt, es fand statt, es hat stattgefunden
schätzen	to estimate; to esteem	verb	weak verb
Raum	room, space	noun; masculine, der	plural: Räume
Veranstaltung	event	noun, feminine, die; ein organisiertes Ereignis, bei dem viele Menschen zusammenkommen	feminine; plural: Veranstaltungen
liegen	to lie	verb	er liegt, er lag, er hat gelegen
merken	to notice	verb	weak verb
sich merken	to memorize, keep in mind	verb	weak verb
Platz	space, square as in plaza	noun, masculine, der	masculine; plural: Plätze

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Plötzlich erscheint ein kleiner Junge, scheinbar aus dem Nichts. Suddenly a small boy appears, seemingly out of thin air.	Räum heute bitte endlich deinen Kram auf! Please finally tidy up your things today!
Wahrscheinlich wird es regnen. It will probably rain.	Bitte geben Sie am Eingang Ihre Taschen ab. Please give away your bags at the entrance.
Der Spieler hat das Kartenspiel verloren. The player lost the card game.	Er verliert überall seine Sachen. He loses his things all over the place.
Das Büro dieses Unternehmens liegt im vierten Stock. This enterprise's office is on the fourth floor.	Wo findet hier das Nachtleben statt? Where is the night life happening around here?
Wahlen finden in Deutschland immer sonntags statt. German elections always take place on Sundays.	Als er noch bei ihnen war, wusste ihn keiner richtig zu schätzen. When he was still with them, nobody truly appreciated him.
Wir haben ihn wirklich unterschätzt. We really underestimated him.	Das Raumschiff hatte die Erdanziehungskraft schnell überwunden. The space ship had quickly overcome gravity.
Er hat erreicht, dass wir diesen Raum umsonst gekriegt haben. He managed to get us this room for free.	Dieser Raum braucht neue Möbel. This room needs new furniture.

Die Veranstaltung wurde gegen 23 Uhr von der Polizei aufgelöst. The event was dissolved around 11pm by the police.	Die Hooligans traten auf den am Boden liegenden Mann ein. The hooligans kicked the man lying on the ground.
Die Schwierigkeit liegt darin, den richtigen Zeitpunkt zu finden. The difficulty lies in finding the right time.	Die Quelle eines Flusses liegt oft in einem anderen Land als seine Mündung. The mouth of a river is often in a different country than it's source.
Dein Kugelschreiber liegt unter dem Tisch. Your pen is lying underneath the table.	Merken Sie den Unterschied? Do you notice the difference?
Merken Sie sich diese Zahlenreihe. Memorize this row of numbers.	Habt ihr noch Platz für mich? Do you still have some space for me?

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „unwahrscheinlich“ (unlikely) is the opposite of „wahrscheinlich“ (likely).
2. „zu dem Vortrag“ has to mean „zu diesem Vortrag“. If the „dem“ was just your typical article, the phrase would be shortened to „zum Vortrag“
3. „wovon“ (of what / about what) is a combination of „von“ and „was“. We'll cover these combinations in detail soon.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is shortened subclauses and relative clauses 1
Um zwei Uhr, in dem Raum, der genau ein Stockwerk über diesem liegt.
"At two o'clock, in the room that's exactly one floor above this one."

Shortened subclauses are subclauses where you leave out the conjunction, that is the introductory word. In English, you can shorten "I think that I must do more sport" to "I think I

must do more sport”, so you're leaving out the “that”. You can do exactly the same in German, but only if it's spoken German; you mustn't write like that. The equivalent German sentences are “Ich denke, dass ich mehr Sport treiben muss” and “Ich denke ich muss mehr Sport treiben”. Note that the word order for the second part of the sentence is just like the word order in a main clause now; the verb does NOT go to the end of the sentence here! It's essentially like turning this into two separate sentences, the first one being “Ich denke” and the second one “Ich muss mehr Sport treiben”.

In English you can also shorten relative clauses; for example you can say “The man walking along the street...” instead of “The man, who is walking along the street,...” – dropping the “who”. This is NOT possible in German. However, one thing that you CAN do in German that you CAN'T do in English is to drop the “wenn” if you're starting a sentence with “wenn” (again, in spoken German only). This is what happens when you say „Findet jemand ein iPhone, dann gibt er es dem Fundbüro“. In normal German, that sentence would be „Wenn jemand ein iPhone findet...“. In the short version, the verb has to move to the front, to draw more attention to the missing “wenn”.

And one more thing about relative clauses. We already looked at relative clauses at the beginner level, but those were easy subclauses then. In all examples we had then, the relative pronoun was exactly the same as the article. So „Der Mann, der...“, „Die Frau, die...“ and so on.

In this dialog however we've seen that it doesn't have to be that way. Specifically, when English uses „whom“, the German relative pronoun will have to be Dative or Accusative. In fact, the relative pronoun always takes the case that the noun would have in that subclause. See it as combining two sentences.

Der Mann ist Amerikaner. Ich sehe den Mann.

It's the only way to avoid confusion. Find all examples of such relative clauses from today's dialog!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Germans would rather arrive half an hour too early than 10 minutes too late.
2. Germans find it really hard to cope with impulsive schedules; everything except emergencies is planned ahead. You will find very few takers for last-minute invitations to „do something tonight“ or spontaneously meet for lunch or the like.

3. Germans are afraid of not finding space. This means that at the beach, they will get up really early in the morning in order to „reserve“ chairs by putting towels on them. For events with free seating, Germans show up at least half an hour early, many wait outside in front of closed doors even. And at the airport, Germans queue up for boarding long before boarding starts.
4. Germans can be really frank (and Berliners are known in Germany to be particularly frank or downright rude.) If they don't like something, they will probably say so. Besides, complaining is a national pass-time.
5. Germans rarely pay compliments. If they do compliment you, it's because they really mean it. This also means that you don't have to say „thank you“, you can accept compliments in a matter-of-fact way.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #17

Man vs Machine in Germany

CONTENTS

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

17

GERMAN

1. Joe: Willkommen! Es freut mich, dass so viele erschienen sind. Mein Name ist Joe Cardigan und ich halte jetzt den Vortrag über die Internationalisierung von Firmenwebseiten. Darüber habe ich auch schon bei amerikanischen Übersetzerkonferenzen gesprochen, und mich interessiert, welche Unterschiede es hier in Deutschland gibt.
2. Joe: Ich werde also zunächst allgemein etwas zur Übersetzung von Firmenwebseiten sagen und danach würde ich gerne mit Ihnen diskutieren.
3. Joe: (bla bla bla) ...
4. Joe: So, jetzt haben wir noch etwas Zeit für eine Diskussion. Was sind Ihre Erfahrungen auf diesem Gebiet?
5. Christina: Ich habe gesehen, dass einige Firmen ihre Seiten nicht professionell übersetzen lassen, sondern Google Translate benutzen. Wie kann ich sie überzeugen, doch in eine gute Übersetzung zu investieren?
6. Martin: Das Problem kenne ich. Es sind meistens kleine Unternehmen mit Chefs, die selbst nur eine Sprache sprechen. Die denken sich, dass die automatische Übersetzung nicht falsch aussieht.
7. Christina: Ja, deshalb sind sie nicht bereit, Geld für eine professionelle Übersetzung zu bezahlen. Aber wie kann ich sie doch noch überzeugen?
8. Martin: Ich zeige ihnen meistens ausländische Seiten und eine automatische Übersetzung davon. Dadurch sehen sie, dass die automatische Übersetzung viele Fehler enthält.

CONT'D OVER

9. Christina: Genau, und die Fehler lassen die Firma unprofessionell aussehen, und deshalb kriegen sie dann weniger Kunden. Aber sie merken nicht, dass sie Kunden verlieren.
10. Martin: Vielleicht sollte man ihnen schreiben „Heute habe ich nichts auf Ihrer Webseite gekauft, weil sie unprofessionell wirkt“.
11. Christina: Da kann man auch zu einem Straßenverkäufer gehen und sagen „Ich kaufe nichts bei Ihnen, weil es so aussieht, als ob Sie mein Geld stehlen wollen.“

ENGLISH

1. Joe: Welcome! I'm glad so many showed up. My name is Joe Cardigan and I'm now giving the talk on internationalization of corporate websites. I've also spoken about this at American translator conferences, and taken an interest in what differences there are here in Germany.
2. Joe: So, first I'll say something general about translation of corporate websites and afterwards I'd like to have a discussion with you.
3. Joe: (bla bla bla) ...
4. Joe: So, now we still have some time for a discussion. What are your experiences in this area?
5. Christina: I've seen that some companies don't have their websites professionally translated, but instead use Google Translate. How can I convince them to invest in a good translation instead?

CONT'D OVER

6. Martin: I'm familiar with this problem. It's mostly small enterprises with bosses that only speak one language. They think that the automatic translation doesn't look wrong.
7. Christina: Yes, therefore they're not ready to pay money for a professional translation. But how can I convince them?
8. Martin: I show them mostly foreign sites and an automatic translation of them. That way they see that the automatic translation contains many errors.
9. Christina: Exactly, and the errors make the company look unprofessional, and therefore they get fewer customers. But they don't notice that they're losing customers.
10. Martin: Maybe someone should write to them saying "today I didn't buy anything from your website because it looked unprofessional".
11. Christina: Since you can also go to a street vendor and say "I'm not buying anything from you because it looks like you want to steal my money."

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Unterschied	difference	noun; masculine, der	plural: Unterschiede
allgemein	general		
diskutieren	to discuss	verb	weak verb
verkaufen	to sell	verb	weak verb
Gebiet	area, territory, field	noun; neuter, das	plural: Gebiete

überzeugen	to convince	verb	non-separable über; er überzeugt, er überzeugte, er hat überzeugt
professionell	professional(ly)	adjective / adverb	
sondern	but	conjunction	only when mentioning an alternative - "not A but B"
einige	some, several	adjective	
Kunde	customer, client	noun; masculine, der	plural: Kunden; female: Kundin
investieren	to invest	verb	weak verb
Unternehmen	enterprise	noun	plural is the same
deshalb	therefore	conjunction	
enthalten	to contain, include	verb	er enthält, er enthielt, er hat enthalten

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Merken Sie den Unterschied? Do you notice the difference?	Also, wie findest du Spanien, so ganz allgemein? So how do you like Spain, in general?
Ich mag es, über Politik zu diskutieren. I like discussing politics.	Magst du dein Weihnachtsgeschenk? Sonst verkaufe es doch. Do you like your Christmas present? Otherwise just sell it.

Ich habe sie überzeugt, es doch noch einmal zu versuchen. I convinced her to try it yet another time.	Aufgrund Ihres überzeugenden Lebenslaufes, laden wir Sie jetzt zum Vorstellungsgespräch ein. Because of your compelling CV, we are now inviting you to a job interview.
Ich nehme keine kleine Cola, sondern eine große. I'm not taking a small coke but a big one.	Eine Kundin in einem Asia-Laden hat mir mal von der heilenden Wirkung erzählt, die Ingwer angeblich gegen Halsschmerzen und Husten hat. A customer in an Asia shop once told me about the healing effect which ginger is supposed to have against a sour throat and coughing.
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.	Enthält die Soße Sahne? Does the sauce contain cream?
Eine Erdnuss enthält viel Fett. A peanut contains a lot of fat.	Die Nebenkosten sind noch nicht im Preis enthalten. Additional fees are not yet factored into the price.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „ihre Seiten übersetzen lassen“ = have their sites translated. „lassen“ normally means „to let“, but it can also mean „to have sb. do something“.
2. „diskutieren“ (to discuss) does not resemble the English word too much. However, the noun „die Diskussion“ (discussion) is spelled almost exactly as in English, with just the C swapped for a K.
3. „ausländisch“ (foreign) is based on „das Ausland“ (foreign countries), and that word is also the basis for „der Ausländer“ (foreigner), a word that we already studied. „Ausland“ is everything outside your own country.

4. „der Verkäufer“ (salesperson) is the person who does „verkaufen“ (to sell).
5. „als ob“ means „as if“. „Es sieht so aus, als ob Sie mein Geld stehlen wollen“ = „It looks as if you want to steal my money“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is da- and dar-

Darüber habe ich auch schon bei amerikanischen Übersetzerkonferenzen gesprochen.

"I also spoke about that at American translator conferences."

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

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

danach – after that
darüber – about that
davon – of that
dadurch – through that, by way of that
darauf - on that
daran – at that
dagegen – against that
dazu – to that, for that purpose

These words replace sentence parts, e. g.

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

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

As you can see, we chose “davon”(of that) instead of the “darüber”(about that), which the English would imply. This is because you always have to choose the word that contains the preposition that you are replacing. E. g.

Von dem Unfall

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Culture: making a good impression Germans are much more conscious of clothing than the typical American is. I wouldn't say they're necessarily fashion-conscious, because there are plenty who have no idea which colours or styles are the rage right now, but most Germans cannot accept the idea that someone wearing informal or old clothes might be an important person. It is unimaginable for the head of a company to wear a large t-shirt and shorts for example. This need not concern you if you're coming over as a tourist, but if you're planning to do business or get a job here, then you should probably consider dressing well for that. Also if you're having difficulty getting an apartment in a cramped city like Munich, you may want to dress well to see the landlord, to give the impression that you're earning well.

The other indicators are mostly the same – walking confidently, speaking confidently, speaking well... if anything, there are more layers to 'speaking well' in Germany. In some cases, like when having trouble with the landlord, people may adopt a formal kind of language that is almost as bad as lawyers' language. This goes to show the other side that you're aware of laws and regulations and that you can use the system against them if they try to fool you. As a foreigner, it will be a while until you learn the right words. Just if you notice someone starting to talk like that, it means that they are going to use the system as a cover and they are unlikely to come around to your point of view at that point, you'd have to find some rule or regulation as back-up.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #18

Are you Considering a Move to Germany?

CONTENTS

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

18

GERMAN

1. Birke: Herr Cardigan...
2. Joe: Ja?
3. Birke: Das war ein ausgezeichnete Vortrag. Und die Diskussion war auch interessant.
4. Joe: Danke. Ich glaube, wir haben alle davon überzeugt, dass eine automatische Übersetzung der Firmenwebseite ein sehr schlechtes Licht auf die Firma wirft.
5. Birke: Haha, ja, das auch. Nein, ich wollte noch wissen, wie lange Sie schon als Übersetzer arbeiten.
6. Joe: Ich habe erst drei Jahre lang bei einer Agentur gearbeitet und dann anderthalb Jahre selbstständig.
7. Birke: Aha. Als Sie bei einer Agentur gearbeitet haben, war das in Deutschland?
8. Joe: Nein, das war in Amerika. Ich wohne nicht in Deutschland.
9. Birke: Sie sind nur wegen dieser Konferenz nach Deutschland gekommen?
10. Joe: Na ja, nicht nur wegen der Konferenz. Ich war letztes Jahr als Tourist in Deutschland. Als ich Berlin gesehen habe, hat es mir so gut gefallen, dass ich fast die gesamte Zeit in Berlin verbracht habe.
11. Birke: Nicht schlecht.
12. Joe: Ja, und als ich dann die Werbung für diese Konferenz gesehen habe, hatte ich eine Ausrede, um wieder Berlin zu besuchen.

CONT'D OVER

13. Birke: Haha. Würden Sie in Berlin wohnen, wenn Sie es könnten?
14. Joe: Wenn ich genug Geld gespart habe, möchte ich schon nach Deutschland ziehen. Aber wann hat man schon genug Geld... Wenn ich von dieser Konferenz zurückkomme, muss ich mich erst einmal wieder nach neuen Aufträgen umsehen.
15. Birke: Sie sind Freiberufler?
16. Joe: Ja.
17. Birke: Arbeiten Sie von zuhause aus, wenn Sie in Amerika sind?
18. Joe: Ja.
19. Birke: Das könnten Sie auch von hier aus. Sie könnten sogar heute einen Auftrag annehmen.
20. Joe: Stimmt, aber wenn ich in Deutschland bin, arbeite ich nicht gern.

ENGLISH

1. Birke: Mr. Cardigan...
2. Joe: Yes?
3. Birke: That was an excellent lecture. And the discussion was also interesting.
4. Joe: Thanks. I think we convinced everyone that an automatic translation of the company website casts a bad light on the company.

CONT'D OVER

5. Birke: Haha, yes, that too. No, I just wanted to know how long you've worked as a translator.
6. Joe: I worked just three years with an agency and then a year and a half independently.
7. Birke: Aha. When you worked at an agency, was that in Germany?
8. Joe: No, that was in America. I don't live in Germany.
9. Birke: Did you just come to Germany for this conference?
10. Joe: Well, not only for this conference. I was in Germany as a tourist last year. When I saw Berlin, I liked it so much that I spent almost the whole time in Berlin.
11. Birke: Not bad.
12. Joe: Yes, and then when I saw the advertisement for this conference, I had an excuse to visit Berlin again.
13. Birke: Haha. Would you live in Berlin if you could?
14. Joe: When I have enough money saved, I would like to move to Germany. But when do you ever have enough money... When I get back from this conference, I have to start looking around for new contracts again.
15. Birke: Are you a freelancer?
16. Joe: Yes.
17. Birke: Do you work from home, when you're in America?

CONT'D OVER

18. Joe: Yes.
19. Birke: You could also do that from here. You could even take on a new order today.
20. Joe: It's true, but when I'm in Germany, I don't like to work.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
sich umsehen	to look around	verb	er sieht sich um, er sah sich um, er hat sich umgesehen
ausgezeichnet	excellent	adjective	
Licht	light	noun; neuter, das	plural: Lichter - the plural only refers to physical light(s) that can be counted, such as lamps or light bulbs
werfen	to throw	verb	er wirft, er warf, er hat geworfen
gefallen	to please	verb	es gefällt, es gefiel, es hat gefallen
ziehen	to pull, drag	verb	er zieht, er zog, er hat gezogen
Ausrede	pretext, excuse	noun; feminine, die	plural: Ausreden
sparen	to save up money	verb	weak verb
Werbung	advertisement	noun; feminine, die	plural: Werbungen
umziehen	to move to another home	verb	"um" splits off

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ah, da fällt mir gerade ein, dass ich vergessen habe, das Licht auszuschalten. Ah, I just remembered that I forgot to switch off the light.	Gefällt dir das Kleid? Do you like the dress?
Auf der Tür steht "Drücken", nicht "Ziehen". The door says "Push", not "Pull".	Ich spare für die Reise, von der ich schon immer geträumt habe. I save money for the journey I always dreamed about.
Heute ist viel zu viel Werbung in meinem Briefkasten. Today there is way too many adds in my mailbox.	Im Juni ziehe ich nach Dresden um. In June I will move to Dresden.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „ein Licht werfen“ is a German expression that sounds quite nonsensical, but the English expression is just the same „to cast a light“. So „das wirft ein schlechtes Licht auf die Firma“ is „that casts a bad light on the company“.
2. „Berlin gefällt mir“, literally means „Berlin pleases me“. The verb „gefallen“ is the equivalent of the English „to please“, but much more common in German. To translate this verb, you'd likely switch around the sentence. You'd say „I like Berlin“ rather than „Berlin pleases me“.
3. „ziehen“ normally means „to pull“ as you'd pull a door, but in context it can also mean the same as „umziehen“ (to move to a different home). So „nach Deutschland ziehen“ is „to move to Germany“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is noch/erst, als/wenn
Ich habe ihn gestern erst gesehen.
"I saw him only yesterday (finally!)"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CULTURAL INSIGHT

If you're thinking of moving to Germany, use our 5-step plan.

1. Earn enough money to support yourself for half a year at the very least – it's incredibly hard to get a visa or an apartment if people are afraid that someone may be begging on the streets before long.
2. Look into job possibilities. Depending on your country of origin, you may be allowed to come to Germany and THEN start looking for work, but it's a lot easier if you already have some places that want to interview you. If you have a job offer already and can convince the

company to write a letter of intent for you, then that's the easiest way to get a visa.

3. Book your flight and get travel health insurance to cover you for the first weeks.

4. Start to look into apartments, because it usually takes at least two weeks between finding an apartment and moving in. Maybe set up some appointments to look at apartments already, this way you may be able to do it faster.

5. Before you board your plane, pack up your things and be sure to collect all kinds of documents that you might possibly possibly need. German authorities love documents, the more the better. For example you should bring your birth certificate, your passport obviously, your health insurance documents, your vaccinations chart, your payment stubs of the last three months at least and a writ from your current landlord stating that you don't owe any rent. This one will be vital for convincing a landlord to rent his apartment to you in Germany. Then, board the plane and have fun!

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #19

An Intriguing German Job Offer

CONTENTS

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

19

GERMAN

1. Birke: Sie arbeiten nicht gern, wenn Sie in Deutschland sind? Das sollten Sie ändern.
2. Joe: Wozu? Ich bin nie lange hier. Ich möchte meinen Urlaub genießen.
3. Birke: Ich habe mich noch nicht vorgestellt. Mein Name ist Birke Pfarrer, ich arbeite in der Personalabteilung von Berlin Translated.
4. Joe: Ah, angenehm, Sie kennen zu lernen.
5. Birke: Mir hat ihr Vortrag eben wirklich gut gefallen, und ich denke, wir könnten Sie gebrauchen.
6. Joe: Entschuldigung... wovon reden Sie?
7. Birke: Ich meine, wir könnten Ihnen vielleicht eine Stelle anbieten. Also natürlich müssten Sie sich noch bewerben, aber ich denke, dass Sie qualifiziert sind.
8. Joe: Ich bin mir nicht sicher, ob ich wieder eine feste Stelle haben oder weiter freiberuflich arbeiten möchte.
9. Birke: Ja, es gibt ein paar Dinge, über die wir sprechen müssten...
10. Joe: Worüber müssen wir sprechen?
11. Birke: Na, zum Beispiel darüber, warum Sie Ihren alten Job aufgegeben haben. Und auch über das Visum und so.
12. Joe: Ja. Woran würde ich bei Ihnen arbeiten?

CONT'D OVER

13. Birke: Hauptsächlich an Webseiten. Wenn es da mal nichts zu tun gibt, können wir sehen, wofür Sie sich sonst interessieren.
14. Joe: Klingt gut. Und ist Ihr Büro in Berlin?
15. Birke: Ja. Die Hauptstelle ist in Berlin und wir haben auch Niederlassungen in Dresden und Nürnberg.

ENGLISH

1. Birke: You don't like to work when you're in Germany? You should change that.
2. Joe: What for? I'm never here for long. I'd like to enjoy my vacation.
3. Birke: I haven't introduced myself yet. My name is Birke Pfarrer, I work in the personnel department of Berlin Translated.
4. Joe: Ah, pleased to meet you.
5. Birke: I really enjoyed your lecture, and I think we could use you.
6. Joe: Excuse me... what are you talking about?
7. Birke: I think we could possibly offer you a position. Naturally you'd have to apply, but I think that you're qualified.
8. Joe: I'm not sure whether I want a permanent position, or if I want to continue working as a freelancer.
9. Birke: Yes, there are a few things that we would need to discuss...

CONT'D OVER

10. Joe: What do we need to talk about?
11. Birke: Well, for example, why you left your old job. And also about the work visa and things like that.
12. Joe: Yes. What would I work on, with you?
13. Birke: Mainly on websites. If there's nothing to do there, then we can see what else you're interested in.
14. Joe: Sounds good. And is your office in Berlin?
15. Birke: Yes. The head office is in Berlin, and we also have branches in Dresden and Nuremberg.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
nie	never	adverb	
Abteilung	department	noun	plural: Abteilungen
Personal	staff, personnel	noun; neuter, das	no plural
eben	just, a moment ago; indeed	adverb	
gebrauchen	to make use of, utilize	verb	weak verb
aufgeben	to give up	verb	"auf" splits off; er gibt auf, er gab auf, er hat aufgegeben
sich bewerben	to apply for	verb	
qualifiziert	qualified	adjective	

anbieten	to offer	verb	er bietet an, er bot an, er hat angeboten
Visum	visa	noun	plural: Visa
hauptsächlich	mainly, mostly	adverb	
Haupt-	main	prefix	
Niederlassung	office, subsidiary	noun; feminine, die	plural: Niederlassungen

SAMPLE SENTENCES

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.	Wie viele Mitarbeiter sind in deiner Abteilung? How many co-workers are there in your department?
Wir suchen immer qualifiziertes Personal. We're always looking for qualified staff.	Eben hat es noch geschneit, und jetzt scheint die Sonne. Komisch! It just snowed and now the sun is shining. Weird!
Etwas mehr Geld oder Zeit kann man immer gebrauchen. You can always find ways to use more money or time.	Wir werden nie aufgeben! We will never give up!

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.	Gibt es schon Neuigkeiten über deinen Visumsantrag? Are there already news about your application for a visa?
Heutzutage sieht man Dirndl hauptsächlich beim Oktoberfest. These days you mainly see dirndls at the Oktoberfest.	Hauptsache, du bist jetzt hier. Most important thing is that you're here now.
Sie müssen in München Hauptbahnhof umsteigen. You have to change trains in Munich main station.	Ihre Hauptaufgabe wird sein, einen neuen Prototyp zu entwickeln. Your main task will be to develop another prototype.
Diese Firma hat zwei Niederlassungen: eine in Berlin und eine in München. This company has two offices: one in Berlin and one in Munich.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. "reden" (to talk) is the base word for "die Rede" (the talk, the speech).
2. müssten = would have to
3. "freiberuflich" (freelancing) is an adjective or adverb for "der Freiberufler" (freelancer). A lot of adjectives and adverbs are formed using -lich

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is wo- and war-

Wovon reden Sie?

"What are you talking about?"

In lesson 17, we already looked at the prefix da-, which is used in words like davon, damit, daran, darüber and so on. Now, let's look at a similar case, the prefix wo-.

Wo- is the direct equivalent of da-, except it's used to create question words. The „da-“ prefix could be translated as „that“, and the „wo-“ prefix can be translated as „what“. To form the question words, just use wo- and any preposition – or wor- with an extra R if the preposition starts with a vowel. Examples follow.

womit – with what

wofür – for what

wovon – of what

woran – on what

worüber – about what, above what

woraus – out of what

and so on and so on. For every wo- question word, the da- word provides the answer. So if the question is „Womit?“, the easiest answer is „Damit“. And if the question is „Worüber?“, the easiest answer is „Darüber“.

Be sure to use the preposition that is appropriate for the verb. For example, in English you go „by car“, but in German it's „mit dem Auto“, so the appropriate question word is „womit“ („Womit fahren Sie zur Arbeit?“).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The East German connection

Dresden and Berlin (well, part of it) used to be part of Communist East Germany. Here are some things worth noting about the former GDR.

1. Some bands like Karat and Die Puhdys are still enjoyed by some Germans, even from the western part
2. You could find cheap (as in inexpensive) culture, free education, cheap holidays / camps / youth activities - however all these were monitored by the state and had to abide to many rules
3. The “Jugendweihe” – a non-religious celebration of achieving adulthood, like confirmation in the Protestant church, still had a participation rate of 40% in 2000

4. There were more women working in engineering, math

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #20

Anke to the Rescue in Germany

CONTENTS

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

20

GERMAN

1. Anke: Anke Löwen.
2. Joe: Hallo Anke, hier ist Joe.
3. Anke: Hallo Joe. Du rufst nicht von deiner normalen Nummer aus an?
4. Joe: Nein, ich benutze mein Ersatzhandy.
5. Anke: Bist du nicht gerade auf der Konferenz?
6. Joe: Doch. Aber ich hätte gern deine Meinung zu etwas...
7. Anke: Ja?
8. Joe: Ich habe gerade meine Mails gecheckt und da war eine Nachricht von meinem Telefonanbieter, dass ich mein Guthaben verbraucht habe und wieder aufladen muss.
9. Anke: Ja und?
10. Joe: Ich habe gestern früh mein iPhone verloren und die Mail ist von heute Mittag. Es ist möglich, dass sie die Mail einfach sehr spät verschickt haben...
11. Anke: Joe, diese Mails gehen wahrscheinlich automatisch raus. Ich denke, dass jemand dein Handy hat und seit gestern auf deine Kosten telefoniert. Deshalb hast du heute die Nachricht gekriegt.
12. Joe: Du meinst, jemand hat es geklaut?
13. Anke: Na ja, entweder er hat es geklaut, oder er hat es gefunden und dir nicht zurückgegeben. Es kommt auf das Gleiche hinaus.

CONT'D OVER

14. Joe: Sch... ! Was mache ich jetzt?
15. Anke: Also ich würde zur Polizei gehen, und ihnen den Diebstahl melden. Wenn du willst, komme ich mit.
16. Joe: Mensch, Anke, das wäre super nett von dir!
17. Anke: Im Moment ist die Innenstadt voll, also werde ich nicht mit dem Auto fahren. Treffen wir uns an der Straßenbahnhaltestelle vor dem Konferenzgebäude? In einer halben Stunde?
18. Joe: Ja, geht klar. Vielen Dank!
19. Anke: Kein Problem.

ENGLISH

1. Anke: Anke Löwen.
2. Joe: Hello Anke, this is Joe.
3. Anke: Hello Joe. You're not calling me from your normal number?
4. Joe: No, I'm using my spare phone.
5. Anke: Aren't you at the conference right now?
6. Joe: That's right, I am. But I'd like your opinion on something...
7. Anke: Yes?

CONT'D OVER

8. Joe: I just checked my email and there was a message from my phone service provider saying that I used up my credit and I have to refill it.
9. Anke: Yes, and?
10. Joe: I lost my iPhone yesterday morning and the message is from noon today. It's possible that they just sent the message really late...
11. Anke: Joe, these emails are probably sent out automatically. I think that someone has your phone and has been calling on your dime since yesterday. That's why you got the message today.
12. Joe: You think someone stole it?
13. Anke: Well, either he stole it, or he found it and didn't give it back. It's the same result either way.
14. Joe: Sh...! What do I do now?
15. Anke: Well I would go to the police and report the theft to them. If you want, I'll come with you.
16. Joe: Man, Anke, that would be really nice of you!
17. Anke: At the moment, the inner city is full, so I won't take the car. Shall we meet at the tram stop in front of the conference building? In a half hour?
18. Joe: Yes, alright. Thanks a lot!
19. Anke: No problem.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Straßenbahn	tram, light rail	noun; feminine, die	plural: Straßenbahnen
normal	normal, ordinary	adjective / adverb	
Ersatz	replacement	noun; masculine, der	plural: Ersätze
Meinung	opinion	noun; feminine, die	plural: Meinungen
checken	to check; (slang) to understand	verb	weak verb
Nachricht	message, news	noun; feminine, die	plural: Nachrichten
telefonieren	to call; make a phone call	verb	weak verb
verbrauchen	to consume, spend, use up	verb	weak verb
aufladen	to charge, recharge, load up	verb	er lädt auf, er lud auf, er hat aufgeladen
Guthaben	credit, balance	noun; neuter, das	plural is the same
klauen	to steal, to swipe sth.	verb	weak verb
entweder...oder	either...or	expression	
Diebstahl	theft	noun; masculine, der	plural: Diebstähle
melden	to report, notify, message	verb	weak verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Wo muss ich umsteigen, wenn ich mit der Straßenbahn fahre? Where do I have to change if I ride the light rail?	Das ist ganz normal, das passiert hier jeden Tag. That's quite normal, that happens every day here.
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Ich finde es erstaunlich, wie oft Leute Zitronengras als eine Art Ersatz für einen Schaschlikspieß verwenden. I find it astounding how often people use lemongrass as some kind of substitute for a shashlik spit.	Meiner Meinung nach sind das alles Vollidioten. In my opinion, all of them are complete idiots.
Kann ich mal kurz dein Handy haben? Ich möchte meine E-Mails checken. Can I have your cell phone real quick? I would like to check my e-mails.	In den Nachrichten haben sie etwas von einer Orkanwarnung gesagt. In the news they said something about a hurricane alert.
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!	Haben wir wirklich in diesem Monat so viel Strom verbraucht? Did we really consume this much electricity this month?
Verdammt, mein Handy ist nicht mehr aufgeladen. Damn, my cell phone is out of charge.	Wie viel Guthaben ist noch auf dieser Karte? How many credits are there left on this card?
Er hat ein Motorrad geklaut, das vor dem Schwimmbad abgestellt war. He stole a motorcycle which had been parked in front of the swimming pool.	Wir meldeten den Einbruch sofort der Polizei. We immediately reported the burglary to the police.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „der Anbieter“ (provider) is based on the verb „anbieten“ (to offer), which you already know. It's another one of those cases where we add -er in order to talk about a person who does something. So „Anbieter“ is someone who offers. In English, you'd call him a „provider“

- though. For example „der Telefonanbieter“ is the telephone provider, the telephone company.
2. „auf deine Kosten“ is a set expression means „at your expense“. „Kosten“ obviously relates to „cost“, so we're literally saying „at your costs“.
3. „Es kommt auf das Gleiche hinaus.“ is a German idiom meaning „it amounts to the same thing“. Instead of „kommen“, you might also use „laufen“ here, for the same meaning. „Es läuft auf das Gleiche hinaus“ also means „it amounts to the same thing“.
4. „Innenstadt“ (inner city) is a compound noun. It consists of „innen“ (interior, inside) and „Stadt“ (city), so it's rather obvious. „Innenstadt“ means „inner city“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is word order of objects

Ich würde ihnen den Diebstahl melden.

"I would report the theft to them."

It's time for a truly in-depth look at German word order. Today, we shall look at objects.

The default place for Dative objects (indirect objects) is right after the verb, and Accusative objects (direct objects) go right after, as in „Ich gebe dir ein Geschenk“ (I give you a present / I give a present to you).

However, this default place is already upset if there is something other than the subject at the beginning of a sentence. As we learned before, the verb is always in 2nd place in a sentence, and this means that the subject will have to make do with a place right after the verb. The object or objects then follow right after the subject, in 4th place. E. g. „Deshalb gebe ich dir ein Geschenk.“ (That's why I'm giving you a present).

If there are two objects in a sentence, one indirect and one direct, it is also customary to place adverbials in between – if you want to mention a time, a place or a way of doing things, put it between the one object and the other. E. g. „Ich gebe dir morgen auf der Arbeit überraschend ein Geschenk“ (I will unexpectedly give you a present tomorrow at work)

Another matter is when people decide to move objects on their own, for emphasis. The two most attention-grabbing parts of a German sentence are the very beginning and the very end. If the most important part of the sentence is the object, there is nothing preventing you from putting it at the beginning. „Dir gebe ich morgen ein Geschenk“ (I will give YOU A PRESENT tomorrow) oder „Dein Geschenk gebe ich dir morgen“ (I will give you YOUR PRESENT TOMORROW).

As you read a lot of German or speak it a lot with native speakers, these kinds of changes in word order will start to come naturally. Until then, pay a lot of attention to how Germans phrase things.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

„Denglisch“ is what we call English words that German is adopting right now, for example „Meeting“ or „checken“. There are particularly many such words when it comes to business. „Meeting“ for example only means business meetings.

The tricky part is that Germans will argue about the gender of words 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

Intermediate S4 #21

Are the Trams Behaving in an un-German Way?

CONTENTS

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

#21

GERMAN

1. Anke: Mann, wann kommt die Straßenbahn denn endlich!
2. Joe: Das frage ich mich auch.
3. Anke: Wenn wir noch länger warten, hätten wir fast schon laufen können.
4. Joe: Eigentlich sollte alle zehn Minuten eine Straßenbahn kommen und jetzt stehen wir schon mehr als 15 Minuten hier. Ich weiß nicht, was heute los ist.
5. Anke: Ja, und hier hängt auch kein Zettel, dass es heute Probleme mit dem normalen Fahrplan gibt...
6. Joe: Was sollen wir tun? Sollen wir ein Taxi nehmen?
7. Anke: Ein Taxi wäre am bequemsten, aber ich glaube, die U-Bahn reicht auch. Es gibt um diese Zeit immer viel Verkehr. Davon sind die U-Bahnen nicht betroffen. Vielleicht sind wir mit der U-Bahn sogar schneller da als mit dem Taxi.
8. Joe: Okay. Die U-Bahn ist auf jeden Fall besser als laufen.
9. Anke: Die nächste U-Bahn-Haltestelle ist da links um die Ecke.
10. Joe: Okay.
11. ...
12. Anke: Oh, was ist denn da vorne los?
13. Joe: Lauter Polizisten...

CONT'D OVER

14. Anke: Das ist eine Demonstration! Die ganze Straße ist abgesperrt!
15. Joe: Ah, das erklärt, warum die Straßenbahn nicht gekommen ist.
16. Anke: Wow. So viele Menschen! Die Gewerkschaften und die Parteien sind vertreten...
17. Joe: Wofür demonstrieren die denn alle?
18. Anke: Die meisten Leute in dieser Menschenmenge demonstrieren für sicherere Energie.

ENGLISH

1. Anke: Man, is the tram ever going to get here?
2. Joe: I'm wondering that too.
3. Anke: If we wait any longer, we might as well have walked.
4. Joe: Actually, the trams are supposed to come every ten minutes, and we've already been here more than fifteen minutes. I don't know what's up today.
5. Anke: Yes, and there's no notice here that there are any problems with the normal schedule...
6. Joe: What should we do? Should we take a taxi?

CONT'D OVER

7. Anke: A taxi would be the most comfortable, but I think the subway is sufficient. At this time there's always lots of traffic. The subway isn't affected by that. Maybe we'll be even faster on the subway than with a taxi.
8. Joe: Okay. The subway is better than walking, in any case.
9. Anke: The next subway station is to the left, around the corner.
10. Joe: Okay.
11. ...
12. Anke: Oh, what's going on up ahead?
13. Joe: So many policemen...
14. Anke: That's a demonstration. The whole street is blocked!
15. Joe: Ah, that explains why the tram didn't come.
16. Anke: Wow, so many people! The unions and the political parties are here too...
17. Joe: What are they all demonstrating about?
18. Anke: Most people in this crowd are demonstrating for safer energy.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Energie	energy	noun; feminine, die	plural: Energien

Menge	bulk, amount	noun; feminine, die	plural: Mengen
demonstrieren	to demonstrate	verb	weak verb
los sein	to be up, to be afoot; be rid of	expression; conjugates like "sein"	conjugates like "sein"
Zettel	note, piece of paper	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same
bequem	comfortable	adjective	
reichen	to be enough; to pass sth. to so.	verb	weak verb
betreffen	to concern, affect	verb	es betrifft, es betraf, es hat betroffen
Gewerkschaft	trade union	noun, feminine, die; Zusammenschluss von Arbeitern, um Wünsche durchzusetzen	feminine
lauter	so many; sheer, great	adverb	
absperren	to block, close off	verb	„ab“ splits off
Ecke	corner	noun	plural: Ecken
Partei	political party	noun; feminine, die	plural: Parteien
vertreten	to represent	verb	er vertritt, er vertrat, er hat vertreten

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Wo nimmst du die ganze Energie her?

Where are you getting all that energy?

Sie dürfen nicht mehr als die vorgeschriebene Menge Alkohol einführen.

You must not bring more than the prescribed amount of alcohol into the country.

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.	Die Menschen demonstrieren für Demokratie und mehr Freiheit. The people are demonstrating for democracy and freedom.
Endlich bin ich das los. Finally I am rid of this.	Was ist denn hier los? What are you up to?
Zerreiß den Zettel; er ist nicht wichtig. Tear apart that note; it's not important.	Reichst du mir bitte das Salz? Would you please pass me the salt?
Reicht eine Jacke oder brauche ich einen Mantel? Is a jacket enough or will I need a coat?	Es reicht, wenn du um 6 Uhr da bist. It's enough if you're there at 6.
Wer wurde am stärksten betroffen? Who was affected the most?	Die Konsequenzen betreffen mich nicht. The consequences don't concern me.
Die Gewerkschaften fordern mehr Rechte für Arbeitnehmer. The trade unions demand more rights for employees.	Zu der Party sind lauter Punker gekommen. So many punks came to that party.
Dieser Bereich ist wegen der Visite der britischen Königin abgesperrt. This area has been blocked off because of the visit of the British queen.	Wegen der Absperrung müssen wir einen Umweg machen. We have to do a detour because of the blocking-off of the road.
Er pinkelt in die Ecke! He is peeing in the corner!	Der Laden befindet sich gleich um die Ecke. The store is just around the corner.

Die Parteien schließen sich zu Fraktionen zusammen. The parties combine into political interest groups.	Eine gewählte Partei sollte die Interessen ihrer Wähler gut repräsentieren. An elected party should represent its voters' interests well.
Die Parteien versprechen alle das Gleiche, und nachher verwirklichen sie keine ihrer Versprechungen. The parties all promise the same thing, and afterwards they don't realize any of their promises.	Können Sie mich Montag früh vertreten? Ich muss zum Zahnarzt. Can you take over for me on Monday morning? I have to go to the dentist.
Jedes Parlament besteht aus mehreren Parteien, die unterschiedliche Interessen vertreten. Every parliament consists of several parties, which represent different interests.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. alle zehn Minuten = every ten minutes
2. Fahrplan = schedule (of public transport)
3. um diese Zeit = around this time. If you want to say „at this time“, that would be „zu dieser Zeit“.
4. betroffen sein = to be affected
5. Demonstration = demonstration. demonstrieren = to demonstrate.
6. Menschenmenge (crowd) consists of „Menschen“ (humans) and „Menge“ (bulk, amount).

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is comparison of adjectives

Ein Taxi wäre am bequemsten.

"A taxi would be the most comfortable."

To say that something is nicer, bigger, better or the like in German, add -er to any adjective. English has a similar rule, except in English you sometimes have to add "more" instead. For

example for the word “beautiful” it's impossible to say “beautifuler”, you have to say “more beautiful”. In German, it's not possible to use “mehr”(more), you have to add -er. Additionally, adjectives still change according to the gender, number and case of the accompanying noun.

Köln ist schöner als Düsseldorf. = Cologne is nicer than Düsseldorf.

Köln ist weniger schön als Düsseldorf. = Cologne is less nice than Düsseldorf.

Düsseldorf und Köln sind genauso schön. = Düsseldorf and Cologne are equally nice.

There are a few irregular comparison forms, for example “gut” changes to “besser”. This shouldn't be hard to memorize however because English mirrors this change.

If you want to say that something is the very best out of a large group, you need the superlative. The superlative is the most augmented form of an adjective. For example, superlatives in English are “strongest”, “hardest” or “most beautiful”. In German, the superlative is formed much the same: by adding -(e)st to the adjective and then the adjective ending. For example: “stärkste”, or “härteste”. In contrast to English, it is not possible to use the word “most” to form the superlative, so “most wonderful” would be “wunderbarste”.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The German political landscape is quite different from the American one. For one thing, environmentalism is much more wide-spread, the entire political spectrum is moved to the left a bit, and trade unions have a lot of power.

Germany is a multi-party system. The parties that usually wind up in parliament are

CDU – Christian Democrats, a center-right party

SPD – Social Party, a center-left party

Greens – environmentalists and pacifists

FDP – Liberals – but beware, in Germany, 'liberal' means they want to liberalize the markets and allow big business a freer reign.

Linke – Party of the Left – the left-most party in parliament. Includes remnants of the Communist party that formerly ruled East Germany. The leftist party avows itself to be democratic now, but it's still somewhat of an outcast.

There are many more smaller parties, but a party must get at least 5% of the votes in order to become part of the Bundestag, so the smaller parties have very little influence.

One effect of having 5 parties in parliament is that a party very rarely gets enough votes to rule all by themselves. They usually have to form a coalition with one other party, sometimes even two. This way, smaller parties have a chance to bring in some of their ideas but not turn around the system completely. For example, the Greens effectively used coalition negotiations in order to bring in some pro-environment legislation that their bigger coalition partner wasn't really set against.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #22

A Visit to the German Police

CONTENTS

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

22

GERMAN

1. Polizistin: Guten Tag, kann ich Ihnen helfen?
2. Joe: Ja, ich hoffe schon. Ich möchte einen Diebstahl melden.
3. Polizistin: Was wurde gestohlen?
4. Joe: Mein iPhone.
5. Polizistin: Und wissen Sie wo und wann?
6. Joe: Ja, das kann ich sogar sehr genau sagen. Es war gestern auf der Übersetzerkonferenz, während der Eröffnungsrede.
7. Polizistin: Gut. Ich werde jetzt einen Bericht verfassen. Können Sie bitte beschreiben, wie der Diebstahl ablief? Seien Sie so genau wie möglich.
8. Joe: Also, ich ging gestern auf die Übersetzerkonferenz. Zunächst meldete ich mich an. Dabei hatte ich das iPhone noch.
9. Polizistin: Woher wissen Sie, dass Sie das iPhone bei der Anmeldung noch hatten?
10. Joe: Es gab eine lange Schlange bei der Anmeldung, also vertrieb ich mir die Zeit mit Spielchen auf dem iPhone. Als ich an der Reihe war, steckte ich das iPhone in meine Jackentasche.
11. Polizistin: Also ist es möglich, dass jemand das iPhone schon gestohlen hat, während Sie sich anmeldeten?
12. Joe: Ja. Dann nach der Anmeldung sagte man mir, dass ich einen Teil der Eröffnungsrede noch mitkriegen könnte, also lief ich ohne Umwege zum großen Saal, vielleicht 300 Meter.

CONT'D OVER

13. **Polizistin:** Trugen Sie dabei Ihre Jacke?
14. **Joe:** Ich hatte die Jacke nicht an, aber ich trug sie über den Arm.
15. **Polizistin:** Okay, fahren Sie fort. Wann haben Sie den Diebstahl bemerkt?
16. **Joe:** Also, ich stand vor den Türen des großen Saals und da hat mich eine Übersetzerin angesprochen. Wir unterhielten uns ein bißchen. Später wollten wir E-Mail-Adressen austauschen. Dazu wollte ich mein iPhone aus der Jackentasche holen, und es war nicht mehr da.

ENGLISH

1. **Police:** Hello, can I help you?
2. **Joe:** Yes, I hope so. I'd like to report a theft.
3. **Police:** What was stolen?
4. **Joe:** My iPhone.
5. **Police:** Do you know where and when?
6. **Joe:** Yes, I can even say quite exactly. It was yesterday at the translator conference, during the opening speech.
7. **Police:** Good. I'll write a report now. Could you please describe how the theft happened? Be as exact as possible.
8. **Joe:** So, I went to the translator conference yesterday. First I registered myself. At that point I still had the iPhone.

CONT'D OVER

9. **Police:** How do you know that you still had it at the registration?
10. **Joe:** There was a long line up at registration, so I passed the time with games on the iPhone. As I came to the front, I put the iPhone in my jacket pocket.
11. **Police:** So it's possible that someone stole the iPhone while you registered?
12. **Joe:** Yes. Then after the registration, someone said that I could still catch part of the opening speech, so I walked directly to the large hall, perhaps 300 meters.
13. **Police:** Were you wearing your jacket during that time?
14. **Joe:** I didn't have the jacket on, but I carried it over my arm.
15. **Police:** Okay, continue. When did you notice the theft?
16. **Joe:** Well, I stood in front of the doors to the large hall, and a translator spoke to me. We talked with each other a bit. Later we wanted to exchange emails. For that, I wanted to take my iPhone out of the jacket pocket, and it wasn't there any more.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
verfassen	to draft, compose	verb	weak verb
beschreiben	to describe	verb	er beschreibt, er beschrieb, er hat beschrieben
ablaufen	to expire; to take place	verb	es läuft ab, es lief ab, es ist abgelaufen
Reihe	row, line	noun; feminine, die	plural: Reihen

stecken	to put, stick	verb	weak verb
fortfahren	to continue	verb	er fährt fort, er fuhr fort, er ist fortgefahren
tragen	to wear; to carry	verb	
Arm	arm (body part)	noun; masculine, der	plural: Arme
Saal	hall, saloon	noun; masculine, der	plural: Säle
holen	to fetch, bring	verb	weak verb
bemerken	to notice, remark	verb	weak verb
ansprechen	to start talking to, address	verb	er spricht an, er sprach an, er hat angesprochen
sich unterhalten	to have a conversation, entertain each other	verb	er unterhält sich, er unterhielt sich, er hat sich unterhalten
austauschen	to exchange	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Wann haben Sie diesen Bericht verfasst? When did you compose this report?	In diesem Jobangebot wurde die Art der Arbeit nicht beschrieben. In this job offer, the type of work was not described.
Können Sie mir den Weg beschreiben? Can you describe the way to me?	Haben Sie schon herausgefunden, wie der Mord abgelaufen ist? Have you already found out how the murder took place?

Das Haltbarkeitsdatum der Eier ist schon seit zwei Tagen abgelaufen. The eggs' eat-by date already expired two days ago.	Sie sind als Nächstes an der Reihe. It will be your turn next.
Merken Sie sich diese Zahlenreihe. Memorize this row of numbers.	Du kannst den Stecker hier einstecken, hier ist noch Platz. You can put the plug in here, there's still space here.
Wo hast du gesteckt? Ich habe dich überall gesucht! Where have you been? I looked for you all over the place!	Fahren Sie ruhig ohne mich fort. You may continue without me.
Unser Baum trägt viele Früchte dieses Jahr. Our tree is carrying a lot of fruits this year.	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 Schwestern tragen heute das gleiche Kleid. The sisters are wearing the same dress today.
Die Ameisen tragen Essen. The ants are carrying food.	Ich trage einen Helm. I'm wearing a helmet. / I'm carrying a helmet.
Der Roboter hat seine Arme bewegt. The robot moved its arms.	Der Notausgang dieses Kinosaals befindet sich rechts und links jeweils auf halber Höhe. The emergency exit of this cinema hall is located on the right and on the left, half way to the top.

Holst du uns noch ein paar Bier aus dem Keller? Can you bring us another couple beers from the basement?	Er bemerkte noch, dass er sich das nicht getraut hätte. He remarked that he wouldn't have dared to do that.
Die mikroskopisch kleine Veränderung wurde zunächst nicht bemerkt. The microscopically tiny change was not noticed initially.	Er traut sich nicht, sie anzusprechen. He doesn't have the courage to talk to her.
Worüber habt ihr euch unterhalten? What did you talk about?	Ich verstehe nur Bahnhof, wenn sich zwei Schwaben unterhalten. I understand exactly nothing when two Swabians are talking.
Ich habe gestern den Direktor gesehen; er unterhielt sich mit einem der Lehrer. I saw the principal yesterday; he was having a conversation with one of the teachers.	Wir haben auf der Messe Visitenkarten ausgetauscht. We swapped business cards at the fair.
Lass uns Telefonnummern austauschen! Let's exchange phone numbers!	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. wurde = was (passive)
2. über den Arm = over the arm. Here it means „draped over my arm“.
3. an der Reihe sein = dran sein = it's one's turn

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is preterite past tense

Trugen Sie dabei Ihre Jacke?

"Were you wearing your jacket there?"

We've already seen the Perfekt past tense, but there is a second kind of past tense in German, the Präteritum (preterite past tense). This is the source of forms like war or hatte, which you may have encountered briefly in the beginner lessons.

Generally, the forms of the preterite past tense are rather easy. Regular verbs behave as if their stem contained an additional "te". So "warten" behaves as if it was a verb called "warteten"; ich wartete, du wartetest, er wartete, wir warteten, ihr wartetet, sie warteten. As you may have noticed, there is just one difference. Instead of the expected "er wartetet", we get "er wartete". This is because it would sound silly otherwise.

Unfortunately, just like for the perfect tense, a lot of verbs take an irregular stem. For example:

ich war (I was)

ich hatte (I had)

ich ging (I went)

ich gab (I gave) / es gibt → es gab (there was)

ich lief (I ran)

ich mochte (I liked)

Fortunately, any derived verbs, such as "weggehen", are still based on the same form as "gehen", so you don't have to learn two distinct irregular verbs. And since this tense consists of only one word, the "weg" will still split off, as will the prefixes of all other separable verbs. If you look in the PDF or the Learning Center, we will always list German less-than-regular verbs with their three important forms. First the he/she/it form of the present tense, which will tell you if there is a vowel change or a prefix splitting off. Then the preterite form, which will tell you if there's any irregularity with this, and finally the perfect tense form, which will tell you what the participle looks like and if the verb uses haben or sein.

Now when to use the preterite past tense and when to use the perfect past tense? Generally, the preterite past tense is used in writing. Joe uses it here because the police is writing down his report. Otherwise, using the past tense in spoken German sounds a bit stilted, so in speaking we use the perfect past tense. However, sometimes it's just too nice to have a short verb instead of something as convoluted as "ich bin gewesen" (I have been), so for the really common, short verbs we use the preterite past tense even in speaking. That's how you encountered „war“ and „hatte“ before.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Crime in Germany

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

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #23

A Visit to the German Police - Part 2

CONTENTS

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

23

GERMAN

1. **Polizistin:** Was haben Sie gemacht, als Sie festgestellt haben, dass Sie Ihr iPhone nicht mehr haben?
2. **Joe:** Ich dachte, dass ich es vielleicht irgendwo liegen gelassen habe, oder dass es aus der Jacke gefallen ist. Deshalb bin ich den Weg noch einmal abgegangen, und habe auch bei der Anmeldung noch einmal geguckt.
3. **Polizistin:** Haben Sie die Organisatoren der Konferenz gefragt, ob jemand ein iPhone gefunden hat?
4. **Joe:** Ja, und ich habe auch heute Morgen noch einmal nachgefragt, weil ich dachte, dass sie es vielleicht beim Saubermachen finden würden. Aber da war nichts.
5. **Polizistin:** Wieso denken Sie jetzt, dass Ihr iPhone gestohlen wurde?
6. **Joe:** Ich habe heute eine E-Mail von meinem Telefonanbieter gekriegt, dass ich mein Guthaben verbraucht habe. Das bedeutet, dass jemand gestern Nachmittag oder heute Morgen mit meinem Handy viel telefoniert haben muss. Ich hatte noch mehr als 15 Euro Guthaben.
7. **Polizistin:** Ja, entweder er hat viel telefoniert, oder er hat teure Nummern angerufen...
8. **Joe:** Genau.
9. **Polizistin:** Es ist möglich, dass er Ihr Handy gefunden hat und nicht gestohlen, aber ich glaube es nicht. Jedenfalls ist das nicht das Verhalten eines ehrlichen Finders.
10. **Joe:** Stimmt.

CONT'D OVER

11. **Polizistin:** Wir werden eine Anzeige gegen unbekannt erstatten. Wenn wir den Täter oder Ihr iPhone finden, geben wir Ihnen Bescheid.
12. **Joe:** Danke.

ENGLISH

1. **Police:** What did you do when you realized that you didn't have your iPhone anymore?
2. **Joe:** I thought that I had perhaps left it somewhere, or that it had fallen out of the jacket. Therefore I retraced my steps and also took another look at registration.
3. **Police:** Did you ask the conference organizers if anyone had found an iPhone?
4. **Joe:** Yes, and I also checked again this morning, because I thought that they would perhaps find it during cleanup. But there was nothing there.
5. **Police:** Why do you now think that your iPhone was stolen?
6. **Joe:** I received an email today from my telephone service provider saying that I've used up all my credit. That means that someone must have made a lot of calls with my cell phone yesterday afternoon or this morning. I still had more than 15 euros of credit.
7. **Police:** Yes, either he made a lot of calls, or called expensive numbers...
8. **Joe:** Exactly.

CONT'D OVER

9. Police: It's possible that he found your cell phone rather than stole it, but I don't think so. In any case, that's not the behavior of an honest person.
10. Joe: That's true.
11. Police: We'll file a complaint against persons unknown. If we find the perpetrator or your iPhone, we'll let you know.
12. Joe: Thanks.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Täter	culprit, offender	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same
erstatten	to refund; to file	verb	weak verb
unbekannt	unfamiliar, unknown	adjective	
Finder	finder	noun; masculine, der	plural is the same
feststellen	to determine; to realize	verb	"fest" splits off
fallen	to fall	verb	er fällt, er fiel, er ist gefallen
Organisator	organizer	noun; masculine, der	plural: Organisatoren
nachfragen	to demand, inquire	verb	„nach“ splits off
sauber	clean	adjective	
ehrlich	honest, truthful; honestly	adjective	
jedenfalls	in any case	other	
Verhalten	behavior, attitude	noun; neuter, das	plural is the same
bedeuten	to signify, mean	verb	weak verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Der Täter wurde auf frischer Tat ertappt. The culprit was caught in the act.	Wenn Sie die Belege einreichen, bekommen Sie die Fahrtkosten erstattet. If you hand in the receipts, you will get the travel expenses refunded.
Fruktosesirup aus Mais ist in Deutschland fast unbekannt. High-fructose corn syrup is virtually unknown in Germany.	Der ehrliche Finder erhält einen Finderlohn. The honest finder will receive a reward.
Das Motto der Pfadfinder ist "Allzeit bereit". The boyscouts' motto is "always ready".	Als ich aus dem Haus ging, stellte ich fest, dass ich den Schlüssel vergessen hatte. When I left home, I noticed that I had forgotten the key.
Der Arzt konnte nur noch den Tod des Opfers feststellen. The doctor could only determine that the victim was dead.	Wenn der Druck in der Kabine abfällt, fallen automatisch Sauerstoffmasken herunter. If the pressure in the cabin should drop, oxygen masks will automatically fall down.
Der Regen fällt auf die Straße. The rain is falling on the street.	"Es ist noch kein Meister vom Himmel gefallen". Das bedeutet, wenn du gut werden willst, musst du üben. "No one is born a master". That means that if you want to become good, you have to practise.
Die Organisatoren haben sicher viel zu tun. The organizers are probably very busy.	Er fragte beharrlich nach. He persistently asked.

Staub sammelt sich in der Wohnung, wenn man nicht sauber macht. Dust collects in the apartment if you don't clean up.	Er ist ein ehrlicher Mensch. He is an honest person.
Das meinst du nicht ehrlich, oder? You don't seriously mean that, do you?	Jedenfalls habe ich mich gegen das Angebot entschieden. In any case, I decided against the offer.
Sein Verhalten ist sehr suspekt. His behavior is very suspicious.	Zu Karneval sieht man sehr komische Verhaltensweisen. Around carnival time you can see very strange behavior.
Deine Hilfe bedeutet mir viel. Your help means a lot to me.	"Wolzig" bedeutet, dass es viele Wolken gibt. "Cloudy" means that there are a lot of clouds.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. den Weg abgehen = to walk along and check, go back and forth (Joe revisiting the way he took to the opening speech)
2. saubermachen = to clean. „sauber“ is the adjective „clean“ and „machen“ is „to make“.
3. jemand muss viel telefoniert haben = somebody has to have used the phone a lot. „telefoniert haben“ takes the place of „to have used the phone“.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is common irregular preterite past forms

Haben Sie die Organisatoren der Konferenz gefragt, ob jemand ein iPhone gefunden hat?

"Did you ask the conference organizers if anyone had found the iPhone?"

Generally, only common verbs have irregular forms. Once a verb becomes less common, people don't use it often enough in order to re-inforce the irregularity. An example is the verb „backen“ (to bake). The past tense used to be „buk“. However, since the number of people baking stuff has gone down in the past century, and few people have to communicate that somebody baked something yesterday, people forgot about this irregularity and now everyone says „backte“.

Let's look at some really common irregular forms. Almost all of these are irregular in English too.

sein – er ist - er war – er ist gewesen (be)
haben – er hat - er hatte – er hat gehabt (have)
werden – er wird - er wurde – er ist geworden (become)
mögen – er mag – er mochte – er hat gemocht (like)
wissen – er weiß – er wusste – er hat gewusst (know)
lassen – er lässt – er ließ – er hat gelassen (let)

Commonly prefixed ones

kommen – er kommt – er kam – er ist gekommen (come)
gehen – er geht – er ging – er ist gegangen (go)
sehen – er sieht – er sah – er hat gesehen (to see)
geben – er gibt – er gab – er hat gegeben (to give)
nehmen – er nimmt – er nahm – er hat genommen (take)
finden – er findet – er fand – er hat gefunden (find)

In our vocabulary lists and in the Wordbank tool, you will always find the past tense and perfect tense forms of each verb, even if it's just a prefixed version of another verb. This way, you can learn the forms along with the verbs.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Culture: differences in the legal system

1. everybody has an ID card
2. more data privacy; more awareness
3. state and companies are not allowed to keep your data unlimited
4. 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)

5. prostitution is legal (under certain conditions, e. g. not by minors or near minors)
6. hate crimes are treated more harshly, e. g. wearing Nazi symbols, making racist comments, calling for violence...
7. owning a gun is illegal unless you have a special license

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #24

Considering a Move to Germany

CONTENTS

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

24

GERMAN

1. Joe: Puh, ich hoffe sie finden mein iPhone. Ohne iPhone fühle ich mich so nackt.
2. Anke: Tja... eigentlich gibt es wenige Verdächtige, denn bei der Konferenz laufen ja nicht so viele Leute herum, die das gestohlen haben könnten.
3. Joe: Wir werden sehen.
4. Joe: Du, Anke?
5. Anke: Ja?
6. Joe: Ich habe ein Jobangebot erhalten. Eine Berliner Firma namens Berlin Translated möchte, dass ich mich bei ihnen bewerbe. Ich habe mit einer Frau aus der Personalabteilung gesprochen, die bei meinem Vortrag war.
7. Anke: Interessant. Würdest du dann in Berlin für sie arbeiten, oder über das Internet?
8. Joe: In Berlin.
9. Anke: Du wärst bereit, für diesen Job herzuziehen?
10. Joe: Ja, warum nicht. Ich mag Deutschland. Ich fühle mich mit der deutschen Kultur und der deutschen Lebensweise verbunden und ich spreche ja schon Deutsch.
11. Anke: Wenn der Job in einer Kleinstadt wäre, würdest du dann da hinziehen?
12. Joe: Hmm... vielleicht nicht. Berlin ist schon eine tolle Stadt zum Leben.

CONT'D OVER

13. Anke: Außerdem... wolltest du nicht Freiberufler bleiben?
14. Joe: Vielleicht, vielleicht auch nicht. Als Freiberufler ist es schwer, ein Visum zu kriegen, um herzukommen. Ich würde gerne zumindest jeden Sommer hier verbringen, aber wenn ich nicht hier arbeiten darf, wird es schwierig.
15. Anke: Das ist ein großer Unterschied, nur für den Sommer hierhin zu kommen, oder hier zu wohnen.
16. Joe: Na ja, ich werde mich eben bewerben, und dann sehen wir ja, ob die Firma mich überhaupt will, und wenn ja, wie viel Gehalt sie bereit ist zu zahlen.
17. Anke: Du hältst dir deine Möglichkeiten offen.
18. Joe: Genau. Alles andere wäre falsch.

ENGLISH

1. Joe: Ugh, I hope they find my iPhone. Without an iPhone I feel so naked.
2. Anke: Well... actually there are very few suspects, since at the conference there aren't that many people walking around that could have stolen it.
3. Joe: We'll see.
4. Joe: Hey, Anke?
5. Anke: Yes?

CONT'D OVER

6. Joe I received a job offer. A Berlin company, by the name of Berlin Translated, wants me to apply with them. I spoke with a woman from the personnel division, who was at my talk.
7. Anke: Interesting. Would you work for them in Berlin, or over the internet?
8. Joe: In Berlin.
9. Anke: You'd be prepared to move here for this job?
10. Joe: Yes, why not. I like Germany. I feel connected with the German culture and the German way of life, and I already speak German anyway.
11. Anke: If the job were in a small town, then would you move there?
12. Joe: Hmm... maybe not. Berlin IS a great city to live in.
13. Anke: Besides... didn't you want to stay a freelancer?
14. Joe: Maybe, or maybe not. As a freelancer it's hard to get a visa to come here. I'd at least like to spend every summer here, but if I can't work here then it would be difficult.
15. Anke: That's a big difference - only coming here for the summer or living here.
16. Joe: Well, I'll still apply, and then we'll see whether the company even wants me, and if yes, how much they're ready to pay as a salary.
17. Anke: You're keeping your options open.
18. Joe: Exactly. Anything else would be wrong.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
offen	open, frank	adjective / adverb	
nackt	naked	adjective	
wenig	little	adverb	
verdächtig	suspicious	adjective	
herum	around	adverb	
Angebot	offer	noun; neuter, das	plural: Angebote
Weise	manner, way	noun; feminine, die	plural: Weisen
namens	by the name of	adverb	
Kultur	culture	noun; feminine, die	plural: Kulturen
erhalten	to receive	verb	er erhält, er erhielt, er hat erhalten
Gehalt	salary	noun	plural: Gehälter
bereit	ready		

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Komm herein, die Tür ist schon offen! Come in, the door is already open!	Der Einkaufsbummel am verkaufsoffenen Sonntag entpuppte sich als die reinste Hölle. Shopping on an open-shop Sunday turned out to be pure hell.
Die offene Kritik sorgte für Unbehagen. The open criticism made for uneasiness.	Bei "Wahrheit oder Pflicht" musste Dirk gestern nackt durch den Garten rennen. Playing "Truth or Dare" last night, Dirk had to run through the garden naked.

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 kommt mir sehr verdächtig vor. That looks very suspicious to me.	Die Polizei führte den Verdächtigen ab. The police lead off the suspect.
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!
In diesem Jobangebot wurde die Art der Arbeit nicht beschrieben. In this job offer, the type of work was not described.	Jedenfalls habe ich mich gegen das Angebot entschieden. In any case, I decided against the offer.
Auf diese Weise wirst du nie fertig! You'll never finish if you do it this way!	Zu Karneval sieht man sehr komische Verhaltensweisen. Around carnival time you can see very strange behavior.
Ein polnischer Augenarzt namens Ludwig Zamenhof hat die internationale Sprache Esperanto erfunden. A Polish eye-doctor by the name of Ludwig Zamenhof invented the international language Esperanto.	Ich interessiere mich für die Kulturen der Welt. I am interested in the cultures of the world.

Hast du den Bescheid vom Ausländeramt schon erhalten? Did you receive your notification from the foreigners' office already?	Ich habe noch keinen neuen Auftrag von unserem Kunden erhalten. I haven't yet got a new assignment from our client.
Der ehrliche Finder erhält einen Finderlohn. The honest finder will receive a reward.	Wie sieht es mit den Gehältern in dieser Branche aus? How are the salaries looking in this industry?
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 boy scouts' motto is "always ready".
Seid ihr bereit? Are you ready?	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. „der Verdächtige“ (suspect) is a noun based on the adjective „verdächtig“. Similarly, you can make nouns based on any adjective, for example „der Alte“ (the old one) or „die Schöne“ (the beautiful woman).
2. sie könnten es gestohlen haben = they could have stolen it
3. über das Internet = over the internet; über Telefon = by phone; über Fax = by fax.
4. die Lebensweise = the way of life.
5. die Kleinstadt = small town.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is hin- and her-, herum

Wenn der Job in einer Kleinstadt wäre, würdest du dann da hinziehen?
"If the job were in a small town, then would you move there?"

A lot of German verbs are prefaced with the prefixes „hin“ or „her“ for no apparent reason. If you don't understand these, it greatly increases the amount of verbs you have to learn.

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

herkommen – come to the speaker

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

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

hersehen – to look in this direction

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

hin- and her- also combine with other prefixes in order to give more detailed descriptions.

Examples below.

herein = into and towards the speaker, for example into a house that the speaker is in.

„Komm doch herein!“ (Do come in!).

heraus = out and towards the speaker, e. g. if the speaker is outside the house.

hinein = into and away from the speaker. „hin“ because the movement is away from the speaker if he's standing outside, and „ein“ because you're going inside.

hinaus = out and away from the speaker. „hin“ because the movement is away from the speaker if he's inside, and „aus“ because you're going out of the house.

herum- is another such combination. As it consists of „her“ and „um“, you can guess that it means „around something and towards the speaker“.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Where to find a job in Germany

1. look in your local newspaper; also in magazines and journals related to your business
2. think about the companies you know that might want to hire you, have a look at their websites and see if they have a jobs section – this would be labeled „Jobs“, „Karriere“ (career) or „Stellenangebote“.
3. even if they don't seem to offer any suitable jobs at the moment, you may want to send them an application
4. also look at online job websites. Craigslist won't work for Germany. Instead, go to monster.de, jobscout24.de, jobpilot.de ...
5. if you're looking for an unlearned job or a student job, also look at jobs3000.net as well as at storefronts and at university black boards
6. in any event, avoid jobs that say you can „Schnell Geld machen“!

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S4 #25

Writing a German Letter to a Friend

CONTENTS

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

25

GERMAN

1. Joe: Hey Anke, ich habe gerade einen Brief über meinen Aufenthalt in Deutschland an meinen Freund Michael in München geschrieben. Möchtest du lesen?
2. Anke: Ja, gerne.
3. Anke: Lieber Michael, ich hoffe, es geht dir gut. Ich bin jetzt seit mehreren Tagen in Berlin und ich genieße meine Zeit hier.
4. Anke: Das Wetter ist sehr gut – die Sonne scheint jeden Tag und es ist nicht windig. Heute haben wir auch einen wolkenlosen Himmel; gestern war es noch bewölkt.
5. Anke: Die Konferenz ist schön. Ich habe schon viel dazugelernt, ich habe selbst einen Vortrag gehalten, und interessante Leute getroffen.
6. Anke: Nur vorgestern ist etwas Doofes geschehen. Jemand hat mein iPhone gestohlen. Ich war auf dem Weg von der Anmeldung zum ersten Vortrag und irgendjemand muss es aus meiner Jackentasche genommen haben. Ich war schon bei der Polizei.
7. Anke: Na ja, ich werde abwarten, was jetzt passiert. Auf jeden Fall möchte ich versuchen, den Rest meiner Zeit in Berlin zu genießen.
8. Anke: Es tut mir leid, dass ich dieses Mal nicht nach München reisen kann; ich habe nicht genug Zeit. Aber auf der Konferenz hat mir eine Frau geraten, mich bei ihrer Übersetzungsagentur zu bewerben.
9. Anke: Vielleicht arbeite ich also demnächst in Deutschland, und dann komme ich dich bestimmt besuchen. Liebe Grüße, dein Joe

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Joe: Hey Anke, I just wrote a letter about my stay in Germany to my friend Michael in Munich. Would you like to read it?
2. Anke: Yes, gladly.
3. Anke: Dear Michael, I hope you're doing well. I've been in Berlin for several days and I'm enjoying my time here.
4. Anke: The weather is really good - the sun shines every day and it's not windy. Today we have a clear sky; yesterday it was still cloudy.
5. Anke: The conference is nice. I've already learned a lot there, I gave a talk myself and met interesting people.
6. Anke: But the day before yesterday something dumb happened. Someone stole my iPhone. I was on the way from the registration to the first lecture and someone must have taken it out of my jacket pocket. I was already at the police.
7. Anke: Well, I'll just wait and see what happens. In any case, I'd like to try to enjoy the rest of my time in Berlin.
8. Anke: I'm sorry that I can't go to Munich this time; I don't have enough time. But at the conference a woman advised me to apply at her translation agency.
9. Anke: So maybe I'll be working in Germany soon, and then I'll certainly come visit you. Best wishes, Joe

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Brief	letter	noun	masculine; plural: Briefe

Aufenthalt	residence, stay	noun; masculine, der	plural: Aufenthalte
bewölkt	cloudy	adjective	
vorgestern	the day before yesterday		
doof	dumb, foolish, silly		
raten	to guess, to advise	verb	er rät, er riet, er hat geraten
abwarten	to await, wait out	verb	"ab" splits off
versuchen	to try	verb	weak verb
geschehen	to happen, to occur	verb	
demnächst	soon, in the near future	adverb	
Gruß	greeting	noun; masculine, der	plural: Grüße

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ich werde meinen Brief per Luftpost verschicken. I am going to send my letter by air-mail.	Ich möchte heute noch diesen Brief verschicken. I want to send out this letter today still.
Ich erwarte noch einen Brief. I'm still awaiting a letter.	Beantragen Sie eine Aufenthaltsgenehmigung. Apply for a residence permit.
Wir reisen von München nach Jakarta, mit einem kurzen Aufenthalt in Dubai. We travel from Munich to Jakarta with a short stay in Dubai.	Heute ist es bewölkt. It's cloudy today.

Vorgestern habe ich Herrn Weber wieder getroffen. Day before yesterday I met Mr Weber again.	Kannst du eine andere CD einlegen? Diese hier ist doof. Can you put in a different CD? This one is stupid.
Erstens habe ich dann keine Zeit, zweitens habe ich auch keine Lust, und drittens seid ihr doof. Firstly I don't have time then, secondly I'm also not in the mood, and thirdly you're silly.	Dieses Outfit sieht wirklich doof aus. This outfit looks really stupid/silly.
Rate mal, wer heute Abend im Fernsehen war! Guess who was on TV tonight!	Du weißt nicht, was passieren wird. Warte es einfach ab. You don't know what's going to happen. Just wait it out.
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.	Was ist heute geschehen? What happened today?
Was ist dort drüben geschehen? What happened over there?	Was ist 1902 geschehen? What happened in 1902?

Ich reise demnächst nach Leipzig, um dort Kontakte zu knüpfen. I will travel to Leipzig soon in order to make new contacts there.	Mit freundlichen Grüßen, ... Best regards, ...
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VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

1. The German suffix -los is approximately the same as the English -less. It means „completely lacking something“. For example, „wolkenlos“ is cloudless, a sky completely without clouds. Other common words with this ending are „arbeitslos“ (unemployed) and „obdachlos“ (homeless).
2. „dazu“ in the phrase „ich habe etwas dazu gelernt“ means „something in addition“, „I learned something in addition“, that is „I learned something new“.
3. „jemand muss es genommen haben“ is another complex German verb structure. It means „somebody must have taken it“. „must have taken“ corresponds one to one to the German „muss genommen haben“.

GRAMMAR

This is the end of this intermediate series. You're ready to start on an Upper Intermediate Series now, if you want. You could of course stay on this level and simply improve your vocabulary and expression, but we think you're ready to move on. Let's review.

Most important of all is the perfect tense. The perfect tense consists of the verb „to have“, occasionally also the verb „to be“, and the past participle. The rules for building a past participle are not simple, but most of the time this involves the prefix ge-.

The perfect tense is used in spoken German. All except the most common, short verbs will be in the perfect tense. The shortest verbs, such as „war“ and „hatte“ and so on, will be in the preterite past tense. In written German, the preterite past dominates. This tense is typically formed using the ending -te.

We also talked about all the German cases – Nominative, Genitive, Dative and Accusative – and which endings they take. We talked about reflexive verbs, about „um zu“, about „worauf“ and „darauf“ and words like that, about relative clauses and shortened subclauses, and a lot more. This is too much to review here. If you forgot, check the PDFs for our earlier lessons again.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. How to address a letter to/within Germany:
first name last name
street and number
postal code and city country
2. Postal code usually only specifies the city, not the street or block or anything. Only major cities (or cities that used to be several towns) may have a few different postal codes roughly specifying the area of town.
3. Postal codes, like phone numbers, allow you to identify the region within Germany
4. If you want to send a postcard from Germany, you can get a postcard anywhere, but for stamps you usually have to go to a post office (bright yellow). You can then send your card from there or you throw it into one of the bright yellow mail boxes anywhere around town.
5. Within Germany, your letters or parcels will probably be delivered around noon on the next day. On Sundays there is no service however.



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| Intro | 12 Registering at the Conference in Germany |
| 1 Long Time, No See in Germany | 13 How Many of the German Sights have you Already Seen? |
| 2 Planning a Flight to Germany | 14 Take Some German Advice from a Pro |
| 3 This is Your German Captain Speaking | 15 The Case of the Lost iPhone in Germany |
| 4 Get Yourself Ready For German! | 16 It Doesn't Do to be Late in Germany |
| 5 A Must-See Building in Berlin | 17 Man vs Machine in Germany |
| 6 Let's Have an Exciting German Discussion... | 18 Are you Considering a Move to Germany? |
| About Work | 19 An Intriguing German Job Offer |
| 7 Making Friends in the German Workplace | 20 Anke to the Rescue in Germany |
| 8 Participate in a Business Lunch in German | 21 Are the Trams Behaving in an un- German Way? |
| 9 Visiting a Famous German Artists' Community | 22 A Visit to the German Police |
| 10 Use Your German to Help Tourists Find Their Way | 23 A Visit to the German Police - Part 2 |
| 11 Will there be Presentations in Klingon at this German Conference? | 24 Considering a Move to Germany |
| | 25 Writing a German Letter to a Friend |