

Berlitz[®]



German

Learner's Guide

GERMAN
LEARNER'S GUIDE

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Overview of the Course and Study Tips

Who's It For?

It's designed for adult learners with no previous knowledge of German, but is also useful for people who have studied German in the past and want to brush up their skills. The goal is to bring you to the point where you'll be able to function in a variety of everyday situations. You'll be working on understanding what's being said, speaking, reading, and writing.

Course Book and Audio

The course book will tell you when to work with the audio. The presenters on the audio will give additional instructions. You'll be asked to listen, to listen and repeat or answer, and to write answers in the course book.

How Is the Material Structured?

The course is divided into units, and each unit deals with a different theme. Each unit is in turn divided into three short lessons, so you'll never feel overwhelmed.

- Word Bank

Each lesson opens with a Word Bank containing new words. Don't worry, there's a glossary beginning on page 21 of this booklet containing all the terms covered in the course. Spend a few minutes reviewing the Word Bank before beginning each lesson, but don't try to learn all the meanings at once. They'll come up in context one by one.

- Close-Up

These brief segments each address a different aspect of grammar, spelling, or punctuation. Generally a rule is stated with examples, together with any major exceptions.

- Pronunciation

Take advantage of the native German voices on the audio and try to imitate exactly what you hear. Here's a trick: everyone knows how to "put on" a German accent. Do the same: try to impersonate a German. You'll be amazed—it helps.

- Did You Know?

These segments focus on cultural aspects of the major German-speaking countries. We've kept it practical, discussing levels of formality, business hours, and the like.

- Checkpoints

This segment comes at the very end of each unit and is designed to give you an opportunity to test yourself on what you've learned. All the major points of the unit are included and if you pass the test, you're ready to move on to the next unit.

- Extra

This material is designed to take on an additional challenge—to expand beyond the level of the unit. We've separated it from the rest of the unit, placing it at the back of the book.

How to Get the Most Out of the Course

Learning Styles

One of the advantages of self-study is that you can work at your own pace and in the way that suits you best. If you're visually oriented, the illustrated course book will provide excellent support. Maybe you learn best by hearing using the audio recordings. If you feel more comfortable when you know the "rules," you'll find we've accommodated you in this regard as well. But self-study does demand discipline. You can set your own pace, but you must set aside a regular block of time, at least twice a week to work with the material. It's more important to set a steady pace than an intensive one. Try to work with the material for at least 30 minutes each time—without interruption and do this at a time of day when you can best concentrate. Choose a location where you will not be interrupted, and where you can feel free to speak out loud.

Other Study Tips

- Work with the recordings.
In order to learn to speak it, you must first hear the language spoken. The recordings contain a wide range of native speakers. Listen carefully and try to imitate exactly what you hear. Listening alone is not enough. You have to repeat what you hear, and then answer the questions—out loud. Speaking a language is also a physical activity. Your vocal chords have to be trained to do things they aren't used to doing. Remember: you learn to speak by speaking! After looking over the Word Bank you'll be asked to listen to a portion of the audio. This should be done with the book closed. The "presenters" will lead you through a series of activities. They will announce the purpose of each activity and tell you what you should do.
- Don't be afraid to make mistakes.
Don't be afraid of sounding silly. To a German it sounds a lot sillier if you don't speak the way they do. Try to throw yourself into the sounds and rhythm of the language.
- Keep an open mind.
Don't expect your new language to work the same way as your own. Accept the differences. Much of the charm of a foreign language is that it can permit us to see the world from a different perspective.
- Review frequently.
Go back over the material as many times as necessary until you feel comfortable with it. One way is to go back over the Checkpoints page at the end of each unit to see if you can still perform at the same level as when you had just completed that unit.
- Enjoy yourself!
Treat this as an exciting adventure. The more you allow yourself to enjoy the program, the faster you'll improve your learning rate.

Grammar Section

This grammar section offers both a summary of the grammar throughout the course book as well as additional useful details to give you a comprehensive overview of the fundamentals of German grammar.

However, you don't need to refer to this section to complete the units successfully, and unlike the units, it's not graded according to difficulty. So you may find it better to leave referring to the Grammar Section until you've completed at least the first three units.

1. Spelling

The spelling of German corresponds quite closely to its pronunciation.

The **Aussprache** sections at the end of each unit give you detailed guidance in pronouncing German.

Letters of the Alphabet

German dictionaries list entries in the same order as English; **ä**, **ö**, **ü** and **ß** are not treated as distinct letters of the alphabet. Here are the letters and their pronunciation, in German spelling.

A . . . a	H . . . ha	(Ö) . . . ö)	(Ü) . . . ü)
(Ä) . . . ä)	I . . . i	P . . . pe	V . . . vau
B . . . be	J . . . jot	Q . . . ku	W . . . we
C . . . ze	K . . . ka	R . . . er	X . . . ix
D . . . de	L . . . ell	S . . . ess	Y . . . ypsilon
E . . . e	M . . . emm	(ß) . . . scharfes ess/ess zett)	Z . . . zett
F . . . eff	N . . . enn	T . . . te	
G . . . ge	O . . . o	U . . . u	

ss and ß

There are some general rules that will help you. **ß** is written instead of **ss** before long consonants (**Straße**, **Gruß**); **ss** is used between vowels if the preceding vowel is short (**müssen**, **Wasser**, **Flüsse**). When writing in capitals, the **ss** is always used.

In Switzerland the distinction between **ss** and **ß** is not made, only **ss** is used.

Capital Letters

Capital letters are used for the first letter of:

1. a word at the start of a sentence
2. all nouns, not just the names of persons and places
3. the polite form of address in its various forms: **Sie**, **Ihnen**, **Ihr(e)**, etc.

2. Nouns

Nouns are the labels we attach to everything in the world around us or in our own minds: people, animals, things, events, processes, ideas.

Gender

All nouns in German have one of three genders: masculine, feminine, or neuter. The gender of a noun determines the endings of any articles or adjectives that are used with it:

Masculine:	der Tisch, der Laden, der Mann	<i>table, shop, man</i>
Feminine:	die Nacht, die Pflanze, die Frau	<i>night, plant, woman</i>
Neuter:	das Ei, das Geschäft, das Kind	<i>egg, store, child</i>

The form and the meaning of a noun aren't usually much help in predicting its gender. So you should memorize the gender with each new noun. The best way of doing this is to learn not: **Tisch, Nacht, Ei**, but: **der Tisch, die Nacht, das Ei**.

Fortunately, there are reliable clues to the genders of some nouns:

Nouns for male persons are usually masculine: **der Vater, der Arzt, der Partner**, father, (male) doctor, (male) partner. But remember that it's always **die Person**, whether the person is male or female, and it's **das Kind**, regardless of the child's sex.

Nouns for female persons are usually feminine: **die Mutter, die Ärztin, die Partnerin**, mother, (female) doctor, (female) partner. But it's **das Mädchen** girl.

The following endings are reliable clues to gender:

Masculine:	<i>Most nouns ending in -er: der Fahrer, der Kugelschreiber "driver, ballpoint pen"</i>
BUT:	<i>die Schwester, die Tochter, die Mutter; das Theater, das Zimmer "sister, daughter, mother; theater, room"</i>
Feminine:	<i>Most nouns ending in -e: die Karte, die Bohne, die Bluse "card (or ticket, map), bean, blouse"</i>
BUT:	<i>der Name, der Käse, der Russe, der Franzose, "name, cheese, Russian (man), Frenchman"</i>
	<i>All nouns ending in -ei: die Bäckerei, die Konditorei, die Polizei "bakery, confectioner's, police"</i>
BUT:	<i>das Ei "egg"</i>
	<i>All nouns ending in -heit and -keit: die Gesundheit, die Pünktlichkeit "health, punctuality"</i>
	<i>All nouns ending in -ion: die Institution, die Station "institution, (subway) station"</i>
	<i>All nouns ending in -ung: die Ausstellung, die Wohnung, "exhibition, apartment"</i>
	<i>All nouns (rare exceptions) with the endings -schaft, -enz, -ie, -tät, -ur and -itis: die Wirtschaft, die Universität "economy, university"</i>
Neuter:	<i>All nouns ending in -chen: das Brötchen, das Mädchen, das Schweinchen "roll, girl, little pig"</i>
	<i>All nouns (rare exceptions) with the endings -um, -ment, -lein: das Forum, das Instrument, das Männlein "forum, instrument, little man"</i>
	<i>All verbal and adjectival nouns not describing a specific person: das Lesen, das Gute "reading, good"</i>

The Case System: nominative, accusative, genitive, dative

All languages have ways of showing what role each noun is playing in a particular sentence, for example who (or what) is doing what to whom. In English, we show this mainly by the position of the noun in the sentence. German speakers, on the other hand, show the role of a noun mainly by adding endings to any determiners or adjectives which accompany the noun (and sometimes to the noun itself).

When they are used in a sentence, nouns have one of four cases, depending on their role in the sentence: nominative (subject), accusative (direct object), genitive (genitive object), and dative (indirect object). In this course you will only need to use the nominative, accusative, and dative; the genitive is less frequently used, but we have included it in this grammar section for the sake of completeness.

As we said above, the case of a noun is signaled by the endings of any articles and/or adjectives that are used with it. Here are some examples, using only masculine nouns:

Der Hund nominative	beißt	den Mann. accusative		<i>The dog bites the man.</i>
Der Mann nominative	beißt	den Hund. accusative		<i>The man bites the dog.</i>
Der Mann nominative	gibt	dem Hund dative	den Kuchen. accusative	<i>The man gives the dog the cake. (gives the cake to the dog).</i>
Der Hund nominative	des Bäckers genitive	isst	den Kuchen. accusative	<i>The baker's dog eats the cake.</i>

Use of the Cases

Nominative: the subject of the sentence is always in the nominative case. As a rule of thumb, the subject is the person or thing performing the action of the verb. To take one of the examples from above, in the sentence **Der Hund beißt den Mann**, the dog is the one doing the biting; he is the subject of the sentence.

Accusative: the direct object of the sentence is always in the accusative case. The direct object is the person/thing directly affected by the action of the verb. So in the sentence **Der Hund beißt den Mann**, the man is the direct object, because he is the one who gets bitten.

Genitive: the genitive case is used to indicate possession. The person or thing which possesses is in the genitive case. For example, in the phrase: **der Hund des Bäckers**, it's the baker who possesses the dog, so it's the baker who's in the genitive case.

Dative: the indirect object of the sentence is always in the dative case. Think of the indirect object as the person or thing indirectly affected by the action of the verb. So in the sentence **Der Mann gibt dem Hund den Kuchen**, the dog is the indirect object, the one to whom the man gives the cake. The cake is the direct object, the thing which is given. If

there are two objects in a sentence, one of them will probably be an indirect object. If in doubt, try translating the sentence into English: if you can put “to” before any of the nouns, that will probably be the indirect object in the German sentence.

Watch out for a few verbs which only have an indirect object. For example **folgen** “to follow” and **helfen** “to help.” Think of it this way: in German, you don’t follow someone, you “follow to someone,” and you don’t help someone, you “help to someone.”

Genitive -s with Personal Names

Just as in English, you can mark someone as the possessor of something (or someone) by adding **-s** to their name. But in German, you don’t usually write an apostrophe:

Marks Freundin heißt Birgit. Mark’s girlfriend is called Birgit.

—unless the name ends in **-s**, **-ß**, **-x**, or **-z**:

Klaus’ Auto ist grün. Klaus’s car is green.

In speech, you would be much more likely to say:

Das Auto von Klaus ist grün. Klaus’s car is green. (Literally: The car of Klaus is green.)

Feminine Ending -in

To make nouns of profession or nationality feminine, you usually add **-in** to the masculine form, sometimes with Umlaut on the preceding vowel:

der Arzt	die Ärztin	doctor
der Fahrer	die Fahrerin	driver
der Verkäufer	die Verkäuferin	salesman/woman
der Engländer	die Engländerin	Englishman/woman
der Franzose	die Französin	Frenchman/woman
der Österreicher	die Österreicherin	Austrian (man/woman)
der Amerikaner	die Amerikanerin	American (man/woman)

However, it’s **der Deutsche/die Deutsche** “the German man/woman,” because the noun **Deutsch-** takes the same endings as the adjective **deutsch**.

Plurals

Few German nouns make their plurals by adding **-s**, as most English nouns do. Those that do are mostly English or French words borrowed by German: **das Souvenir—die Souvenirs**, **die Party—die Partys** (even though we would write “the parties!”). As with gender, there are few reliable clues, so you need to learn the plural with each new noun.

These are the common plural endings, and some examples of nouns which take them:

Ending	Group	Example		Meaning
-	most masculine and neuter nouns ending in -el, -en, -er:	der Onkel	die Onkel	uncle
		der Schatten	die Schatten	shadow
		das Ufer	die Ufer	(river)bank
	all neuter nouns ending in -chen:	das Mädchen	die Mädchen	girl
"-	some masculine nouns ending in -el, -en, -er:	der Apfel	die Äpfel	apple
	two feminine nouns ending in -er:	die Mutter	die Mütter	mother
		die Tochter	die Töchter	daughter
-e	some masculine nouns:	der Abend	die Abende	evening
	some neuter nouns of one syllable:	das Brot	die Brote	bread
"-e	most masculine nouns:	der Stuhl,	die Stühle	chair
"-er	most neuter nouns:	das Buch	die Bücher	book
-(e)n	most feminine nouns:	die Uhr	die Uhren	clock
		die Schule	die Schulen	school
	all feminine nouns ending in -ung:	die Zeitung	die Zeitungen	newspaper
	all masculine nouns ending in -e:	der Name	die Namen	name
		der Russe	die Russen	Russian

Dative Plural -n

All nouns in the dative plural take **-n**, except those which already have a plural ending in **-n, -x, or -s**:

die Abende	den Abenden	<i>evenings</i>
die Äpfel	den Äpfeln	<i>apples</i>
die Töchter	den Töchtern	<i>daughters</i>
BUT:		
die Souvenirs	den Souvenirs	<i>souvenirs</i>

“Weak” Masculine Nouns

Some masculine nouns (called “weak” masculine nouns) take the ending **-(e)n** in all cases except the nominative singular. Most of them end in **-e** in the nominative singular:

der Franzose	den Franzosen, des Franzosen, dem Franzosen	die Franzosen	<i>Frenchman</i>
der Held	den Helden, des Helden, dem Helden	die Helden	<i>hero</i>
der Türke	den Türken, des Türken, dem Türken	die Türken	<i>Turk(ish man)</i>
der Russe	den Russen, des Russen, dem Russen	die Russen	<i>Russian (man)</i>
	<i>Herr and Name are slightly different:</i>		
der Herr	den Herrn, des Herrn, dem Herrn	die Herren	<i>gentleman</i>
der Name	den Namen, des Namens, dem Namen	die Namen	<i>name</i>

Compound Nouns

Compound nouns are formed by joining together two or more words. Only the last one must be a noun:

<i>Adjective + noun</i>	alt “old” + Bau “building”	= Altbau “old building”
<i>Noun + noun</i>	Apfel “apple” + Saft “juice”	= Apfelsaft “apple juice”
<i>Preposition + noun</i>	aus “out” + Sicht “sight”	= Aussicht “outlook”
<i>Verb + noun</i>	fahren “to drive” + Rad “wheel”	= Fahrrad “bicycle”

German is famous (or notorious) for its long nouns, but these are just lots of shorter words written together. If you can recognize the components, you’ll be able to guess the meanings of many compounds without having to look them up.

Compound nouns take the gender of the last component:

die Familie + n + der Name = der Familienname “surname”

3. Determiners

“Determiner” is a general term for small words which place nouns in a context. Some determiners show whether the speaker assumes that we know the person, thing, or idea he or she is talking about. Other determiners show to whom the person, thing, or idea belongs, how many there are, and so on.

Definite Article:

der, die, das,...

When the definite article is used, we know exactly what’s being referred to—because it has already been mentioned, because it’s precisely defined, or because it’s obvious. For example, in the following sentence, we know which bakery—the one in the town center. The speaker also assumes that we know which town center: perhaps it’s one we’ve already been talking about, or the one where the speaker lives or is staying.

Die Bäckerei in der Stadtmitte hat bis achtzehn Uhr auf. The bakery in the town center is open until 6 P.M.

We only have one form of the definite article in English: “the.” In German, however, the form of the definite article changes according to the gender, case, and number (singular or plural) of the noun:

	Singular					Plural			
	Nominative	Accusative	Genitive	Dative		Nominative	Accusative	Genitive	Dative
Masculine	der	den	des	dem	}				
Feminine	die	die	der	der	}	die	die	der	den
Neuter	das	das	des	dem	}				

Indefinite Article: ein, eine, ein,...

The indefinite article emphasizes the type of thing or person being referred to, rather than the specific individual. In our example, the speaker doesn't care which apple or which potato you use:

Sie brauchen: einen Apfel, eine Kartoffel... You need: an apple, a potato...

The indefinite article in English is "a/an." In German the form of the indefinite article changes to show the gender and case of the noun:

	Nominative	Accusative	Genitive	Dative
Masculine	ein	einen	eines	einem
Feminine	eine	eine	einer	einer
Neuter	ein	ein	eines	einem

There is no plural form of the indefinite article in English or in German.

Demonstrative Determiners: dieser, der... (hier/da)

Demonstratives are like a strong definite article. They point to something near to or far from the speaker:

... Und hundert Gramm von dem Käse. ... And a hundred grams of the cheese.
Nein, nicht von diesem Käse, von dem No, not this cheese, that cheese
Käse da, dem Emmentaler. there, the Emmentaler.

The forms of **der**... (**hier/da**) are shown above, under "Definite article." Here are the forms of **dieser** "this":

	Singular				}	Plural			
	Nominative	Accusative	Genitive	Dative		Nominative	Accusative	Genitive	Dative
Masculine	dieser	diesen	dieses	diesem	}				
Feminine	diese	diese	dieser	dieser	}	diese	diese	dieser	diesen
Neuter	dieses	dieses	dieses	diesem	}				

Interrogative Determiners: Welche/s/r/n/m ...?

You use **welcher/welche/welches/welchen/welchem** "which" to ask someone to choose from a known collection:

Welchen Wein möchten Sie trinken? Which wine would you like to drink?

The endings are exactly the same as those for **dieser**.

Wie viele...? Wie viel...?

Wie viele means “how many.” **Wie viel** means “how much” and has no case endings.

Wie viele Flaschen Bier/Wie viel Bier
kaufen Sie pro Woche?

How many bottles of beer/How much
beer do you buy a week?

Indefinite Quantifiers:

einige, ein paar, alle, jede, kein

Like the indefinite article, these don't identify specific individuals. Some refer to the whole or none of some thing or group, others to some part or some members of it.

Einige “some”

Hallo, Birgit! Wir haben dich einige Zeit
nicht gesehen.

Hello, Birgit! We haven't seen you for
some time.

Ich habe einige Bücher gekauft.

I've bought some books.

Einige corresponds to the English “some.” It refers to a fairly small amount or number. **Einige** takes the same endings as **diese**.

Ein paar “a few”

Ein paar means “a few,” so its meaning is very similar to that of **einige**, although slightly more casual. It doesn't take any endings:

Ich habe ein paar Sachen für dich.

I have a few things for you.

Alle “all (the)”

Alle “all” or “all the” takes the same endings as **dieser**.

Alle Banken in dieser Stadt schließen um
sechzehn Uhr.

All (the) banks in this town close at 4 P.M.

Jede “every”

Jede “every” can only be used in the singular. Its endings are the same as **diese**. In the plural, use **alle** instead:

Wie oft kommen die Busse?

How often do the buses come?

Jede halbe Stunde. (Alle dreißig Minuten.)

Every half an hour. (Every thirty minutes.)

Kein “no/not a/not any”

Kein rather than **nicht ein** is used to express “not a/any.” It takes the same endings as **ein**:

Ich habe kein Geld.

I don't have any money.

Ich habe noch keine Antwort bekommen.

I haven't received an answer yet.

Unlike **ein**, **kein** can be used in the plural, where it takes the same endings as **diese**:

Bernd hat keine Freunde.

Bernd doesn't have any friends.

Possessive Determiners: mein, dein, sein,...

Possessive determiners are used to show that the noun belongs to somebody or something. Here are the basic forms:

Singular	Plural
mein . . . my	unser . . . our
dein . . . your (inf)	euer . . . your (inf.)
Ihr . . . your (form.)	Ihr . . . your (form.)
sein . . . his, its	ihr . . . their
ihr . . . her	

When you use any of these possessives, you need to add the ending belonging to the same gender, case, and number as the thing possessed. Here are all the forms of **mein**. The other possessives take the same endings:

	Singular				Plural			
	Nominative	Accusative	Genitive	Dative	Nominative	Accusative	Genitive	Dative
Masculine	mein	meinen	meines	meinem				
Feminine	meine	meine	meiner	meiner	meine	meine	meiner	meinen
Neuter	mein	mein	meines	meinem				

Halt! Das ist meine Handtasche!

Stop! That's my handbag!

Dein Vater hat seinen Hut verloren.

Your father has lost his hat.

Note that the **-er** in **unser** and **euer** is part of the word, not an ending. The **-e-** in **eu(e)r** is often dropped before endings:

Wir fahren mit unserem Auto.

We drive with our car.

Eu(e)re Tochter ist acht Jahre alt, nicht wahr?

Your daughter is eight years old, isn't she?

4. Adjectives

Adjectives describe nouns. They do this in one of two ways:

1. They come directly before the noun they describe, and take endings:

Horst hat einen roten Pullover.

Horst has a red pullover.

2. They are a separate element in the sentence, and don't take endings:

Sein Pullover ist nicht rot, er ist lila.

His pullover isn't red, it's purple.

Adjective Endings

The ending an adjective takes depends on the gender, case, and number of the noun it describes, and on any determiners that precede it. If the adjective is not preceded by an article or quantifier, the ending of the adjective takes the same ending as the article would, except in the genitive case, where it ends in **-en**.

der Sommer *the summer* schöner Sommer *beautiful summer*
 die Bäume *the trees* grüne Bäume *green trees*

In most cases the adjective is preceded by an article. The endings are as follows:

	Nominative def./indef. article	Genitive def./indef. article	Accusative def./indef. article	Dative def./indef. article
Masc.	-e/-er	-en/-en	-en/-en	-en/-en
Fem.	-e/-e	-en/-en	-e/-e	-en/-en
Neut.	-e/-es	-en/-en	-e/-es	-en/-en
Plural	-en/-e	-en/-er	-en/-e	-en/-en

Remember that all adjectives in the genitive and dative case, except the plurals, take **-en** endings.

Participles as Adjectives

The past participles of verbs can be used as adjectives, and take the same endings as any other adjective. Some of them you have met in this course:

abgemacht <i>settled</i>	from	abmachen <i>to settle, agree</i>
ausgezeichnet <i>excellent</i>	from	auszeichnen <i>to distinguish</i>
begeistert <i>enthusiastic</i>	from	begeistern <i>to enthuse</i>
entspannt <i>relaxed</i>	from	entspannen <i>to relax</i>
geöffnet <i>open(ed)</i>	from	öffnen <i>to open</i>

Comparison

When we say that something is “easier,” “harder,” “bigger,” or “smaller” than something else, we are using the comparative. When we are comparing more than two things, we say that one of them is “the easiest,” “the hardest,” and so on: this is the superlative. As in English, most German adjectives add **-er** to form their comparative, and **-(e)st** to form the superlative. For example:

Dieser Wein ist billig, dieser da ist billiger, aber dieser hier ist am billigsten.

This wine is cheap, that one there is cheaper, but this one here is the cheapest.

Note that in German you say literally “at the cheapest”: **am (= an + dem) billigsten**. Comparatives and superlatives take adjectival endings just like any other adjective. For example:

billig	+	er	+	e
adjective	+	comparative	+	adjectival ending
<i>(in this instance: plural, nominative, no determiner)</i>				

Billigere Weine schmecken mir nicht.

I don't like cheaper wines.

The following adjectives have Umlaut in the comparative and superlative:

alt <i>old</i>	älter	ältest-	kurz <i>short</i>	kürzer	kürzest-
arm <i>poor</i>	ärmer	ärmst-	lang <i>long</i>	länger	längst-
dumm <i>stupid</i>	dümm	dümmst-	nah <i>near</i>	näher	<u>nächst-</u>
gesund <i>healthy</i>	gesünder	gesundest-	scharf <i>sharp</i>	schärfer	schärfst-
groß <i>big</i>	größer	<u>größt-</u>	schwach <i>weak</i>	schwächer	schwächst-
hoch <i>high</i>	<u>höher</u>	höchst-	stark <i>strong</i>	stärker	stärkst-
jung <i>young</i>	jünger	jüngst-	warm <i>warm</i>	wärmer	wärmst-
klug <i>clever</i>	klüger	klügst-			

Note the irregular forms in **groß**, **hoch**, and **nah**. Only two adjectives have completely irregular comparatives and superlatives:

gut <i>good</i>	besser	best-
viel <i>much/many</i>	mehr	meist-

5. Pronouns

The word “pronoun” means “in place of a noun.” Pronouns are used instead of nouns as a way of avoiding clumsy repetition.

Personal Pronouns: ich, du, er, sie, es,...

Here are the personal pronouns in the nominative, accusative, and dative cases:

Singular				Plural			
Nominative	Accusative	Dative		Nominative	Accusative	Dative	
ich	mich	mir	“I, me, to me”	wir	uns	uns	“we, us, to us”
du	dich	dir	“you, to you” (inf.)	ihr	euch	euch	“you, to you” (inf.)
Sie	Sie	Ihnen	“you, to you” (form.)	Sie	Sie	Ihnen	“you, to you” (form.)
er	ihn	ihm	“he, him, to him”	sie	sie	ihnen	“they, them, to them”
sie	sie	ihr	“she, her, to her”				
es	es	ihm	“it, to it”				

There is also a genitive form of the personal pronouns, but it is very rarely used.

Informal and Formal “you”

In English, we have only one pronoun for addressing people: “you.” In German, it is more complex. There is one form of address for people you know well: **du** or **ihr** (plural). This is how you address close friends, family, and children. The other form of address is for people you know less well or not at all: **Sie** (singular and plural). When in doubt, use the formal **Sie**. After getting to know someone better, people often offer the **du**.

Du, **ihr**, and **Sie** all require different verb endings: see the section on verbs below.

Reflexive Pronouns: mich, dich, sich,...

Reflexive pronouns are simply personal pronouns which refer back to the subject of the sentence, as when you do something to yourself:

Ich rasiere mich jeden Morgen. I shave (myself) every morning.

If the subject of the sentence is **ich, du, wir, or ihr**, then the reflexive pronoun is exactly the same as the accusative personal pronoun. All other subjects – **Sie, er, sie, es, Peter, die Katze**, etc. – have the reflexive pronoun **sich**. For example, here's the verb **sich sonnen** "to sunbathe":

Ich sonne <u>mich</u> .	Wir sonnen <u>uns</u> .
Du sonnst <u>dich</u> .	Ihr sonnt <u>euch</u> .
Sie sonnen <u>sich</u> . (form. sing.)	Sie sonnen <u>sich</u> .
Er sonnt <u>sich</u> .	Sie sonnen <u>sich</u> . (form. plur.)
Die Touristin sonnt <u>sich</u> .	

The Indefinite Pronouns: man, ein(er), jemand, etwas

The indefinite pronoun **man** is only used in the nominative case and means "one," i.e., "people in general." The ending does not change. **Ein(er)** without a following noun also means "one," but it can refer to things as well. It can be subject, direct, or indirect object. Its ending changes the same way as that of the indefinite article.

Man kann das machen. One can do that. (nominative)
Einer war hier. Someone was here. (nominative)

Jemand means "someone," **niemand** means "no one." They can take all cases. The ending also changes as the indefinite article does. **Etwas** means "something" and **nichts** means "nothing." They can be the subject, or the direct or indirect object. Their endings don't change.

Er gibt jemandem das Buch. He gives the book to someone. (dative)
Es ist niemandes Buch. It's nobody's book. (genitive)
Ich sehe etwas/nichts. I see something/nothing. (accusative)

Note that most indefinite adjectives can also be used as indefinite pronouns, i.e.: **jeder** (everyone), **einige** (some), **alle** (all), **viel(e)**, (much/many), etc.

Viele haben ein Auto. Many (people) have a car.
Sind alle da? Are all (people) here?

Interrogative Pronouns: wer, was

Wer? means "who?" and has the accusative **wen?** "whom?" and the dative **wem?** "to whom?"
Was? "what?" has only the one form.

Wem hast du das Geld gegeben? To whom did you give the money?
Was hast du gesagt? What did you say?

6. Prepositions

A preposition is a connecting word. It links the noun that follows it with the rest of the sentence, to say where something or someone is (e.g. **auf dem Tisch** “on the table”), or how, when, or where the action of the verb takes place (e.g. **mit dem Zug** “by train,” **in zwei Stunden** “in two hours,” **in der Stadtmitte** “in the town center”).

Prepositions and Case

German prepositions can be grouped according to the case of the noun which follows them.

Prepositions + Accusative Case

These prepositions are always followed by the accusative case:

bis by; until	gegen against; towards
durch . . . through; by means of	ohne without
für for	um . . . around; at (clock time)

Ich arbeite heute bis 20 Uhr.

I'm working until 8 P.M. today.

Ich muss bis 8 Uhr dort ankommen.

I must get there by 8 o'clock.

Um 21 Uhr muss ich zu Hause sein.

I have to be home at 9 P.M.

Die Post ist gleich um die Ecke.

The post office is just around the corner.

Prepositions + Dative Case

These prepositions are always followed by the dative case:

aus . . . out of (places, motives, and materials)	nach after (time); to (place)
bei near to; at the house of	seit since
gegenüber opposite	von from; of; by
mit with; by (means of transportation)	zu to (place, person)

Der Supermarkt ist gegenüber der Kneipe.

The supermarket is opposite the bar.

Ich wohne hier seit einem Monat.

I've lived here for a month.

Prepositions + Accusative or Dative Case

These prepositions require the accusative when they indicate movement relative to the noun, and the dative in other situations.

an on (a vertical surface); at	neben next to
auf on (a horizontal surface); at	über over; above
entlang along; alongside	unter under; less than (quantity)
hinter behind	vor in front of; ago
in into; in	zwischen between

Ich gehe in die Stadt.

I'm going into town.
(i.e., I'm going into town from outside.)

Ich gehe in der Stadt spazieren.

I'm going for a walk in town.
(i.e., I'm going for a walk within the town.)

Gehen Sie unter die Brücke.

Go under the bridge.

Die Zeitung ist unter dem Tisch.

The newspaper is under the table.

Prepositions + Definite Article: ins, im, zum,...

When certain forms of the definite article are used with certain prepositions, the two are contracted to form one word. Here are some of the most common ones:

in + das = ins	an + das = ans
in + dem = im	an + dem = am
zu + dem = zum	auf + das = aufs
zu + der = zur	bei + dem = beim

The uncontracted forms (**in dem**, etc.) aren't incorrect, but they're less frequently used, especially in speech. They usually point to one specific noun:

Er ist in dem Zimmer.

He's in that room.

7. Verbs

Verbs tell us about the actions, situation, or state of mind of the subject of the sentence.

Er fährt morgen nach London.

He's going to London tomorrow.

Er ist heute in Wien.

He's in Vienna today.

Er braucht ein Auto.

He needs a car.

Infinitives

The form of a verb you look up in a dictionary is the **infinitive**: the form which isn't limited (made **finite**) by being given endings for a particular tense (past, present, future, etc.) and person (I, you, we, he/she/it, etc.). By itself, the infinitive isn't much use: you can't usually make a sentence without making it finite or adding a finite form of another verb. Infinitives in German end in **-en**: **kommen, gehen, sehen**, etc. (Bear in mind that some finite forms also end in **-en**, e.g., **wir kommen, Sie gehen, sie sehen**.)

Past Participles

Past participles are used with the present tense of the verbs **haben** and **sein** to form the perfect tense (see below). As discussed in "Adjectives" above, they may also be used as adjectives.

The form of the past participle varies from verb to verb. Here are the main patterns:

1. The regular pattern is:

ge + verb stem (the infinitive minus -en) + (e)t = past participle

For example, **sagen** “to say,” and **regnen** “to rain”:

ge + sag + t = gesagt
ge + regn + et = geregnet

2. However, many common verbs don't follow this pattern. They take **ge-** and **-en**, and often have a change in the stem vowel. For example, **kommen** “to come,” and **helfen** “to help”:

ge + komm + en = gekommen
ge + holf + en = geholfen

3. Other verbs have consonant changes as well, for example **gehen** “to go”:

ge + gang + en = gegangen

4. Verbs with inseparable prefixes such as **be-**, **er-**, and **ver-** don't take the prefix **ge-**. So **besuchen** “to visit” becomes **besucht**, **erreichen** “to reach” becomes **erreicht** and **verstehen** “to understand” becomes **verstanden**.
5. Verbs with separable prefixes such as **ab-**, **auf-**, and **um-** put **-ge-** between the prefix and the verb stem. So **abholen** “to pick up” becomes **abgeholt**, **aufstehen** “to get up” becomes **aufgestanden**, and **umsteigen** “to change (buses etc.)” becomes **umgestiegen**.

Auxiliary Verbs

These are used in combination with another verb, either to form a compound tense (the perfect, the future, or the conditional; see below for an explanation of these tenses), or to show the subject's attitude to an action (the modal auxiliaries).

Modal Auxiliaries

The main modal auxiliaries are: **dürfen** “to be allowed to, may,” **können** “to be able to, can,” **müssen** “to have to, must,” and **wollen** “to want to.”

Modal auxiliaries are used with the infinitive of the other verb:

<i>Darf ich Ihnen meine Frau vorstellen?</i>	May I <u>introduce</u> my wife to you?
<i>Ich kann heute nicht kommen.</i>	I <u>can't come</u> today.
<i>Ich muss nach Hause gehen.</i>	I <u>must go</u> home.
<i>Wollen Sie mitkommen?</i>	<u>Do you want</u> to come along?

We also introduce you to **ich möchte** “I would like to” and **ich sollte** “I ought to”; these are special forms of the verbs **mögen** “to like” and **sollen** “to be supposed to” respectively:

<i>Möchten Sie mitkommen?</i>	Would you like to come along?
<i>Sie sollten aufpassen.</i>	You should be careful.

Separable Verbs

Separable verbs consist of a normal verb and a preposition. In the infinitive, the preposition is prefixed to the verb, but when the verb is used with a subject, the preposition goes to the end of the sentence:

aus+füllen	Ich <u>f</u> ülle es <u>aus</u> .	<i>I fill it out.</i>
ab+reisen	Ich <u>r</u> eise heute <u>ab</u> .	<i>I leave today.</i>

In the Word Bank and in the glossary at the back of this book, we've marked separable verbs by "+" between prefix and verb.

Tenses

Present Tense

The present tense is the most useful tense in German. It has an even wider range of uses than the present tense in English, so you can get a long way with just this one tense. The present tense is used to describe:

1. what's happening now:

Was machst du da oben?

What are you doing up there?

Ich rasiere mich.

I'm shaving.

2. what happens sometimes, usually, or always:

Samstags gehe ich oft ins Kino.

I often go to the movies on Saturdays.

3. what's going to happen (often fairly soon):

Morgen kommt Peter zu Besuch.

Peter's coming to visit tomorrow.

Nächste Woche fahre ich nach Berlin.

I'm going to Berlin next week.

Pass auf, du holst dir einen Sonnenbrand! Be careful, you'll get sunburned!

This is a very common way of talking about future events in German, particularly if there's a time expression in the sentence which puts the action clearly in the future (e.g. **morgen, nächste Woche**). Notice that English uses either the present continuous or the true future (I will...) in this context.

4. what's been happening up to now and may be going to continue

Ich bin seit zwei Monaten in München.

I've been in Munich for two months.

Notice that English uses the perfect tense here (I have been, lived etc.).

Future Tense

The future tense is much less frequently used in German than in English: in most situations you can use the present tense instead. The future tense is formed with the auxiliary verb, **werden**, plus the infinitive of the main verb:

Es wird regnen.

It will rain/It's going to rain.

The future tense is used when the present tense wouldn't clearly locate the action in the future. **Es regnet** would mean "It's raining" rather than "It's going to rain." **Es regnet bald**, on the other hand, clearly means "It's going to rain soon."

Perfect Tense

This is the main past tense introduced in this course. It is formed from the present tense of **haben** (or in some cases **sein**) and the past participle of the main verb.

Ich habe Orangen gekauft.

I (have) bought (some) oranges.

David hat mir geholfen.

David helped me.

Gestern habe ich Lisa gesehen.

I saw Lisa yesterday.

The perfect tense in German is very versatile: you can use it to talk about most actions and situations in the past. Contrast this with the English perfect (I have bought, I have helped, etc.), which can only be used in certain specific contexts. For example, "I have seen Lisa yesterday" would be incorrect English, but **Gestern habe ich Lisa gesehen** is completely correct German.

Certain verbs require **sein** instead of **haben** to form the perfect tense. These verbs often describe movement.

Ich bin nach Hannover gefahren.

I went to Hanover.

Er ist vier Stunden spazieren gegangen.

He walked for four hours.

Simple Past Tense

This past tense is used all the time in newspapers, books, etc., but is less common in speech. For this reason, you won't come across it much in this course. One exception is the simple past tense of **sein** "to be." This is used in preference to the perfect in speech and writing. Here are its forms:

ich war	wir waren
du warst	ihr wart
Sie waren	sie waren
er/sie/es war	

Imperative

This is the command form of the verb. It generally comes first in the sentence:

Bring die Zeitung her!

Bring the newspaper over here! (du form)

Kommt nicht spät nach Hause!

Don't come home late! (ihr form)

Passen Sie auf!

Watch out! (Sie form)

Gehen wir in die Stadt!

Let's go into town! (wir form)

There are only these four forms: the **du**, **ihr**, **Sie**, and **wir** forms. The **du** form consists of just the stem of the verb (sometimes with **-e**); the **ihr** form adds **-t** to the stem, and the **wir** and **Sie** forms add **-en**. Notice that **wir** and **Sie** are stated with imperatives, but **du** and **ihr** are not.

8. Adverbs

Adverbs describe how something is done, for example “quickly,” “slowly,” and so on. In English, we have the suffix “-ly” to show that a word is an adverb. In German, most adverbs are identical in form to adjectives.

Das hast du nicht sehr schnell gemacht. You didn't do that very quickly.

9. Word Order

In simple statements, word order in German is much like in English. The subject comes first, followed by the verb, followed by the rest of the sentence:

*Meine Mutter [subject] hat [verb] einen
kleinen Hund [object].* My mother has a small dog.

However, the fact that German has case endings to mark the functions of nouns in a sentence means that German word order can be much more flexible:

Nein, meine Mutter hat keine Katze. No, my mother doesn't have a cat.
*Einen kleinen Hund [object] hat
[verb] sie [subject]!* She has a small dog!

Forming Questions

With Inversion

In German, one of the most common ways to make a question is to swap the positions of the subject and verb. This kind of question expects a “yes” or “no” answer. Compare these statements and questions:

<i>Sie sind aus Berlin.</i>	You are from Berlin.
<i><u>Sind Sie</u> aus Berlin?</i>	<u>Are you</u> from Berlin?
<i>Wir frühstücken um acht.</i>	We have breakfast at eight.
<i><u>Frühstücken wir</u> um acht?</i>	<u>Shall we/Do we have</u> breakfast at eight?
<i>Sie sehen das Schild.</i>	You see the sign.
<i><u>Sehen Sie</u> das Schild?</i>	<u>Do you see</u> the sign?

Notice that German is much more straightforward than English in this respect: there are no extra words like “do” to worry about.

With Question Words

Another way to form a question is to use a question word like **wer?** “who?” **wo?** “where?” **was** “what?” **wann?** “when?” **wie?** “how?” or **warum?** “why?” The sequence here is: question word, verb, subject:

<i><u>Wer</u> ist dieser Mann?</i>	<u>Who</u> is this man?
<i><u>Wann</u> kommen Sie an?</i>	<u>When</u> do you arrive?
<i><u>Warum</u> bleiben Sie nicht länger?</i>	<u>Why</u> don't you stay longer?
<i><u>Wie</u> kommen Sie nach Hause?</i>	<u>How</u> are you getting home?

This kind of question expects new information from the speaker, not just “yes” or “no.”

German-English Glossary

This glossary contains all the words from the Word Bank sections of the units and additional vocabulary you may find helpful.

Abbreviations and Symbols

- m* masculine noun *f* feminine noun
n neuter noun *pl.* plural noun
wm weak masculine noun (takes the ending -(e)n in all cases except the nominative)
+ *acc.* a preposition followed by the accusative case
+ *dat.* a preposition followed by the dative case
+ *acc./dat.* a preposition requiring the accusative (when describing movement) or the dative case (when describing position)
* an irregular or “strong” verb: see the grammar section for how to form the different tenses
+ (between prefix and verb) marks a separable prefix
+ **sein** a verb which forms its perfect tense with **sein** rather than **haben**

Plurals are given in parentheses after each noun. (-) signifies that the noun does not change form in the plural.

A

ab (+ *dat.*) *from*
ab+biegen* (+ **sein**) *to turn off*
Abend (-e) (m) *evening*
Abendessen (-) (n) *evening meal, dinner*
abends *in the evening(s)*
aber *but*
ab+fahren* (+ **sein**) *to depart*
Abfahrt (-en) (f) *departure*
Abgemacht! *OK, that's settled!*
ab+gießen* *to drain*
ab+heben* *to answer the phone*
(literally: to pick up)
ab+holen *to collect*
ab+reisen (+ **sein**) *to leave, depart*
ab+steigen* (+ **sein**) *to get off, dismount*
ach *oh*
Aerobik (f) *aerobics*

Ägypten *Egypt*
ähnlich *similar*
aktiv *active, energetic*
Alkohol (m) *alcohol*
alkoholarm *low in alcohol*
alle ... Minuten *every ... minutes*
aller/e/es *all*
alles *everything*
als *than*
also... *well...*
alt *old*
Altbau (-ten) (m) *old building*
Alter (n) *age*
am liebsten *(to like, etc.) most of all*
am meisten *the most*
am Tag *a day, per day*
an (+*acc./dat.*) *at*
an+fangen* *to start*
angeln *to fish*

an+halten* *to stop (in car)*
an+kommen* (+ **sein**) *to arrive*
Anmeldeformular (-s) (n) *registration form*
Anruf (-e) (m) *phone call*
an+rufen* *to phone*
an+schalten *to switch on*
Anschrift (-en) (f) *address*
Ansichtskarte (-n) (f) *postcard*
an+ziehen, sich* *to get dressed*
Apfelsaft (-säfte) (m) *apple juice*
Apotheke (-n) (f) *pharmacy*
Apparat (-e) (m) *phone; apparatus*
Arbeit (f) *work*
arbeiten *to work*
arbeitslos *unemployed*
Architekt/in (-en/nen) (m/f) *architect*
Ärger (m) *annoyance; trouble*
Art (-en) (f) *type, kind*

Arzt (-e) (m)/Ärztin (-nen) (f) doctor
Arztpraxis (-praxen) (f) doctor's office
Asien Asia
Atembeschwerden (pl) breathing difficulties
Aua! Ouch!
Aubergine (f) eggplant, aubergine
auch also
auf (+ acc./dat.) on
Auf Wiederhören. goodbye (on the phone)
Auf Wiedersehen. goodbye
auf+geben* to give up
aufpassen to look out, watch out
Aufschnitt (m) slices of assorted cold meats
auf+stehen* (+ sein) to get up
Augenblick (-e) (m) moment
aus (+ dat.) from; out (of)
aus (Weizen) from (wheat)
aus+füllen to fill out
aus+gehen* (+ sein) to go out
ausgewogen balanced
ausgezeichnet excellent; very well
aus+halten* to put up with
aus+richten to tell something (to someone)
aus+sehen* to look (ill, well, etc.)
außerdem also
aus+steigen* (+ sein) to get out
Aussicht (-en) (f) outlook
Ausstellung (-en) (f) exhibition
Australien Australia
Auswahl (f) choice
Ausweisnummer (-n) (f) ID number, passport number
Auto (-s) (n) car
Autobahn (-en) (f) freeway, motorway, highway
Autofahrer/-in (-/-nen) (m/f) car driver

B

Bäckerei (-en) (f) bakery
Bad (-er) (n) bath
Badezimmer (-) (n) bathroom
Bahn (-en) (f) railroad, railway
Bahnhof (-höfe) (m) (rail) station

Bank (-en) (f) bank
Bauarbeiter/in (-/nen) (m/f) building/construction worker
Bayern Bavaria (German state or Land)
Bedienung (f) service
begeistert enthusiastic
Begrenzung (f) limit, border
bei (+ dat.) at (someone's home); for (e.g. work for a company)
beide both
bekannt (well) known
bekommen* to get
belegt occupied, taken
beliebt (bei + dat.) popular (with)
Berg (-e) (m) mountain
Bern Berne
Beruf (-e) (m) profession
berühmt famous
beschreiben* to describe
besetzt occupied
besichtigen to visit
Besprechung (-en) (f) meeting
bestellen to reserve, order
bestimmt definite; definitely
Besuch (-e) (m) visit
besuchen to visit
Bett (-en) (n) bed
bewegen, sich to be active
Bewegung (f) exercise, movement
Bewerbungsgespräch (-e) (n) job interview
Bibliothek (-en) (f) library
Bier (-e) (n) beer
Bildschirm (-e) (m) screen, monitor
billig cheap
bis (+ acc.) to, until; by
bitte please
Bitte schön. Here you are.
Bitte schön? Yes, please? (i.e., What would you like?)
blau blue
Blauschimmelkäse (m) blue cheese
bleiben* (+ sein) to stay
blitzen: es blitzt there's (a flash of) lightning
Blumenladen (-läden) (m) flower shop, florist's
Bluse (-n) (f) blouse

Bohne (-n) (f) bean
Bratwurst (-e) (f) German grilled sausage
brauchen to need
brauen to brew
Brauerei (-en) (f) brewery
braun brown
brennen* to burn
Briefmarke (-n) (f) (postage) stamp
bringen* to bring
Brot (-e) (n) bread
Brötchen (-) (n) bread roll
Brücke (-n) (f) bridge
Bruder (-) (m) brother
Buchhalter/in (-/nen) (m/f) accountant
Buchhandlung (-en) (f) bookshop
buchstabieren to spell
Bühne (-n) (f) stage
Büro (-s) (n) office
Bus (-se) (m) bus

C

Café (-s) (n) café
Cappuccino (-s) (m) cappuccino
Champagner (m) Champagne
Chef/in (-s/-innen) (m/f) boss
Cola (-s) (f) cola
Computer (-) (m) computer
Computerspiel (-e) (n) computer game
Cornflakes (pl) cornflakes
Currywurst (-e) (f) curried sausage

D

da there
da vorne over there
Dachterrasse (f) roof terrace
daher from that
dahin there
Dame (-n) (f) lady
Damenmode (-n) (f) ladies' fashion
Damenwäsche (f) lingerie
danach after that
danke thank you
dann then, in that case
darf may (from dürfen)
das this; that
dass that (e.g. tell him that ...)

dauern to last
dein/e your (informal singular)
delikat delicate; delicious
Deutsch German (language)
Deutschland Germany
Diät (f) diet
Diät halten to keep to a diet
dick fat
diese these
dieser/diese/dieses this
donnern to thunder
doof silly
Doppelzimmer (-) (n) double room
Dorf ("er) (n) village
dort there
dringend urgent
drittens thirdly
dritter/e/es third
Duft ("e) (m) aroma, (pleasant) smell
dunkel dark
durch+setzen, sich to get one's way
durch+stellen to put through
Durchschnitt (m) average
dürfen* to be allowed to, may
Dusche (-n) (f) shower
 duschen, (sich) to take a shower

E

Ecke (-n) (f) corner
Ei (-er) (n) egg
ein paar a few
Einbahnstraße (-n) (f) one-way street
einfach single; simple, simply
[r]ein+fahren to turn in, enter
einige some
ein+kaufen to shop, to go shopping
Einkaufsbummel (-) (m) shopping spree
einmal once
ein+schlafen * (+ sein) to fall asleep
Eintopf (-gerichte) (m) stew
ein+werfen* to insert (a letter)
Einzelzimmer (-) (n) single room
(ein)ziehen (in...) to move (into)
elegant elegant

Elektrogerät (-e) (n) electrical appliance
Eltern (pl) parents
empfehlen* to recommend
Ende (des Jahres) (n) end (of the year)
England England
Englisch English (language)
Enkelkind (-er) (n) grandchild
Enkelsohn (-söhne) (m) grandson
Enkeltochter (-töchter) (f) granddaughter
entschuldigen to excuse
Entschuldigung! Excuse me!
entspannen, sich to relax
entspannt relaxed
Entspannung (f) relaxation
er he
Erdgeschoss (n) first floor (US); ground floor (UK)
Erfolg (m) success
Erholung (f) relaxation, recuperation
Erkältung (f) cold
ernähren, sich to eat and drink
erreichen to reach
Ersatzteil (-e) (n) replacement part, spare part
erschöpft exhausted
erst only (in time phrases), not until
erstens firstly
erster/e/es first
erwarten to expect, await
es gibt there is/are
es it
Es macht nichts. It doesn't matter. Never mind.
Es tut mir leid. I'm sorry.
Espresso (-s) (m) espresso
essen* to eat
Esslöffel (-) (m) tablespoon
Esstisch (-e) (m) dining table
Esszimmer (-) (n) dining room
Etage (-n) (f) floor, story
Etagenplan (-pläne) (m) floor plan (in department store, etc.)
etwas a bit; something; rather
euer/eure your (informal plural)
Experte (-n) (wm) expert
Export (-) (n) Export beer
extra extra

F

fabelhaft brilliant, excellent
Fabrik (-en) (f) factory
Fahrbahn (-en) (f) carriageway, lane
fahren* (+ sein) to go (by vehicle)
Fahrkarte (-n) (f) ticket (for travel)
Fahrrad (-räder) (n) bicycle
Fahrschein (-e) (m) ticket (for bus, etc.)
Fahrzeugtyp (-en) (m) type of vehicle
falsch false
Familie (-n) (f) family
Familienname (-n) (m) surname, last name
Familienstand (m) marital status
Farbe (-) (f) color
faul lazy
faulenz to laze around
fein fine
Ferien (pl) vacation
fern+sehen* to watch television
Fernsehen (n) television (broadcasting)
Fernseher (-) (m) television
fertig ready, finished
Festwoche (-n) (f) festival week
fettarm low fat
Feuerwehr (f) fire brigade
Film (-e) (m) movie
finden* to find
Fisch (-e) (m) fish
fit fit (healthy)
fit halten, sich* to keep fit
Fleisch (n) meat
Florenz Florence
Flug ("e) (m) flight
Flur (m) hall
Fluss ("e) (m) river
folgen (+ dat.) to follow
Folklore (f) folk music
Formular (-e) (n) form
Fotoabteilung (-en) (f) photographic department
Fotoapparat (-e) (m) camera
Fotograf /in (-en/nen) (wm/f) photographer
französisch French

Frau (-en) (f) wife; Mrs./Ms.; woman
frei free, vacant
frei+nehmen* take off from work
Freizeit (f) spare time, free time
Fremdsprache (-n) (f) foreign language
freuen auf (+ acc.), **sich** to look forward to
Freund (-e) (m) (male) friend; boyfriend
Freundin (-nen) (f) (female) friend; girlfriend
freundlich friendly
Freut mich. Pleased to meet you. (literally: pleases me)
friedlich peaceful
frisch fresh
Friseur /in (-e/nen) (m/f) hairdresser
fruchtig fruity
Fruchtsaft (-säfte) (m) fruit juice
früh early
Frühstück (n) breakfast
frühstücken to have breakfast
Führerschein (-e) (m) driver's license
Fundbüro (-s) (n) lost property office
für (+ acc.) for
furchtbar terrible

G

ganz very; completely
gar nicht not at all
Garten (") (m) garden
Gast (""-e) (m) guest
Gästezimmer (n) guest room
Gebiet (-e) (n) region, area
Geburtstag (-e) (m) birthday
Geduld (f) patience
gefährlich dangerous
gefallen* (+ dat.) to please (someone)
Gefühl (-e) (n) feeling(s)
gefunden past participle of **finden**
gegenüber (von) (+ dat.) opposite
gehen to go
gekocht boiled; cooked
gelb yellow
Geld (n) money

Geldautomat (-en) (m) (wm) ATM, cash dispenser
Geldbuße (-n) (f) fine
Gemüse (n) vegetable(s)
gemustert patterned
gemütlich cozy
genau exact(ly)
genauso just as
genießen* to enjoy
geöffnet open, opened
gradeaus straight ahead
Gericht (-e) (n) dish (meal)
gern gladly
Geschäft (-e) (n) store; business
Geschäftsreise (-n) (f) business trip
Geschenk (-e) (n) gift
geschieden divorced
geschlossen closed
geschmackvoll full of taste
Geschoss (-e) (n) story, floor
Geschwister (pl) brothers and sisters, siblings
gestern yesterday
gestreift striped
gestresst stressed
gesund healthy
Gesundheit (f) health
Gesundheit! Bless you! (after sneeze)
getrennt separated
gewesen past participle of **sein**
Gewitter (-) (n) storm
gewöhnlich usual(ly)
Gitarre (-n) (f) guitar
Glas (""-er) (n) glass
Glatteis (n) black ice
glauben to believe
gleich just; shortly; immediately
Gleis (-e) (n) rail, platform, track
Gletscher (-) (m) glacier
Glück (n) good fortune; happiness
glücklich happy
Grad (-e) (m) degree
Gramm (-) (n) gram
Grapefruitsaft (-säfte) (m) grapefruit juice
grau gray
Griechenland Greece
Grillfest (-e) (n) barbecue

Grippe (f) flu
groß big
Großbritannien Great Britain
Größe (-n) (f) size
Großmutter (-mütter) (f) grandmother
Großstadt (-städte) (f) city, metropolitan area
Großvater (-väter) (m) grandfather
grün green
Gruß (""-e) (m) greeting
gut good; well
gut aussehend good-looking
Gute Nacht. Good night.
Guten Abend. Good evening.
Guten Appetit! Enjoy your meal!
Guten Morgen. Good morning.
Guten Tag. Hello. Good afternoon.

H

haben* to have
Haftpflichtversicherung (f) liability insurance
Hähnchen (-) (n) chicken
halb zwei half past one (literally: half to two)
halber/e/es half (a)
hallo hi
Halsband (""-er) (n) collar (of cat or dog)
Halt! Stop!
Handtasche (-n) (f) handbag
Handy (-s) (n) cell phone
hassen to hate
hässlich ugly
hätte(n) gern would like (from **haben** and **gern**)
Hauptattraktion (-en) (f) main attraction
hauptsächlich mostly
Hauptverkehrszeit (f) peak hours (for traffic)
Haus (Häuser) (n) house
Hausaufgaben machen to do homework
Haushaltswaren (pl) household items
heiß hot
heißen to be called (name)

hell *bright, light (in color)*
Hemd (-en) (n) *shirt*
herb *dry (of wine or beer)*
Herbst (m) *autumn, fall*
Herd (-e) (m) *cooker, stove*
herein *in (here)*
Herr (-en) (wm) *gentleman; Mr.*
Herr Ober! *Waiter!*
Herrenmode (-n) (f) *men's fashion*
Herrenwäsche (f) *men's underwear*
herrlich *wonderful(ly)*
herunter-fallen* (+ sein) *to fall down*
herzhaft *heartly*
heute Abend *this evening*
heute *today*
hier *here*
hierzulande *in this country, over here*
Hilfe (f) *help*
Hilfe! *Help!*
hin und zurück *round trip, return*
hin+fallen* (+ sein) *to fall down*
Hitze (f) *heat*
Höchst- *highest*
holen *to fetch; to get (sickness etc.)*
hören *to hear; listen to*
Hose (-n) (f) *pair of pants (US), trousers*
Hotel (-s) (n) *hotel*
hübsch *pretty*
Hund (-e) (m) *dog*
husten *to cough*

I

ich *I*
Idee (-n) (f) *idea*
Igitt! *Yuck!*
ihn *him (accusative object)*
Ihnen (to) *you*
Ihr/e *your*
im (= in dem) *in the (masculine or neuter)*
im Durchschnitt *on average*
im kommenden Jahr *in the coming year*
im Moment *at the moment*
Imbiss (-e) (m) *snack bar*

immer *always*
immer wieder *again and again, all the time*
in (+acc./dat.) *in(to)*
in drei Jahren *in three years' time*
in letzter Zeit *lately*
in Ordnung *in order, working*
in Pension/Rente gehen *to retire*
in zwei Monaten *in two months' time*
informieren *to inform*
Inhalt (m) *content*
inklusive *included; inclusive*
Insel (-n) (f) *island*
insgesamt *altogether*
Institution (-en) (f) *institution*
Inszenierung (-en) (f) *production (theater)*
Interesse (-n) (n) *interest*
Internet (n) *Internet*
Interview (-s) (n) *interview*
irgendein *some (or other)*
Irland *Ireland*
Italien *Italy*

J

ja *yes*
Jacke (-n) (f) *jacket*
Jahr (-e) (n) *year*
Jahreszeit (-en) (f) *season*
jeder/e/es *every, each*
jetzt *now*
Job (-s) (m) *job (informal)*
Joga (m) *yoga*
Joghurt (m) *yogurt*
jung *young*
Junk Food (n) *junk food (informal)*

K

Kaffee (m) *coffee*
kalt *cold*
kalt essen *to eat a cold meal*
Kanada *Canada*
kann *can (from können)*
Kännchen (-) (n) *pot (of tea or coffee)*
kaputt *broken*
Karte (-n) (f) *card*

Kartoffel (-n) (f) *potato*
Käse (-n) (m) *cheese*
Käsebrot (-e) (n) *cheese sandwich*
Kasse (-n) (f) *box office, cash register*
Kassierer /in (-/nen) (m/f) *cashier*
Katze (-n) (f) *cat*
kaufen *to buy*
kaum *scarcely (any)*
kein/e *none, not any*
Keller (-) (m) *cellar, basement*
Kellner/in (-/nen) (m/f) *waiter, waitress*
kennen* *to know (someone or something)*
Kilometergeld (n) *mileage (literally: kilometer money)*
Kind (-er) (n) *child*
Kino (-s) (n) *movie theater, cinema*
kitschig *kitschy*
Klasse (-n) (f) *class*
Klasse! *Great! (informal)*
Klassik (f) *classical music*
Kleiderschrank (-schränke) (m) *wardrobe*
klein *small*
Kleinanzeige (f) *small classified ad*
Kleinwagen (-) (m) *small car*
klettern (+ sein) *to climb*
Klima (n) *climate*
knacken *to crack, click*
knapp *short (time)*
Kneipe (-n) (f) *traditional German bar or pub*
Knoblauch (m) *garlic*
kochen *to cook, boil*
Koffer (-) (m) *suitcase*
Köln *Cologne*
Kombi (-s) (m) *station wagon*
kommen* (+ sein) *to come*
können* *to be able to, can*
Konzert (-e) (n) *concert*
Kopfsalat (m) *lettuce*
Kopfschmerztablette (-n) (f) *headache tablet*
Korfu *Corfu*
Kosmetika (pl) *cosmetics*
kosten *to cost*

kräftig powerful, full-bodied (wine or beer)
krank melden, sich to call in sick
krank sick, ill
Krankenhaus (-häuser) (n) hospital
Krankenpfleger /in (-en/nen) (m/f) nurse
Krankswagen (-) (m) ambulance
Kraut (Kräuter) (n) herb
Kreditkarte (-n) (f) credit card
kriegen to get
Küche (-n) (f) kitchen; cuisine
Kuchen (-) (m) cake
Kugelschreiber (-) (m) ballpoint pen
kühl cool
Kühlschrank (-schränke) (m) refrigerator
Kultur (f) culture
Kundenberater /in (-en/nen) (m/f) customer adviser
Kunst (" -e) (f) art
Künstler /in (-/nen) (m/f) artist
Kurs (-e) (m) course
Küste (-n) (f) coast

L

Laden (") (m) shop, store
Land (" -er) (n) German state; country; countryside
Landschaft (-en) (f) landscape
Langlauf (m) cross-country skiing
langsamer slower, more slowly
langweilig boring
lassen* to leave, let
leben to live
Lebensmittel (pl) food, groceries
lecker delicious
ledig single, unmarried
Lehrer /in (-/nen) (m/f) teacher
leicht easy; light (in taste, weight)
leider unfortunately
Leinenhemd (-en) (n) linen shirt
Leitung (-en) (f) connection (phone)
lesen* to read
letzter/e/es last
Leute (pl) people
lieb dear, sweet, lovely

Liebe (f) love
lieben to love
lieber (nicht) rather (not)
Liebling (-e) (m) darling
Liebings- favorite
liegen* to lie
lila purple
Limousine (-n) (f) sedan car, saloon car
Linie (-n) (f) line
links left
Linsensuppe (-n) (f) lentil soup (Berlin specialty)
Luft (f) air
Lust (f) liking (not lust!)
Lust haben to want to, to fancy (doing something)

M

machen to make; to do
(Es) Macht nichts. (It) doesn't matter. Never mind.
Magazin (-e) (n) magazine
Magenschmerzen (pl) stomach pains
Magenverstimmung (f) upset stomach
malen to paint
manchmal sometimes
Mann (" -er) (m) husband; man
Marmelade (-n) (f) jelly (U.S.), jam (British)
Marokko Morocco
mäßig moderate(ly)
Meer (-e) (n) sea
Meeresfrüchte (pl) seafood
Mehl (n) flour
meiden to avoid
mein/e my
meistens mostly
melden, sich to get in touch
Menge (f) a lot (of)
Meter (-) (m) meter
mich me (accusative object)
mieten to hire, rent
Milch (f) milk
minus minus
Minute (-n) (f) minute

mischen to mix
mit (+ dat.) with
Mitfahrzentrale (-n) (f) car rental agency
mit+kommen* (+ sein) to come too
Mittagessen (-) (n) lunch
Mitteilung (-en) (f) message
mittelgroß medium-sized
mittlerer/e/es medium-sized
möchte(n) would like (from **mögen**)
Mode (-n) (f) fashion
modern modern
mögen* to like
möglich possible
Möglichkeit (-en) (f) possibility
Moment (-e) (m) moment
Morgen (-) (m) morning
morgen früh tomorrow morning
morgen tomorrow
morgens in the mornings
Mountainbike fahren/ mountainbiken to mountain-bike

müde tired
München Munich
Musik (f) music
Müsli (n) muesli
müssen* to have to, must
Mutter (") (f) mother
Muttersprache (-n) (f) native language, mother tongue
Mutti Ma, Mom

N

nach (+ dat.) past, after; to (town, country, etc.)
nach Hause home (direction)
nach oben upstairs (movement)
nach unten downstairs (movement)
Nachrichten (pl) news
nächste Woche next week
nächsten Monat next month
nächster/e/es next
nächstes Jahr next year
Nacht (" -e) (f) night
Nachtschicht (-en) (f) night shift
naja well ... (expresses doubt)
Name (-n) (um) name
natürlich of course, naturally

Nebel (m) fog
neben (+ acc./dat.) next to
Nebenanschluss (-schlüsse) (m) extension
neblig misty, foggy
nehmen to take
nein no
Nelke (-n) (f) carnation
nett nice
neu new
Neubau (-ten) (m) new building
Neubauwohnung (-en) (f) newly built apartment
Neuseeland New Zealand
nicht not
Nicht wahr? Right?
Nichtraucher/in (-/nen) (m/f) nonsmoker
nichts nothing
nie never
niedlich cute
niemand nobody
niesen to sneeze
noch still
Noch etwas? Anything else?
noch nicht not yet
nochmal again
Nordirland Northern Ireland
normal normal
Notdienst (m) emergency service
notwendig necessary
Nudel (-n) (f) noodle
Nudelgericht (n) pasta dish
Nummer (-n) (f) number

O

oben upstairs (position)
Ober! Waiter!
Obst (n) fruit
Obsthändler (-) (m) fruit seller
oder or
offen open
Öffnungszeiten (pl) opening times
oft often
oje oh dear
Öl (-e) (n) oil
Olive (-n) (f) olive
Oper (-n) (f) opera

orange orange (color)
Orange (-n) (f) orange
Orangensaft (-säfte) (m) orange juice
Oregano (m) oregano
original original
Österreich Austria
östlich (von + dat.) east (of)

P

Paar (-e) (n) pair
Paprikapulver (n) paprika (powder)
Paprikaschote (-n) (f) red capsicum, red pepper (vegetable)
Parfüm (n) perfume
Parfümerie (-n) (f) perfumery
parken to park
Parkgebühr (-en) (f) parking fee
Parkuhr (-en) (f) parking meter
Partner/in (-/nen) (m/f) partner
Party (-s) (f) party
Passant/-in (-en/-nen) (m/f) passer-by (male/female)
passen (zu + dat.) to suit, go well (with)
passieren (+ sein) to happen
peinlich embarrassing
Person (-en) (f) person
Pfeffer (m) pepper (spice)
Pfiff (m) flair
Pils (-) (n) Pilsener beer
Pilz (-e) (m) mushroom
Pizza (-s) (f) pizza
Plan (" -e) (m) plan
planmäßig scheduled
Platz (" -e) (m) square; seat
plus plus
Polen Poland
Polizei (f) police
Pommes (frites) (pl) french fries
Portion (-en) (f) portion
Portugal Portugal
Porzellan (n) porcelain, china
Post (f) post office
Postleitzahl (-en) (f) zip code, post code
Preisklasse (-n) (f) price class
Preisliste (-n) (f) price list

Prima! Great!
pro per
probieren to try, taste
Problem (-e) (n) problem
produzieren to produce
Professor /in (-en/nen) (m/f) professor
Programm (-e) (n) program
Prost! Cheers!
Pullover (-) (m) sweater
pünktlich punctual
Puppe (-n) (f) doll

Q

Quark (m) soft curd cheese
Quatsch! Rubbish!
Querstraße (-n) (f) intersection, junction

R

Rad fahren (+ sein) to cycle
Radio (-s) (n) radio (equipment and broadcasting)
Rang (" -e) (m) circle (in theater)
rasieren, sich to shave
rauchen to smoke
Raucher/in (-/nen) (m/f) smoker
rechnen mit (+ dat.) to reckon with, expect
Rechnung (-en) (f) check (bill)
recht gut very well
Recht haben* to be right
rechts right
reden to talk
regelmäßig regular(ly)
Regenschauer (-) (m) rainshower
Region (-en) (f) region
Regisseur /in (-e/nen) (m/f) (film) director
regnen to rain
reiben* to grate; to rub
reich rich
Reihenhaus(-häuser) (n) town house
Reise (-n) (f) journey, trip
Reiseziel (-e) (n) destination
reiten to ride (horse, etc.)
reizbar irritable
relaxen to relax (informal)

Rennfahrer /in (-/nen) (m/f) race car driver
Rentner /in (-/nen) (m/f) pensioner
reservieren lassen to reserve (literally: to let reserve)
Restaurant (-s) (n) restaurant
Richtung (-en) (f) direction
Rock (" -e) (m) skirt
rosarot pink
Rose (-n) (f) rose
rot red
Rotwein (-e) (m) red wine
Rückenschmerzen (pl) back pain(s)
Ruhetag (-e) (m) day off, closed day
ruhig quiet, peaceful

S

S-Bahn (= Schnellbahn) (f) local train
Sahne (f) cream
Saison (-s) (f) season (commercial)
Salamibrot (-e) (n) salami sandwich
Salat (-e) (m) salad, lettuce
Salz (n) salt
Sänger/in (-/nen) (m/f) singer
Sauna (Saunen) (f) sauna
schaden (+ dat.) to hurt, damage (someone, something)
Schafskäse (-n) (m) sheep's milk cheese, feta
Schale (-n) (f) bowl
schälen to peel
scharf (" -er) hot (spicy); sharp
Schauspieler /in (-/nen) (m/f) actor, actress
Schild (-er) (n) sign
schlafen* to sleep
Schlafzimmer (-) (n) bedroom
schlank slim
Schleswig-Holstein Schleswig-Holstein (German state or Land)
schlicht simple, plain
Schlips (-e) (m) tie
schmecken (+ dat) to taste (to someone)
Schmerz (m) pain
schmerzhaft painful
Schnee (m) snow

schneien to snow
Schokolade (f) chocolate
schon already
Schon gut! OK, fine! (conceding)
schon wieder again already (surprise or impatience)
schön beautiful
Schottland Scotland
schrecklich horrible, terrible
Schreibtisch (m) desk
Schreibwarenladen (-läden) (m) stationery store
Schule (-n) (f) school
schwach (" -er) weak
schwanger pregnant
schwarz black
Schweinchen (-) (n) toy pig, little pig
Schweiz, die (f) Switzerland
schwer heavy
Schwester (-n) (f) sister
schwierig difficult
schwimmen* (+ sein) to swim
schwindelig dizzy
See (-n) (m) lake
Segelkurs (-e) (m) sailing course
segeln to sail
sehen* to see
Sehenswürdigkeit (-en) (f) sight
sehr very
Seidenbluse (-n) (f) silk blouse
seit since
Seite (-n) (f) side
selbständig independent(ly), for oneself
selten rarely
Senf (m) mustard
Sessel (-) (m) armchair
Sie you
sitzen* to sit
Sitzung (-en) (f) (committee) meeting
Ski fahren* (+ sein) to ski
so etwas something like that
Socke (-n) (f) sock
Sofa (-s) (n) sofa
Sohn (" -e) (m) son
sollen to be supposed to, should

sollte(n) should (from **sollen**)
sommerlich summery
Sonne (f) sun
sonnen, sich to sunbathe
Sonnenbrand (m) sunburn
sonnig sunny
Sonst noch etwas? Anything else?
Sorge (-n) (f) care, worry
Soße (-n) (f) sauce
Souvenir (-s) (n) souvenir
Spanien Spain
Spaß (m) fun
Spätzle (pl) type of pasta from Swabia
spazieren (+ sein) to stroll, walk
Speisekarte (-n) (f) menu
Spezialität (-en) (f) specialty
spielen to play
Spielwaren (pl) toys
Spielwarenabteilung (-en) (f) toy department
Sport (m) sport
Sport treiben* to do sports
Sportartikel (pl) sports goods
sportlich aktiv sporty, actively engaged in sport
sprechen to speak
Squash squash (sport)
Staatsangehörigkeit (f) nationality
stammen aus (+ dat.) to come from (originally)
ständig always, constantly
stark (" -er) strong
Stau (-s) (m) traffic jam
stehlen* to steal
steigen auf (+ acc.)* **(+ sein)** to climb up
steinreich stinking rich, rolling in money (literally: stone rich)
stellen to put
Stil (-e) (m) style
still still (not sparkling); quiet
stimmen to be right (a statement, etc.)
Stock (" -e) (m) story, floor
stockender Verkehr slow traffic
Störung (-en) (f) interruption, disturbance

Strand (‘-e) (m) beach
Straße (-n) (f) street, road
Straßenbahn (f) trolley bus, streetcar
Streit (m) argument
Stress (m) stress
stressfrei stress-free
stressig stressful
Student /in (-en/nen) (m/f) student
Stuhl (‘-e) (m) chair
Stunde (-n) (f) hour
suchen to look for
Süd- southern
Südafrika South Africa
südlich (von+dat) south of
Suppe (-n) (f) soup
surfen to surf
süß sweet

T

Tag (-e) (m) day
tagsüber during the day
Tal (‘-er) (n) valley
tanzen to dance
tauchen to dive
Taxi (-s) (n) taxi
Taxifahrer/in (-/nen) (m/f) taxi driver
Taxistand (‘-e) (m) taxi stand
Techniker /in (-/nen) (m/f) technician
Teddy (-s) (m) teddy bear
Tee (m) tea
Telefonzelle (-n) (f) phone booth
Temperatur (-en) (f) temperature
Tennis (n) tennis
Termin (-e) (bei + dat.) (m) appointment (with)
teuer expensive
Theater (-) (n) theater
Tiefst- lowest
Tisch (-e) (m) table
Tochter (‘) (f) daughter
Toilette (-n) (f) toilet
toll great (colloquial)
Tomate (-n) (f) tomato
topfit in great shape
total total(ly)
Tourist/in (-en/-nen) (wm/f) tourist

traditionell traditional
traurig sad
treffen* to meet
treffen, sich* to meet each other
trinken* to drink
trocken dry
Tschüs. Bye. (informal)
tun* to do
Tunesien Tunisia
Türkei, die (f) Turkey

U

U-Bahn (= Untergrundbahn) (f) subway
U-Bahn-Station (-en) (f) subway station
übel sick (nauseous)
über (+ acc./dat.) more than
überall everywhere
überanstrengen, sich to overexert oneself
Übergewicht (n) excess weight
überhaupt at all
überlegen to think, consider
übermorgen the day after tomorrow
Überraschung (-en) (f) surprise
Überstunden machen to work overtime
übrigens by the way
Uhr (-en) (f) clock; o'clock (in times)
um (+ acc.) around; at
Um wie viel Uhr? At what time?
um+steigen* (+ sein) to change (trains, etc.)
unbedingt definitely
und and
unfähig incompetent
Unfall (-fälle) (m) accident
ungefähr about
unfreundlich unfriendly
Universität (-en) (f) university
Universitätsklinik (-en) (f) university clinic
unpünktlich unpunctual
unten downstairs
unter der Woche during the week, on weekdays
unter+stellen to store, keep
unterstützen to support

Urlaub (-e) (m) vacation
Urlaub machen to take a vacation, go on vacation
USA, die (pl) the U.S.A.

V

Vater (‘) (m) father
Vati Pa, Dad
Verband (-bände) (m) bandage
verbinden to connect
vereinbaren to agree upon
Vereinigten Staaten, die (pl) the United States
veinzelt isolated
vergleichen to compare
verheiratet married
Verkäufer /in (-/nen) (m/f) sales clerk
Verkehr (m) traffic
Verkehrsmittel (-) (n) means of transport
verlassen* to leave
verlieren* to lose
vermeiden* to avoid
Versicherung (-en) (f) insurance
Verspätung (-en) (f) delay
verstauchen to sprain
verstehen* to understand
verstehen, sich* to get along, understand each other
verstopft blocked
versuchen to try
viel much
viele many
vielleicht perhaps
Viertel (-) (n) quarter
Viertel nach/vor a quarter past/to
Viertelstunde (-n) (f) quarter of an hour
viertens fourthly
vierter/e/es fourth
Volkstheater (n) folk theater
völlig complete(ly)
Vollkornbrot (-e) (n) wholemeal bread
Vollwertkost (f) wholefood
von (+ dat.) from; of
vor (+ acc./dat.) before, in front of; to; ago

vorgestern *the day before yesterday*
vor+haben* *to intend*
Vorname (-n) (wm) *first name*
vorsichtig *careful*
vorstellen *to introduce*
Vorwahl (-en) (f) *area code*

W

wach *awake; alert*
Wagen (-) (m) *car*
wählen *to select*
wahr *true*
Wales *Wales*
wandern (+ sein) *to hike*
Wandertour (-en) (f) *hiking trip*
Wann? *When?*
war(en) *was/were (simple past tense of sein)*
warm essen* *to eat a hot meal*
warm *warm*
warten *to wait*
Warum? *Why?*
Was für... ? *What (sort of)... ?*
Was ist los? *What's the matter?*
was *something (short for etwas)*
Was? *What?*
Wäsche (f) *laundry*
WC (-s) (n) *WC, bathroom*
Wechselgeld (n) *change (money)*
weh tun *to hurt*
weil *because*
Wein (-e) (m) *wine*
Weinbau (m) *wine growing*
Weinfest (-e) (n) *wine festival*
weiß *know (infinitive: wissen)*
weiß *white*
Weißwein (-e) (m) *white wine*
weit *far*
weiter *further*
Weizen (m) *wheat*
Wem? *To whom? (dative of wer?)*
weniger *less*
wenigstens *at least*
wenn *if*
werden* (+ sein) *to become; auxiliary verb for future tense*
werdende Mutter *mother-to-be*
Wetter (n) *weather*

Wettervorhersage (-n) (f) *weather forecast*
wie *as (in comparison), how*
Wie bitte? *Pardon?*
Wie geht es Ihnen? *How are you?*
Wie geht's? *How are you? (informal)*
Wie lange? *How long?*
Wie viel? *How much?*
Wie viele? *How many?*
Wie wär's mit ...? *How about ...?*
wiederholen *to repeat*
Wien *Vienna*
Wiese (-n) (f) *meadow, lawn*
Wieso? *How come?*
Wildwasser (n) *white water*
willkommen *welcome*
windig *windy*
wissen* *to know*
Wo? *Where?*
Woche (-n) (f) *week*
Wochenende (-n) (n) *weekend*
Woher? *Where from?*
Wohin? *Where to?*
wohl *well*
wohnen *to live*
Wohnort (-e) (m) *place of residence (town)*
Wohnung (-en) (f) *apartment*
Wohnzimmer (-) (n) *living room*
Wolke (-n) (f) *cloud*
wollen* *to want to*
wunderbar *wonderful*
wunderschön *lovely*
wünschen *to wish, want*
würde(n) *would (form of werden)*
würzig *spicy*
Z
zahlen (bezahlen) *to pay*
zeigen *to show*
Zeit (-en) (f) *time*
Zeitung (-en) (f) *newspaper*
Zeitungshändler (-) (m) *news dealer, newsagent*
zentral *central*
ziemlich *quite*
Zigarette (-n) (f) *cigarette*
Zimmer (-) (n) *room*

Zitrone (-n) (f) *lemon*
Zoo (-s) (m) *zoo*
zu (+ dat.) *to*
zu *too*
zu Abend essen *to dine, have one's evening meal*
zu Besuch sein *to visit*
zu Fuß *on foot*
zu Hause *at home*
zu Mittag essen *to have lunch*
Zucchini (Zucchini) (m) *zucchini, courgette*
Zucker (m) *sugar*
Zug (""-e) (m) *train*
Zuhause (n) *home*
zu+hören *to listen*
Zukunft (f) *future*
zuletzt *finally*
zum (= zu dem) *to the (masculine and neuter)*
zum Abendessen *for dinner*
zum Beispiel *for example*
zum Frühstück *for breakfast*
zum Mittagessen *for lunch*
zu+machen *to close*
zu+nehmen* *to gain weight*
zur (= zu der) *to the (feminine)*
zur Zeit *at the moment*
zurück+rufen* *to call back*
zusammen+stoßen* (+ sein) *to collide, crash together*
Zuschlag (-schläge) (m) *supplement*
Zutat (-en) (f) *ingredient*
zuviel *too much*
zweimal *twice*
zweitens *secondly*
zweiter/e/es *second*
Zwiebel (-n) (f) *onion*