



# German



**Ist dieser Platz frei?**  
*Is this seat free?*

**Wir sind leider voll.**  
*Unfortunately, we're fully booked.*

**Includes: 21 language lessons**

# *German*

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This phrasebook doesn't claim to be a substitute for a language course, but if you devote a bit of time to reading it and learning a few useful phrases, you'll quickly find that you're able to participate in basic exchanges with German speakers, enriching your travel experience.

**A word of advice: don't aim for perfection! Those you're speaking to will forgive any mistakes and appreciate your efforts to communicate in their language. The main thing is to leave your inhibitions behind and speak!**

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# Getting started

## ➤ Day 1

**Es geht los!**  
*Let's go!*

- 1 der Mann**  
*deh<sup>ə</sup> man*  
*the man/husband*
- 2 die Frau**  
*dee frow*  
*the woman/wife*
- 3 das Kind**  
*das kint*  
*the child*
- 4 das Mädchen**  
*das mehdkH'n*  
*the girl*
- 5 die Jungen**  
*dee yung'n*  
*the boys*

### Notes

German nouns belong to one of three genders: masculine, feminine or neuter. Nouns referring to males are usually masculine, e.g. **der Mann** *the man, husband*, and nouns referring to females are usually feminine, e.g. **die Frau** *the woman, wife*. However, the word for child is grammatically neuter: **das Kind** *child*.

In line 4 we see that the word for *girl* (**Mädchen**) is also neuter. In this case, it is because it is a diminutive, which is a form of a word that conveys smallness or endearment. In German a diminutive is formed by adding the ending **-chen** or **-lein** to a noun, and these words are always neuter.

As for inanimate objects, these can be any one of the three genders. Although the ending of a noun may help you recognize the gender (as with **-chen**), it is best to try to learn the gender with the noun.

Knowing a noun's gender is important because this can affect the forms of other words used with it. For example, there are different forms of the definite article *the* when used with a singular noun: **der** (m.), **die** (f.) and **das** (neuter). The form used for plural nouns is always **die** (plural—for all genders).

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
Nominative	der	die	das	die

At this point we have to mention a further complexity of German, which is grammatical case. German has four cases, which are used depending on the grammatical function of a word in a sentence. These cases are indicated by changing the ending of a word, which is called 'declension'. In German, articles, nouns, pronouns and certain other words can decline. The articles in the preceding table are in the nominative case, which is used when a word is the subject of the sentence. We'll come back to this—don't worry!

Another thing to note is that all nouns (not just proper nouns) begin with a capital letter in German, as you might have noticed in this lesson: e.g. **der Stein** [*deh<sup>ə</sup> shtein*] *the stone*.

## Conversing

### ➤ First contact

Most often, Germans greet each other by shaking hands, although family members or close friends kiss each other on each cheek. **Guten Morgen!** *Good morning!* is used until about 11 a.m., after which you use **Guten Tag!** *Hello!* ('Good day!').

### Greetings

#### Saying hello & taking leave

<i>Hello!</i>	<b>Guten Tag!</b>	<i>goot'n tahk</i>
<i>Hi!</i>	<b>Hallo!</b>	<i>haloh</i>
<i>Good morning!</i>	<b>Guten Morgen!</b>	<i>goot'n morg'n</i>
<i>Good evening!</i>	<b>Guten Abend!</b>	<i>goot'n ahb'nt</i>
<i>Good night!</i>	<b>Gute Nacht!</b>	<i>gootuh nahkht</i>
<i>Welcome (to ...)!/</i>	<b>Willkommen (in ...)!/</b>	<i>vilkomen (in...)</i>
<i>See you in a moment!</i>	<b>Bis gleich!</b>	<i>bis gleikh</i>
<i>See you later!</i>	<b>Bis später!</b>	<i>bis shpeht<sup>ə</sup></i>
<i>See you tomorrow!</i>	<b>Bis morgen!</b>	<i>bis morg'n</i>
<i>See you soon!</i>	<b>Bis bald!</b>	<i>bis balt</i>
<i>Goodbye!</i>	<b>Auf Wiedersehen!</b>	<i>owf veed<sup>ə</sup>zeh'n</i>
<i>Bye!</i>	<b>Tschüss!</b>	<i>tshews</i>

#### Addressing someone

In business and formal contexts, **Frau** *Mrs/Ms* and **Herr** *Mr* are used much more frequently than in English: **Guten Tag Frau Müller/Herr Bauer!** *Hello Ms Müller/Mr Bauer!* Only when you know someone quite well do you address each other by your first names. Unmarried women are also addressed as **Frau**—the term **Fräulein** is seldom used except for very young women.

Mrs / Ms	Frau	frow
Miss	Fräulein	froilein
Mr	Herr	her
Ladies and gentlemen	Meine Damen und Herren	meinuh dahm'n unt her'n

## Offering wishes

Have a nice weekend!  
**Schönes Wochenende!**  
*shœnes vokh'n-enduh*  
 (beautiful weekend)

Have a nice holiday!  
**Schöne Ferien!**  
*shœnuh fehreeuhn*  
 (beautiful holidays)

Have a good trip!  
**Gute Reise!**  
*gootuh reizuh*  
 (good journey)

Enjoy your stay!  
**Angenehmen Aufenthalt!**  
*angenehm'n owf'ntalt*  
 (pleasant stay)

## Special occasions

Merry Christmas!  
**Frohe Weihnachten!**  
*frohuh veinakht'n*

Happy Easter!  
**Frohe Ostern!**  
*frohuh ohst'n*

Happy New Year!  
**Frohes Neues Jahr! / Alles Gute zum Neuen Jahr!**  
*frohuhs noiuh's yah<sup>a</sup> / aluhs gootuh tsum noi'n yah<sup>a</sup>*  
 (happy new year / everything good to-the new year)

Happy Birthday!  
**Alles Gute/Herzlichen Glückwunsch zum Geburtstag!**  
*ales gootuh / he<sup>a</sup>tsiikH'n glewk-vunsh tsum geboo<sup>a</sup>ts-tahk*  
 (all good/warm luck-wish to-the birth-day)

## Agreeing and disagreeing

Yes!	Ja!	yah
Yes, of course!	Ja, klar!	yah klah <sup>a</sup>
Certainly!	Sicher! / Bestimmt!	zikH <sup>a</sup> / buhshtimt
Perhaps.	Vielleicht.	feeleikHt
No!	Nein!	nein
No, unfortunately not!	Nein, leider nicht!	nein leid <sup>a</sup> nikHt
I don't know.	Ich weiß es nicht.	ikH veis es nikHt
I (don't) agree.	Ich bin (nicht) einverstanden.	ikH bin (nikHt) ein <sup>a</sup> shtand'n

## Asking questions

What?	Was?	vas
When?	Wann?	van
Where?	Wo?	voh
Where to?	Wohin?	voh-hin
Where from?	Woher?	voh-he <sup>a</sup>
Why?	Warum?	varum
Who?	Wer? (nom.)	veh <sup>a</sup>
Whom?	Wen? (acc.)	vehn
To whom?	Wem? (dat.)	vehm
How?	Wie?	vee
How much?	Wie viel?	vee feel

## Thanking, excusing and polite responses

Please.	Bitte.	bituh
Thank you!	Danke!	dankuh
Thank you very much!	Vielen Dank!	feel'n dank
Don't mention it!	Bitte!	bituh

<i>Excuse me.</i>	<b>Entschuldigung.</b>	<i>entshuldigung</i>
<i>Pardon? / Excuse me?</i>	<b>Wie bitte?</b>	<i>vee bituh</i>
<i>I'm sorry!</i>	<b>Tut mir Leid!</b>	<i>toot mee<sup>a</sup> leit</i>
<i>Very good!</i>	<b>Sehr gut!</b>	<i>zeh<sup>a</sup> goot</i>
<i>What a shame!</i>	<b>Schadel!</b>	<i>shahduh</i>

## Making yourself understood

<b><i>Do you speak ... (sing.)</i></b>	<b>Sprichst du...</b>	<i>shprikHst doo</i>
<b><i>(plural)</i></b>	<b>Sprecht ihr...</b>	<i>shprekHt ee<sup>a</sup></i>
<b><i>(formal)</i></b>	<b>Sprechen Sie...</b>	<i>shprekH'n zee</i>
<i>German?</i>	<b>Deutsch?</b>	<i>doitsh</i>
<i>English?</i>	<b>Englisch?</b>	<i>english</i>
<i>French?</i>	<b>Französisch?</b>	<i>frantsœzish</i>
<i>Spanish?</i>	<b>Spanisch?</b>	<i>shpahnish</i>

*I don't understand.*

**Ich verstehe nicht.**

*ikH fe<sup>a</sup>shtehuh nikHt*

(I understand not)

*Can you (formal) speak more slowly, please?*

**Können Sie bitte langsamer sprechen?**

*kœnen zee bituh langzahm<sup>a</sup> shprekH'n*

(can you [formal] please more-slowly speak)

*I speak a little German.*

**Ich spreche ein bisschen Deutsch.**

*ikH shprekHuh ein biskH'n doitsh*



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