Laura Calabrese

Überblick über die Deutsche Grammatik

Overview of German Grammar

Das Internationale Phonetische Alphabet

The International Phonetic Alphabet

In order to most accurately express the sounds of the German language, I will be using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) to transliterate words and sounds. This is the phonetic writing system used in some dictionaries, with some familiar letters and some strange ones. In order for you to understand the way I explain this stuff, you will have to learn some of the IPA. Here is your quick German-related overview. First we'll do consonants. See Table 1 below.

Konsonanten

Table 1: IPA for German - Consonants			
IPA Symbol	Corresponding Sound in Example	IPA Symbol	Corresponding Sound in Example
[p]	**sp**ell	[ʒ]	plea**s**ure
[b]	**b**ell	[tʃ]	**ch**eck
[m]	**m**o**m**	[dʒ]	**j**aw
[pf]	**pf**ui	[k]	**c**ow
[f]	**f**rom	[g]	**g**row
[v]	o**f**	[ŋ]	runni**ng**
[n]	ru**nn**ing	[ç]	like a hissing cat
[r]	like Spanish 'rolled r'	[x]	Scottish "lo**ch**"
[s]	**s**ize	[ʁ]	rolled r' but in the back of your throat instead of the front/top of your mouth
[z]	si**z**e	[j]	**y**es
[l]	**l**a	[h]	**h**oney
[ts]	po**ts**	[ʔ]	the sound made in your throat in the middle of "uh-oh"
[ʃ]	**sh**ell		

Vokale

Table 2: IPA for German - Vowels			
IPA Symbol	**Corresponding Sound**	**IPA Symbol**	**Corresponding Sound**
i:	b**ee**t; long	ə	**a**ppeal
y:	Like [i], but with the lips rounded as for [u]; long	ɛ:	b**e**t; long
u:	b**oo**t; long	ɛ	b**e**t
ɪ	b**i**t	œ	Like [ɛ], but with the lips rounded like [ɔ].
ʏ	Like [ɪ], but with the lips rounded as for [ʊ].	ɔ	**awe**
ʊ	b**oo**k	ɐ	c**u**t
e:	ch**a**otic; long	a	**a**isle
ø:	Like [e], but with the lips rounded like [o]; long	a:	**a**isle; long
o:	g**o**; long		

| Table 3: Diphthongs	
IPA	**Corresponding Sound in Example**
[aʊ]	c**ow**
[ɔʏ]	b**oy**
[aɪ]	**eye**

Now you know the IPA symbols relevant to German phonology. Use these pages as reference if you need it when IPA is used in this book.

1

Rechtschreibung und Aussprache

Spelling and Pronunciation

die Rechtschreibung - spelling, orthography
die Aussprache - pronunciation
buchstabieren - to spell
aussprechen - to pronounce
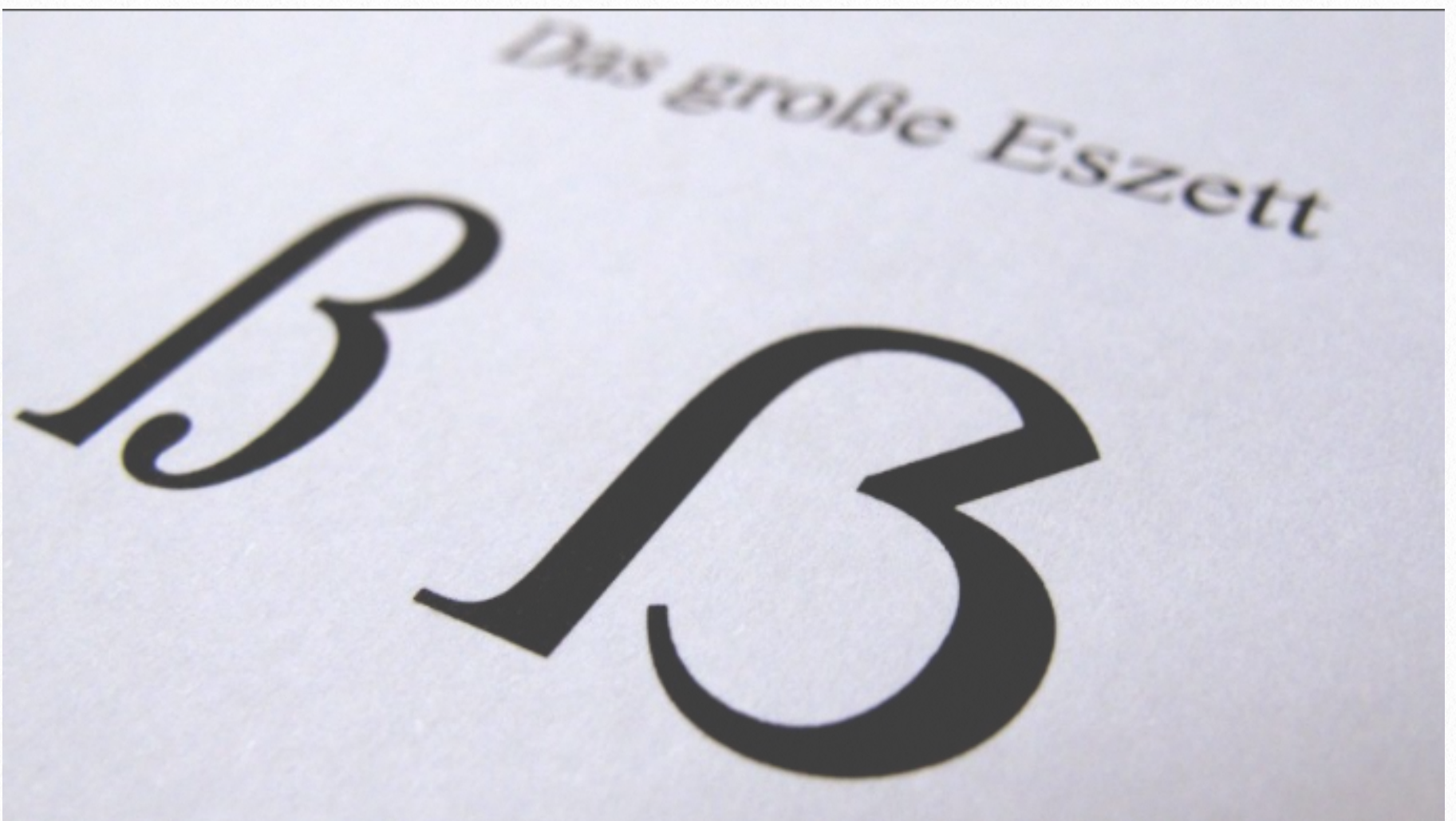
First we will take a look at spelling and pronunciation of the German language. Please note that over the years, the official German language has undergone some spelling reforms (Rechtschreibreforme), which change the standard spelling rules of the language. Most recently, in 2017, the German Spelling Council added a capital Eszett (ẞ - compare to lowercase ß). Thus, German orthography will vary depending on the date of the publication.

Deutsche Phonologie

German Phonology

Figure 1: German Consonant Chart

CONSONANTS	Bilabial		Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar		Postalveolar		Alveolo-palatal	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar		Uvular	Pharyngeal	Epiglottal	Glottal
Pulmonic																	
Plosive	p	b			t	d						k	g				ʔ
Nasal		m			n								ŋ				
Trill																	
Tap or Flap																	
Fricative			f	v	s	z	ʃ	ʒ			ç	x		ʁ			h
Lateral fricative																	
Approximant											j						
Lateral approximant					l												
Affricate	pf				ts		tʃ	dʒ									

Above is a chart showing all the consonant sounds featured in Standard German. Below is a chart of all the vowels. Symbols are from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). You can view an interactive IPA chart with links to audio files at www.ipachart.com. The nuances of each sound are hard to describe, so it's best to listen to an example.

Figure 2: German Vowel Chart
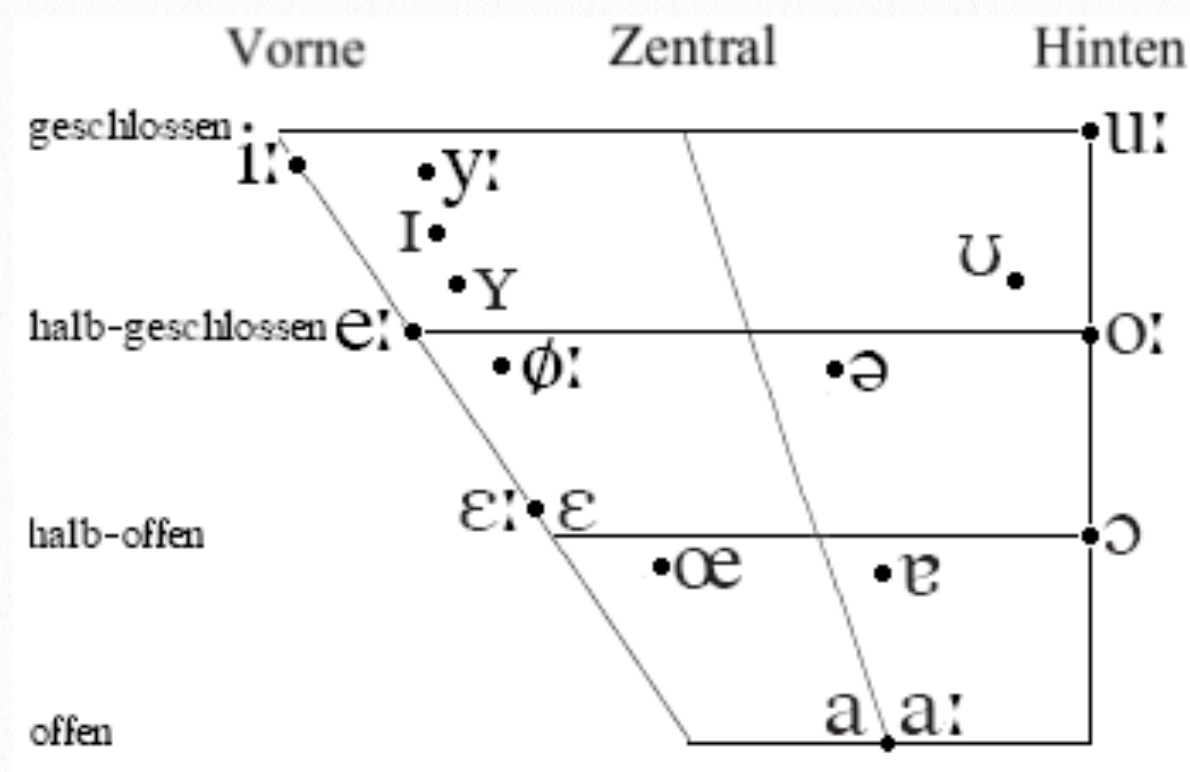
Table 4: The German Alphabet			
Letter		**Name**	**Pronunciation**
A	a	/aː/	a, ah, and aa: [aː]; otherwise: [a]
B	b	/beː/	at end of syllable: [p]; otherwise: [b] or [b̥]
C	c	/tseː/	before ä, e, and i: [ts]; otherwise: [k]
D	d	/deː/	at end of syllable: [t]; otherwise: [d] or [d̥]
E	e	/eː/	e, eh, and ee: [eː]; unstressed: [ə]; otherwise: [ɛ]
F	f	/ɛf/	[f]
G	g	/geː/	when part of word-final -ig: [ç] or [k] (Southern German); at the end of a syllable: [k]; otherwise: [g] or [g̊]
H	h	/haː/	before a vowel: [h]; when lengthening a vowel: silent
I	i	/iː/	i, ie, ih, and ieh: [iː]; otherwise: [ɪ]
J	j	/jɔt/	[j] in most words; [ʒ] in loanwords from French (as in jardin, French for garden)
K	k	/kaː/	[k]
L	l	/ɛl/	[l]
M	m	/ɛm/	[m]
N	n	/ɛn/	[n]
O	o	/oː/	o, oh, and oo: [oː]; otherwise: [ɔ]
P	p	/peː/	[p]
Q	q	/kuː/	[k]
R	r	/ɛʁ/	[ʁ] before vowels, [ɐ] otherwise
S	s	/ɛs/	before and between vowels: [z]; before consonants or when final: [s]; before p or t at the beginning of a syllable: [ʃ]
T	t	/teː/	[t]
U	u	/uː/	u and uh: [uː]; otherwise [ʊ]
V	v	/faʊ/	in foreign borrowings not at the end of a word: [v]; otherwise: [f]
W	w	/veː/	[v]
X	x	/ɪks/	[ks]
Y	y	/ˈʏpsilɔn/	[yː]; otherwise: [ʏ]
Z	z	/tsɛt/	[ts]

German has some common consonant clusters that are associated with specific sounds. Some of these but not all are also present in English. Mostly, they are not difficult to pronounce. See Table 5 below.

Consonant Cluster	Pronunciation
Table 5: Consonant Clusters	
bb, dd, etc.	Double consonants are pronounced as single consonants, except in compound words.
ch	after a, o, and u: [x]; after other vowels or consonants or initially: [ç]; the suffix -chen always [ç]
chs	[ks] within a morpheme (e.g. Dachs [daks] "badger"); [çs] or [xs] across a morpheme boundary (e.g. Dachs [daxs] "roof (genitive)")
ck	[k], follows short vowels
dsch	[dʒ] or [d̥ʒ̊], used in loanwords and transliterations.
dt	[t]
ng	usually: [ŋ]; in compound words where the first word ends in "n" and the second word begins with "g" (-n·g-): [ng] or [nɡ̊]
nk	[ŋk]
pf	[pf]
ph	[f]
qu	[kv]
sch	[ʃ]; however, [sç] when part of the -chen diminutive of a word ending in "s", (e.g. Häuschen "little house, cottage")
ss	[s]
ß	[s]
th	[t]
ti	in -tion, -tiär, -tial, -tiell: [tsɪ̯]; otherwise: [ti]
tsch	[tʃ]
tz	[ts]
tzsch	[tʃ]
zsch	[tʃ]

The German alphabet consists of 26 letters, the same as the English alphabet (see Table 1 on previous page) and four special characters (see Table 2 below). The special characters used in German orthography are Ä (ä), Ö (ö), Ü (ü), and ß (ß). The vowels with the dots over them are called umlauts. German umlauts represent sounds that do not occur in English phonology and may be hard to pronounce for English speakers learning German.

Table 6: Special Characters			
Letter		**Letter Name in German**	**Pronunciation**
Ä	ä	/ɛː/	[ɛː] or [eː]
Ö	ö	/øː/	ö, öh: [øː]; otherwise: [œ];
Ü	ü	/yː/	ü and üh: [yː]; otherwise [ʏ]
ß	ß	/ɛsˈtsɛt/	/s/

German also features pairs of vowels called diphthongs. Listed to the right are the diphthongs that occur in the German language orthographically and phonetically.

Table 7: Diphthongs	
Diphthong	**Pronunciation**
au	[aʊ]
eu	[ɔʏ]
äu	[ɔʏ]
ei	[aɪ]
ai	[aɪ]
ey	[aɪ]
ay	[aɪ]

Rechtschreibung

Spelling

Spelling in German is somewhat more straightforward than it is in English. In linguistics terms, German has shallow orthography - a single letter or consonant cluster is more likely to correspond to only one sound. English has deep orthography. To apply a famous example, according to our spelling rules, the word *fish* could be spelled p - h - o - t - i - *photi*. (*ph* as in *Stephanie*, *o* as in *women*, *ti* as in *evolution*). This peculiarity doesn't apply as much to German. Therefore, it is relatively easy to read and write.

Still, there are some general rules you should memorize that will make the less intuitive parts easier to memorize. From here on, I will place a letter or letter cluster in <angle brackets> when I'm talking about the letter(s), and [square brackets] when I'm talking about the corresponding sound. The symbols I use to denote sounds come from the IPA. You can find an interactive IPA chart as well as a complete catalog of sound sample files online at www.ipachart.com.

Here are the spelling rules:

1. Don't get the diphthongs <ei> and <ie> confused. Look at the second letter in the pair, and tell yourself the name of that letter IN ENGLISH. <ei> corresponds to English <I> because the <i> comes second and <ie> corresponds to English <E> because the <e> comes second. That's how you pronounce those diphthongs. Every time.

2. Umlauts are sometimes written as diphthongs: the letter without the dots above it + <e> is how you formulate the spelling approximation used when umlauts aren't readily available, as in when using a non-German keyboard. That means <ä> = <ae>, <ö> = <oe>, and <ü> = <ue>. This shortcut can usually be used when looking up words in online dictionaries, for example. Similarly, <ß> is often substituted with <ss>.

3. <sch> is always [ʃ] but <s> is [ʃ] some of the time and [s] the rest of the time. What's the rule? <s> is pronounced as the voiceless postalveolar fricative [ʃ] when it appears in a consonant cluster such as <st> or <sp> in syllable-initial position. Otherwise it is pronounced as the voiceless alveolar fricative [s].

4. The <ß> sometimes stands for <ss>. But when to use <ß> and when to use <ss>? The <ß> is only used following a long vowel or a diphthong, whereas the double-s is used when the preceding vowel is short.

5. When forming a compound noun (Zusammensetzung), don't omit any letters, even if this results in words like *Kaffeeernte* and *Schifffahrt*.

cont'd: http://www.neue-rechtschreibung.de/regelwerk/

https://online-lernen.levrai.de/deutsch-uebungen/regeln_der_rechtschreibung.htm

Großschrift in der Deutschen Sprache

Capitalization in the German Language
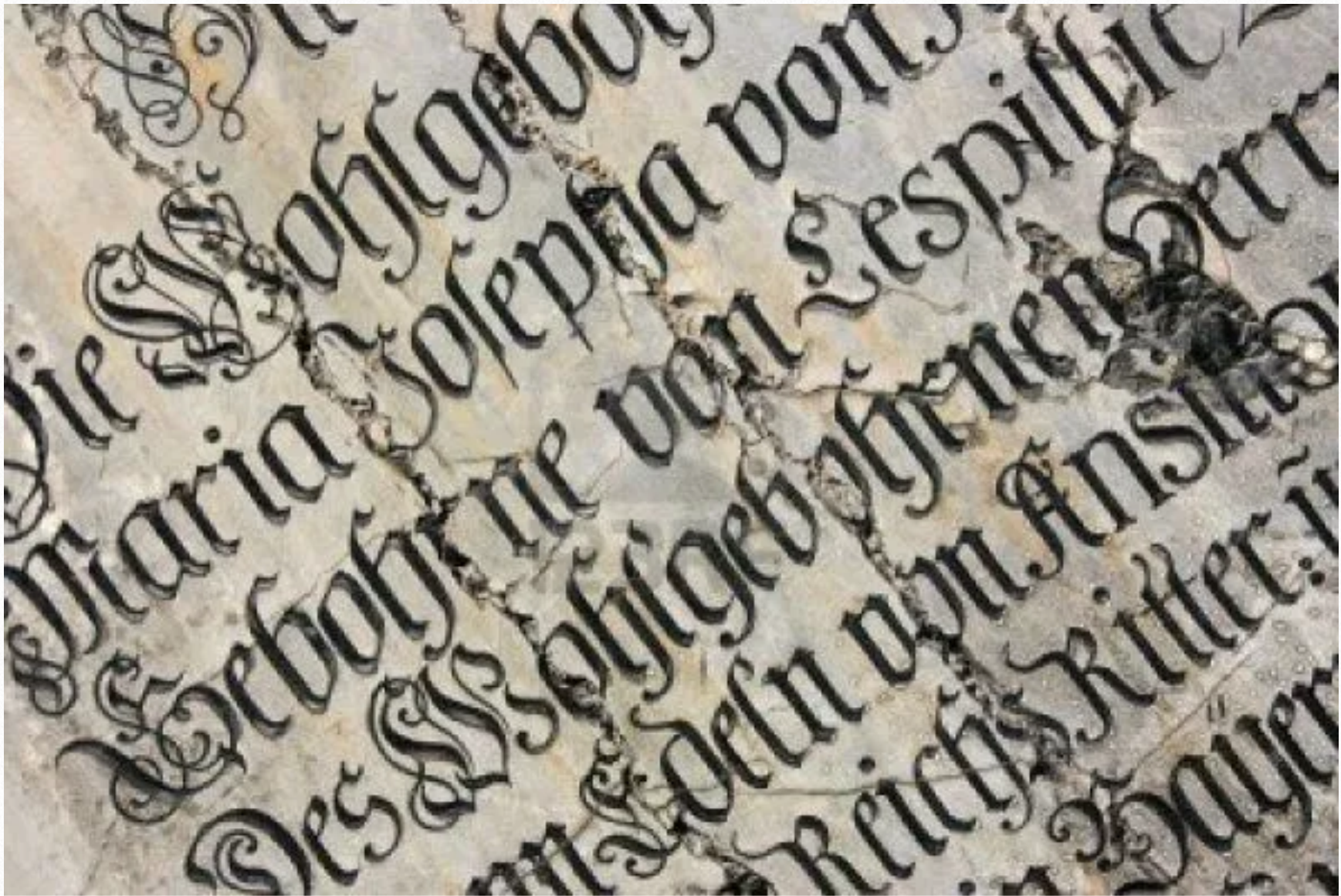
German **capitalization** rules are partially the same as in English: the first word of every sentence is capitalized; place and people names are always capitalized too.

But the pronoun *ich* – the German word for *I* – is not capitalized (unless it's the first word in the sentence or in the title of something).

Sie*, t*he formal word for *you,* is always capitalized. This helps distinguish it from *sie*, the word for *she* and *them*.

Unlike in English, adjectives describing nationality, ethnicity and religion are not capitalized in German.

And, most notably...

<p align="center">ALL NOUNS ARE CAPITALIZED IN GERMAN.</p>

Exercise: Underline or circle all the nouns in the following sentence. (To check your work, look in the bottom right corner of the next page.)

At lunch, I ate two red apples.

Die Betonung

Stress

German has rules about where to place the stress (spoken emphasis) on a word. First of all…

<mark>MOST WORDS ARE STRESSED ON THE FIRST SYLLABLE.</mark>

Some common exceptions are words that start with the following prefixes (syllables are separated by periods; stress is marked by a preceding apostrophe):

be- (besprechen - to discuss) [ˌbə.ˈʃprɛ.çən]
ge- (Geheimnis - secret) [ˌgə.ˈhaɪm.nɪs]
er- (erklären - to explain) [ˌɛr.ˈklɛ.rən]
emp- (empfehlen - to recommend) [ˌɛmp.ˈfeː.lən]
ent- (entwickeln - to develop) [ˌɛnt.ˈvɪk.əln]
ver- (verletzen - to injure) [ˌfɛr.ˈlɛt.sən]
zer- (zerbrechen - to break, shatter) [ˌtsɛr.ˈbrɛ.çən]

More examples:
Most of the time, loanwords keep their native stress:
Obama [oˈba.ma]

Nouns formed with suffixes derived from Latin are stressed on the final or penultimate syllable:
-ant (der Konsonant – consonant) [ˌkɔn.zoː.ˈnant]
-anz (die Redundanz – redundancy) [ˌrɛː.dʊn.ˈdants]
-enz (die Dekadenz – decadence) [ˌdeː.kaː.ˈdɛnts]
-ion (das Stadion – stadium) [ˌʃtaː.dɪ.ˈɔn]
-ismus (der Idealismus - idealism) [ˌiː.deː.a.ˈlɪs.mʊs]
-ist (der Tourist – tourist) [ˌtuː.ˈrɪst]
-ment (das Element – element) [ˌeː.leː.ˈmɛnt]
-tät (die Pietät – reverence, respect) [piː.ˈtɛːt]

Verbs formed with the French-derived suffix –ieren are stressed on the penultimate syllable:

akzeptieren (to accept) [ˌak.tsɛp.ˈtiː.rən]

buchstabieren (to spell) [ˌbuːx.ʃta.ˈbiː.rən]

finanzieren (to finance) [ˌfɪ.nan.ˈtsiː.rən]

kapitulieren (to surrender) [ka.ˌpiː.tu.ˈliː.rən]

Compound adverbs containing the following prefixes are stressed on the final syllable:

her: hinterher (behind) [ˌhɪn.tɐ.ˈheː.ɐ]

hin: wohin (where to) [ˌvoː.ˈhɪn]

da: dazu (to there) [ˌda.ˈtsuː]

wo: wozu (what for) [ˌvoː.ˈtsuː]

Some prefixes can function as either separable or inseparable. These prefixes are stressed when inseparable and unstressed when separable:

über-: übereinstimmen (to agree) [ˌyː.bɐ.ˈaɪn.ʃtɪm.ən]; die Überbevölkerung (overpopulation) [ˈyː.bɐ.bə.ˌfœl.kə.rʊŋ]

unter-: der Untergang (ruin, downfall) [ˈʊn.tɐ.ˌgaŋ]

um-: umschauen (to look around) [ˈʊm.ˌʃaʊ.ən]

durch-: durchsuchen (to search through) [ˌdʊrx.ˈzuː.xən]

Mostly you will learn where the stress goes as you listen more to native speakers talk, but these guidelines are good to have in the back of your mind.

Kognaten

Cognates

Cognates are words that are similar in two or more languages because they share a common root. Cognates do not necessarily have exactly the same meaning, but they are somehow related. These words are great for beginner vocab because they're easy to remember. Let's look at a some now.

Table 8: German - English Cognates			
der Hund – dog (hound)	lahm – lame	bei – by	tanzen – to dance
der Akzent – accent	blau – blue	aus – out	trinken – to drink
die Socke – sock	scheu – shy	von – from	addieren – to add
der Ring – ring	falsch – false, wrong	zu – to	kontrollieren – to control
der Apfel - apple	gut - good	an – on	quotieren - to quote
der Stuhl – chair (stool)	exakt - exact	in – in	lernen - to learn
die Milch – milk	sieben - seven	vor - before	lachen - to laugh

Now that you're familiar with some German-English cognates, be warned: not every German word that look similar to an English word is related. Words that look like cognates but are unrelated are called false cognates. (Some people call them false friends, but I don't think that's nice. All words are our friends.) Here are a few examples:

Table 9: German - English False Cognates		
das Ass - ace	bald - soon	spenden - to donate
das Gift - poison	groß - big	winken - to wave
der Chef - boss	fast - almost	bekommen - to receive
das Gymnasium - high school	brav - well behaved	tasten - to touch
der Mist - manure	eventuell - possibly	realisieren - to carry out
die Art - type; kind	also - thus; and so	sich blamieren - to make a fool of oneself

2

Die Wortstellung
Word Order

German word order is more flexible than English word order. Because German grammar has more complex morphological aspects, a lot of information can be expressed in a grammatical word ending instead of through rigid sentence structure. Rules regarding word order vary depending on the type of clause.

German is a V2 language. This means that the verb is always in second position in the independent clause of a sentence (we will look at subordinate clause word order in section 3.). Not necessarily the second word, though: prepositional phrases and noun phrases can take up the first position of a sentence but can contain more than one word.

Table 10: Word Order in German Sentences							
Position 1 Variable	Position 2 Verb 1	Position 3 Subjekt	Position 4 Indirektes Objekt	Position 5 Zeit	Position 6 Ort	Position 7 Direktes Objekt	Position 8 Verb 2
Ich (Subjekt)	kann		Ihnen	morgen	in der Schule	die Hausaufgaben	geben
Ihnen (indirektes Objekt)	kann	ich		morgen	in der Schule	die Hausaufgaben	geben
Morgen (Zeit)	kann	ich	Ihnen		in der Schule	die Hausaufgaben	geben
in der Schule (Ort)	kann	ich	Ihnen	morgen		die Hausaufgaben	geben
die Hausaufgaben (direktes Objekt)	kann	ich	Ihnen	morgen	in der Schule		geben

Ich kann Ihnen morgen in der Schule die Hausaufgaben geben. - I can give you the homework tomorrow in school.

In Table 10 on the previous page, the categories Ort *(place)* and Zeit *(time)* can be considered adverbial phrases. As you can see, not only the subject, but both direct and indirect objects as well as adverbial phrases can come first in the sentence. But remember…

IN INDEPENDENT CLAUSES, THE VERB IS ALWAYS SECOND.

Hauptsätze
Main Clauses

A main clause (aka independent clause) is a phrase in a sentence that contains a subject and a predicate (verb or verb phrase). It can contain more information (adverbs, prepositional phrases, etc.) but cannot contain less. An independent clause is enough to make a complete sentence. Some examples of independent clauses in English declarative (statement) sentences:

1. The dog sits. (subject: the dog; predicate: sits)

2. Today we are having pasta for dinner. (subject: we; predicate: are having)

3. The opera singer tripped over a piece of garbage. (subject: the opera singer; predicate: tripped)

These examples, as mentioned above, are all declarative sentences. We will address other sentence types in the following sections (Sections 2-4 *Fragen* through *Satzgefüge*).

Languages are often categorized by the order in which they place a subject, verb, and an object in a simple declarative sentence where nothing is being emphasized. In this sense, German can be categorized as an SVO language. However, if you put an adjective or adjective phrase at the beginning of the sentence, the verb has to follow it, displacing the subject to take second position. Then comes the object. Really, if you want to emphasize the object, you can even put that first - but the verb comes second. Below, (A) stands for adverbial phrase.

1. SV - Der Hund sitzt.

2. (A)VSO(A) - Heute essen wir Pasta zum Abendessen.

3. OVS(A)(A) - Pasta essen wir heute zum Abendessen.

4. (A)VS(A)O - Zum Abendessen essen wir heute Pasta.

5. SV(A) - Der Opernsänger stolperte über ein Stück Müll.

6. (A)VS - Über ein Stück Müll stolperte der Opernsänger.

Basically, you have a lot of flexibility with word order - except when it comes to the verb placement. The verb is always second in independent clauses.

Fragen

Questions

There are two basic ways to form a question in German. Either it's a yes/no question, in which case the verb moves to first position, or you use a question word to form the question, in which case the verb stays in second position. German question words are *wer (who), was (what), wann (when), warum (why)*, and *wie (how)*.

When a declarative sentence is turned into a simple yes or no question, the word order gets flipped around: SVO becomes VSO. Some examples:

1. Der Hund sitzt.
   ➡Sitzt der Hund?
2. Heute essen wir pasta zum Abendessen.
   ➡ Essen wir heute Pasta zum Abendessen?
3. Der Opernsänger stolperte über ein Stück Müll.
   ➡ Stolperte der Opernsänger über ein Stück Müll?

Questions formed with question words generally have more complex answers than yes/no. The verb stays in second position and first position is taken by the question word. The other components can move around a little as shown in the table on page 11. These sentences look like this:

1. Wo sitzt der Hund?
2. Warum essen wir heute Pasta zum Abendessen?
3. Wie stolperte der Opernsänger über ein Stück Müll?

Some exercises: put the sentence together in an acceptable word order. Answers on the bottom of the next page.

1. der Mann/warum/Geld/wollte? (Why did the man want money?)

_____

2. du/mich/heiraten/willst? (Do you want to marry me?)

_____

3. kalt/es/ist/draußen? (Is it cold outside?)

_____

4. jetzt/beschäftigt/sie/ist? (Is she busy now?)

_____

5. das Buch/geschrieben/hat/wer? (Who wrote the book?)

_____

More question words: the wo-compounds. These are question words formed by adding the prefix wo- to a preposition (See Table # below).

Table #: Wo- and Da- Compounds				
formation	wo- compound	wo- compound translation	da- compound	da- compound translation
wo/da + r + über	worüber	above what/above which about what/about which	darüber (drüber)	above that about that
wo/da + durch	wodurch	through what/through which	dadurch	through that
wo/da + r + um	worum	around what/around which about what/about which	darum (drum)	around that about that
wo/da + r + aus	woraus	out of what/out of which	daraus (draus)	out of that
wo/da + mit	womit	with what/with which	damit	with that
wo/da + nach	wonach	after what/after which	danach	after that
wo/da + für	wofür	for what/for which	dafür	for that
wo/da + von	wovon	from what/from which	davon	from that
wo/da + gegen	wogegen	against what/against which	dagegen	against that
wo/da + r + in	worin	in what/in which	darin (drin)	in that
wo/da + r + unter	worunter	under what/under which	darunter (drunter)	under that
wo/da + neben	woneben	next to what/next to which	daneben	next to that
wo/da + hinter	wohinter	behind what/behind which	dahinter	behind that
wo/da + r + auf	worauf	on what/on which	darauf (drauf)	on that

1. Warum wollte der Mann Geld?

2. Willst du mich heiraten?

3. Ist es kalt draußen?

4. Ist sie jetzt beschäftigt?

5. Wer hat das Buch geschrieben?

Following are some examples of sentences using wo- and da- compounds. Not all sentences using wo- compounds are questions - as you can see in Table #, they can also be translated as [preposition] which, a construction used for adverbial clauses. Here's an example of the two uses of worauf:

1. Worauf sitzt die Katze? What is the cat sitting on?
2. Das ist der Stuhl, worauf die Katze sitzt.

We will go over this in more detail in the next section (Section 3: *Nebensätze*)

Here are the examples of wo- and da- compounds, excluding those introducing adverbial clauses:

1. Worüber spricht der Professor? - What is the professor talking about?

2. Jemand hat sein Fahrrad geklaut. Darüber spricht er. - Someone stole his bike. That's what he's talking about.

3. Worunter hast du während des Regensturms gewartet? - Under where did you wait during the rainstorm?

4. Es gibt einen großen Apfelbaum im Park. Darunter habe ich gewartet. - There's a big apple tree in the park. Under there is where I waited.

5. Wofür arbeitest du? - What do you work for?

6. Sie zahlen mir Geld. Dafür arbeite ich. - They pay me money. That's what I work for.

7. Woran leidet die kranke Frau? - What is the sick woman suffering from?

8. Sie hat Krebs. Daran leidet sie. - She has cancer. That's what she's suffering from.

9. Worauf freust du dich so sehr? - What are you so excited about?

10. Morgen habe ich Geburtstag. Darauf freue ich mich. - Tomorrow is my birthday. That's what I'm excited about.

Exercises: find the answers at the bottom of the next page.

1. _____ freut er sich so? - What's he so excited about?

2. _____ schreibst du? - What are you writing about?

3. _____ habe ich jetzt getreten? - What did I just step on?

4. _____ denken Sie nach? - What are you thinking about?

5. _____ bin ich jetzt verantwortlich? - What am I now responsible for?

6. Meine Tante ist krank, _____ ich sehr traurig bin. - My aunt is sick, about which I am very sad.

7. _____ ist dein Vater? - What is your father against?

8. _____ spielen Sie? - What are you playing with?

9. _____ versteckt sich die Katze? - What is the cat hiding behind?

10. _____ kriegst du nie genug? - What can you never get enough of?

1. worauf 2. worüber 3. worauf 4. worüber 5. wofür 6. worüber 7. wogegen 8. womit 9. wohinter 10.

Nebensätze
Dependent Clauses

We've covered independent clauses, which is what simple sentences are made up of, but if you want to start expressing complex thoughts, you'll need to learn the other type of clause: a subordinate clause or dependent clause is a clause (part of a sentence containing the verb) that provides a sentence element with additional information, but which cannot stand alone as a sentence. A dependent clause can either modify an adjacent clause or serve as a component of an independent clause.

There are three different kinds of dependent clauses:

Noun clause: a group of words functioning as a noun. There are two subcategories of noun clauses: declarative content clauses and interrogative content clauses.

Declarative content clause: aka that-clause, a noun clause corresponding to a declarative sentence. In English, as the nickname indicates, these clauses are often introduced by the conjunction *that*, which can generally be omitted. Some examples:

I told you (that) Bob Ross was coming for brunch this weekend.
I don't like the fact that my child doesn't know kung fu.
It is important that we treat each other with respect.
It interests me how birds fill their nests with shiny things and bring their friends gifts.
I'd prefer (it) if you didn't throw sandwiches at me.
I like (it) when the sandwich doesn't hit me in the face.

Interrogative content clause: aka indirect question, a noun clause that corresponds to a direct question. These clauses often stress knowledge of something or lack thereof.

The cops know what the delinquent did. (What did the delinquent do?)
I have no idea how he got away with it. (How did he get away with it?)
I wonder whether there will be consequences. (Will there be consequences?)
The kid's father called wanting to know where he was hiding. (Where was he hiding?)
It is not known whether he had accomplices. (Did he have accomplices?)

Relative clause: usually serves to indicate a property of a person or an object. Generally introduced with a relative pronoun *(who, whose, whom, that,* or *which)*, but this can be omitted in English. Some examples:

This is the fish that I love.
My brother is the one who shot the sheriff.
The foreign exchange student, whose family lives in Austria, is enjoying her time abroad.
My favorite tree, which my cat climbed, is in the neighbor's yard.

Adverbial clause: a subordinate clause that plays the role of an adverb (modifies a verb, adjective, or adverb) in its direct parent sentence. There are many types of adverbial clause and many ways to introduce them: time *(when, before, while, until, etc.)*, condition (*if, unless, provided that)*, purpose (*in order to, so that, in case*), reason (*because, since)*, concession (*although, though, while)*, place (*where, wherever, everywhere)*, comparison (*as … as, than, as*), manner (*as, like, the way)*, and results *(so… that, such… that)*.

When I was a child, we didn't have to eat vegetables on Saturdays.
On Tuesday, I'm going to dance for the Pope.
The ninja disappeared into the shadows as soon as the emperor looked in his direction.
The penguin sits on top of its feet in order to protect the egg from the cold ground.
I will have to stay up late tonight unless I get my work done early.
My mother-in-law keeps her receipts in case she has to return things.
The baby farted because I gave it beans.
Although I like you, I'm not going to help you pay off your credit card bill.
The dog puked where I was going to sit.
I can play piano as well as a monkey.
The dog barks at the mail carrier as if she's not going to come back every day forever.
I closed the jar so tight that my little sister had to ask for help opening it.

Now that we've reviewed what they are in English, let's look at some subordinate clauses in German. You have something extra to pay attention to in German: word order.

Earlier in the chapter you learned that the verb always comes in second position in independent clauses. Subordinate clauses are different - sometimes the verb is sent to final position. We will review the types of German subordinate clauses in two sections: I. Relative clauses and II. Noun clauses and adverbial clauses.

Relative clauses are introduced by a relative pronoun. We will look at relative pronouns more closely in Chapter 3 (Section 5: *Relativpronomen*), and we'll study case in chapter 4 (Section 3: *Kasus*) but here's a sneak peek - they **decline**. This means the word changes form based on its grammatical role in the sentence.

	Maskulin	**Feminin**	**Neutral**	**Plural**
Nominativ	der	die	das	die
Genitiv	dessen	deren	dessen	deren
Dativ	dem	der	dem	denen
Akkusativ	den	die	das	die

Some examples of sentences with relative clauses in German:

1. Ich suche den Mann, <u>der mein Kind entführt hat</u>. I'm looking for the man <u>who kidnapped my child</u>.
2. Die Frau, <u>deren Kuchen ich gestohlen habe</u>, kann nicht gut backen. The woman, <u>whose cake I stole</u>, can not bake well.
3. Der Stuhl, <u>auf dem ich normalerweise sitzen mag</u>, ist heute nicht mehr da. The chair <u>in which I normally like to sit</u> is not there anymore today.
4. Der Hund, <u>dem ich den Ball gegeben habe</u>, ist froh. The dog, <u>to whom I gave the ball</u>, is happy.
5. Der Schwimmer, <u>der einen teuren Nasstaucheranzug gekauft hat</u>, wird trotzdem kalt. The swimmer, <u>who bought an expensive wetsuit</u>, gets cold anyway.

Please take a look at the above examples. You will notice that the verb (in bold) is in final position as opposed to second position where it normally sits. That's right…

RELATIVE PRONOUNS SEND THE VERB TO THE END OF THE CLAUSE.

Not the end of the sentence, necessarily, but the end of the clause it belongs to.

Subordinating conjunctions: Noun clauses can be introduced by any of the interrogative words or phrases we learned in Section 2 (Fragen):

wer, wann, was, wo, wie, warum.

Because they are being used to introduce a subordinate clause, they can be referred to as subordinating conjunctions.

Also, the wo- compounds we learned in the previous section (Section 2: *Fragen*) can be used to introduce adverbial clauses. Let's look at that table again, edited to exclude the da- compounds (we're done with that for now.)

Table #: Wo- and Da- Compounds		
formation	wo- compound	wo- compound translation
wo + r + über	worüber	above what/above which about what/about which
wo + durch	wodurch	through what/through which
wo + r + um	worum	around what/around which about what/about which
wo + r + aus	woraus	out of what/out of which
wo + mit	womit	with what/with which
wo + nach	wonach	after what/after which
wo + für	wofür	for what/for which
wo + von	wovon	from what/from which
wo + gegen	wogegen	against what/against which
wo + r + in	worin	in what/in which
wo + r + unter	worunter	under what/under which
wo + neben	woneben	next to what/next to which
wo + hinter	wohinter	behind what/behind which
wo + r + auf	worauf	on what/on which

Wo- compounds have three functions: they are used to introduce direct questions, as in sentence 1 below; they can introduce indirect questions (2), and they are used in sentences that answer those questions with adverbial clauses (3).

1. Worauf wartest du? What are you waiting for?

2. Ich weiß nicht, worauf du wartest. I don't know what you're waiting for.

3. Mein Freund wollte mich hier treffen. Das ist das, worauf ich warte. My friend wanted to meet me here. That's what I'm waiting for.

Adverbial clauses can also be introduced by a number of prepositions - some common examples:

Table #: Prepositions that Introduce Adverbial Clauses (Subordinating Conjunctions)		
als (when)	wenn (if)	ob (if, whether)
weil (because)	dass (that)	obwohl (although)
bevor (before)	ehe (before)	seitdem (since)
bis (until)	nachdem (after)	während (while)

Here are some example sentences:

1. Ich lachte, als ich mich daran erinnerte, wie du gestern auf dem Hintern gefallen bist. I laughed when I remembered how you fell on your butt yesterday.

2. Ich weiß nicht, ob es morgen regnen wird. I don't know if it will rain tomorrow.

3. Komm doch vom Baum herunter, bevor du auf dem Kopf fallst! Come down from the tree, before you fall on your head!

4. Ich übe Klavier jeden Tag, obwohl ich es nicht mag. I practice piano every day, although I don't like it.

5. Du sollst nicht Fernsehen gucken, während du deine Hausaufgaben machst. You shouldn't watch TV while you do your homework.

6. Ich wusste, dass du nichts darüber wissen würdest. I knew that you wouldn't know anything aout it.

7. Ich brauche Krücken, seitdem ich das Bein gebrochen habe. I need crutches (ever) since I broke my leg.

8. Ich brauche die Krücken nur bis es geheilt ist. I only need the crutches until it's healed.

9. Weil du heute so viel gelernt hast, darfst du jetzt Videospiele spielen. Because you learned/studied so much today, you may now play video games.

10. Du darfst nur spielen, nachdem das Abendessen vorbei ist. You can only play after dinner is over.

Exercises: state whether the word order in these sentences, which contain subordinate clauses, is correct or incorrect (circle your answer). Every clause is numbered. You must provide an answer for each clause. The independent clause is the part that is not underlined. It may be interrupted by a subordinate clause. Answers can be found in the bottom right corner of the next page.

1. (1) Die Giraffe, (2) die frisst nur Akazienblätter, hat einen langen Hals, (3) der den Baumkronen erreichen kann, (4) wo es keine Dornen gibt. The giraffe, which only eats acacia leaves, has a long neck, which can reach the treetops, where there are no thorns.
(1) correct / incorrect (2) correct / incorrect (3) correct / incorrect (4) correct / incorrect

2. (5) Als ich die Hausaufgaben sah, (6) ich musste kotzen. When I saw the homework I had to puke. (5) correct / incorrect (6) correct / incorrect

3. (7) Mein Mann, (8) der kocht jeden Tag für mich, ist heute Nacht nicht da. My husband, who cooks for me every day, is gone tonight. (7) correct / incorrect (8) correct / incorrect

4. (9) Wenn wartest du nur kurz, (10) komme ich nach meiner Sendung runter. If you just wait a little bit, I'll come down after my TV show. (9) correct / incorrect (10) correct / incorrect

Satzgefüge

Compound sentences

You just learned about subordinate clauses. They are introduced by subordinating conjunctions, and if it's a relative clause, the verb belongs in final position of the subordinate clause. But there's another kind of conjunction: coordinating conjunctions.

Coordinating conjunctions are conjunctions that join two independent clauses into one sentence. When there are two independent clauses in one sentence like this, it's called a compound sentence (das Satzgefüge).

Here are some examples of coordinating conjunctions in German:

Table #: Coordinating Conjunctions		
und (and)	aber (but)	entweder … oder (either … or)
denn (because)	sondern (but, rather)	beziehungsweise (bzw.) (or, or more precisely)
sowohl … als auch	oder (or)	weder … noch (neither … nor)

These conjunctions introduce independent clauses. As we learned in a previous section (Section 1: *Hauptsätze*), the verb takes the second position in an independent clause. This is always true.

Here are some examples of compound sentences formed with coordinating conjunctions:

1. Der Zug kommt nicht <u>und</u> ich bin allein in der Nacht. The train's not coming <u>and</u> I'm alone in the night.

2. Ich kann zu Fuß gehen, <u>aber</u> ich will nicht. I can walk, <u>but</u> I don't want to.

3. Ich soll <u>entweder</u> einen Freund anrufen <u>oder</u> ich soll ein Taxi bestellen. I should <u>either</u> call a friend <u>or</u> I should get a taxi.

4. <u>Weder</u> antwortet meine Freunde am Telefon <u>noch</u> bleibt ein Taxi für mich stehen. <u>Neither</u> do my friends answer the phone <u>nor</u> does a taxi stop for me.

5. Eine Frau kommt auf mir zu <u>und</u> sie fragt mich was ich tue. A woman approaches me <u>and</u> she asks me what I'm doing.

6. "Ich kann Sie in meinem Wagen mitnehmen, <u>beziehungsweise</u> kann ich Sie nach Hause fahren." I can give you a ride, <u>or more precisely</u>, I can drive you home.

7. Ich bin nicht vorsichtig; <u>sondern</u> bin ich erleichtert, <u>dass</u> jemand mir zu Hilfe gekommen ist. I'm not cautious, <u>rather</u>, I'm relieved that someone came to help me.

8. Die Frau fährt mich nach Hause, <u>dann</u> gehe ich ins Bett. The woman drives me home, <u>then</u> I go to bed.

Exercises: fill in the blank with either a coordinating subjunction or a subordinating conjunction, whichever fits with the sentence structure of the clause it introduces. Answers can be found at the bottom of the next page. Remember...

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS SEND THE VERB TO THE END OF THE CLAUSE.
COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS ALLOW THE VERB TO STAY IN SECOND POSITION.

1. Ich weiß nicht, _____ du wirklich mit Feuer spielen sollst. I don't know if you should really be playing with fire.

2. Ich habe es im Internet nachgeschlagen. Jetzt weiß ich, _____ du definitiv nicht mit Feuer spielen sollst. I looked it up on the internet. Not I know that you definitely shouldn't be playing with fire.

3. Das ist der Lehrer, _____ mir eine schlechte Note gegeben hat. That's the teacher who gave me a bad grade.

4. Ich esse viele Süßigkeiten _____ ich habe Karies. I eat a lot of candy and I have tooth decay.

5. Sagen Sie mir bitte, Herr Lehrer, _____ ich diese Note bekommen habe. Please tell me, teacher, why I got this grade.

1. ob (subordinating) 2. dass (subordinating) 3. der (subordinating) 4. und (coordinating) 5. warum (subordinating)

3

Pronomen
Pronouns

Pronouns are words that substitute for nouns or noun phrases. There are a lot of different kinds of pronouns, in English and in German. Before we dive into it in German, let's go over the various types of pronouns we have in English first:

Personal Pronouns take the place of specific nouns that name people, places or things: *I, you, he, she, it, we, they.*

Possessive Pronouns indicate possession: *mine, yours, hers, his,* etc.

Reflexive Pronouns are normally used when the object of a sentence is the same as the subject: *myself, yourself, herself, himself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves.*

Relative Pronouns are the pronouns used to introduce relative clauses. (Relative clauses are subordinate clauses most often used to define or identify the noun that precedes them, using the relative pronouns *who/whom, which, that, whose, where, when, why, what, who(m)ever, whatever,* and *whichever*.)

Interrogative Pronouns are used to ask specific questions: *who? whom? which? what? whose?*

Demonstrative Pronouns are pronouns used to point out specific things, indicating where they are relative to the speaker - *this, that, these, those.*

Personal pronouns (subject): I, you, he, she, it, we, they.

Personal pronouns (object): me, you, him, her, it, us, them.

Possessive pronouns: my, your, his, her, its, our, their.

Reflexive pronouns: myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves.

Interrogative pronouns: who, whom, whose, what, which

Relative pronouns: who, whom, whose, whoever, whomever, whatever, whichever, what, where, when, why, that.

Demonstrative pronouns: this, that, these, those.

Vorschau: Kasus und Deklination

We're going to go over this again in Chapter 4 because it's pretty intense, but you need to understand it now, too: some classes of German words **decline** when they're used in a sentence. That means they change form based on their function and grammatical relationship to the other words in the sentence. The word classes that decline are nouns, articles, and adjectives, as well as pronouns, which is why we're going over this now.

Case and declension have to do with the role each word plays in each sentence. For example, in the sentence *The dog gives the woman the ball*, *the dog* is the **subject** because it is the entity that performs the action of the verb. *Gives* is the **verb** because it refers to the action or event taking place. *The ball* is the **direct object** because it is the entity directly acted upon by the verb: the ball is the thing being given. *The woman* is the **indirect object** because it is the entity indirectly affected by the verb the woman isn't being given, but the ball is being given to her so it has to do with her.

It is sometimes hard for English speakers to tell direct objects and indirect objects apart, but in order to form grammatically correct German sentences, you have to know the difference. One tip that might help: indirect objects are often found in (or able to be rephrased with) prepositional phrases: *The dog gives <u>the woman</u> the ball*. > *The dog gives the ball <u>to the woman</u>*.

In English, pronouns decline, but not as much as in German. But still - there's a different form of the same word depending on if it's the subject or an object of the sentence: *She trusts him but he does not trust her*. - *She* and *her* refer to exactly the same person, but different words are used. In English, subject pronouns are different from object pronouns.

In German, all nouns decline (and articles and adjectives, too). The whole word might not change, but the ending does. We'll worry about nouns in chapter 4.

There are four cases in German: nominative, genitive, dative, and accusative.

Nominative case is used for the subject:

1. Das Buch ist sehr lang. - The book is very long.

2. Ich werde mit dir gehen. - I will go with you.

3. Sie isst die Banane. - She eats the banana.

Accusative case is used for the direct object or the object of an accusative preposition.

1. Sie isst die Banane - She eats the banana.

2. Ich mag dich nicht. - I don't like you.

3. Papa hat ein Geschenk für dich. - Dad has a present for you.

Dative case is used for the indirect object or the object of a dative preposition.

1. Ich werde mit dir gehen. - I will go with you.

2. Ich will dir ein Lied singen. - I want to sing you a song. (I want to sing a song to you.)

3. Ich wünsche mir, ich hätte mehr Zeit. - I wish (to myself) I had more time.

Genitive is the case used to express possession or for the object of a genitive preposition.

1. Der Name der Frau weiß ich nicht mehr. - I don't know the woman's name anymore.

2. Mein Haus liegt außerhalb der Stadt. - My house is outside of the city.

3. Man darf nicht während des Konzertes sprechen. - You're not allowed to talk during the concert.

Personalpronomen

Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns are substitutes for nouns, namely, nouns referring mostly to people (but also places, things, etc.). German personal pronouns decline to agree with the noun they modify in number (singular vs. plural), gender (masculine, feminine, neuter), and case (nominative, accusative, dative). The genitive case is not included here because personal pronouns in the genitive case are possessive pronouns.

Nominativ		Akkusativ		Dativ	
Singular	**Plural**	**Singular**	**Plural**	**Singular**	**Plural**
ich	wir	mich	uns	mir	uns
du	ihr	dich	euch	dir	euch
er/sie/es	sie/Sie	ihn/sie/es	sie/Sie	ihm/ihr/ihm	ihnen/Ihnen

Examples:

1. Hier haben <u>wir</u> gelernt, zu vergeben und vergessen. We learned to forgive and forget here.

2. <u>Du</u> kommst hier rein, als gehört <u>dir</u> die Welt. You come in here as if the world belonged to you.

3. <u>Ich</u> will ohne <u>euch</u> keine Party machen! I don't want to party without you!

4. <u>Ich</u> vergebe <u>Ihnen</u>, wenn <u>Sie</u> <u>mir</u> deinen Hund schenken. I'll forgive you if you give me your dog.

5. Geht <u>ihr</u> heute mit <u>mir</u> in die Schule? Are you guys going to school with me today?

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correctly declined form of the correct personal pronoun. Answers can be found in the bottom right corner of the following page.

1. _____ bin froh, daß _____ Schlagzeuger bin. <u>I'm</u> happy that <u>I'm</u> a drummer.

2. Ich wünsche _____ einen fröhlichen Geburtstag. I wish <u>you (singular informal)</u> a happy birthday.

3. Der Lehrer hat _____ gesagt, daß _____ alle gute Noten bekommen haben. The teacher told <u>us</u> (that) <u>we</u> all got good grade.

4. Ich möchte _____ etwas fragen. I'd like to ask <u>you (singular formal)</u> a question.

5. Der Krach hat _____ erschreckt. The noise startled <u>me</u>.

Possessivpronomen
Possessive Pronouns

German possessive pronouns decline to agree in number, gender and case with the noun they modify. The table below shows their various forms. For more information about cases (nominative, genitive, dative, accusative) see *Kasus (case)* below, under *Substantive (nouns)*.

		ich	du	er	sie	es
Nominativ	masc/neut	mein	dein	sein	ihr	sein
	fem/pl	meine	deine	seine	ihre	seine
Genitiv	masc/neut	meines	deines	seines	ihres	seines
	fem/pl	meiner	deiner	seiner	ihrer	seiner
Dativ	masc/neut	meinem	deinem	seinem	ihrem	seinem
	feminine	meiner	deiner	seiner	ihrer	seiner
	plural	meinen	deinen	seinen	ihren	seinen
Akkusativ	masculine	meinen	deinen	seinen	ihren	seinen
	neuter	mein	dein	sein	ihr	sein
	fem/pl	meine	deine	seine	ihre	seine

		wir	ihr	sie/Sie
Nominativ	masc/neut	unser	euer	ihr/Ihr
	fem/pl	unsere	eure	ihre/Ihre
Genitiv	masc/neut	unseres	eures	ihres/Ihres
	fem/pl	unserer	eurer	ihrer/Ihrer
Dativ	masc/neut	unserem	eurem	ihrem/Ihrem
	feminine	unserer	eurer	ihrer/Ihrer
	plural	unseren	euren	ihren/Ihren
Akkusativ	masculine	unseren	euren	ihren/Ihren
	neuter	unser	euer	ihr/Ihr
	fem/pl	unsere	eure	ihre/Ihre

Dependent Possessive Pronouns aka Possessive Articles (appear before nouns)
Independent Possessive Pronouns (appear in place of nouns, do not appear before nouns)

Note: Both singular and plural possessive pronouns can modify either singular or plural nouns and are declined to agree in gender and number with the noun they modify.
ex. mein Apfel/meine Äpfel – my apple/my apples; unser Apfel/unsere Äpfel – our apple/our apples

Examples:

1. Hol <u>deine</u> Jacke, es ist kalt da draußen! - Grab your jacket, it's cold out there!

2. <u>Mein</u> Vater sagt immer, ich solle einen Job finden. - My father always says I should get a job.

3. Wir rufen <u>unseren</u> Freund an. - We call our friend.

4. <u>Mein</u> Ausschlag wird besser. - My rash is getting better.

5. Der Geschmack <u>ihrer</u> Suppe war unglaublich schlecht. - The taste of her soup was unbelievably bad.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correctly declined possessive pronoun. Answers at the bottom of the next page.

1. Ich liebe _____Hund! - I love your dog!

2. Herr Frege hat _____ Fragen gefragt. - Herr Frege asked his questions.

3. Die Eichörnchen begraben _____ Schätze. - The squirrels bury their treasures.

4. Jeden Tag fahren sie mit _____ Autos in die Arbeit. - Every day they drive with their cars to work.

5. _____ Herz ist voller Gold. - My heart is full of gold.

Reflexivpronomen
Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are used to indicate that the object of the sentence is the same as the subject. In German, reflexive pronouns can be used either in the accusative or in the dative case.

Akkusativ		Dativ	
Singular	**Plural**	**Singular**	**Plural**
mich	uns	mir	uns
dich	euch	dir	euch
sich	sich	sich	sich

In the case of the "real" reflexive verbs, the reflexive pronoun is an inescapable but mostly insignificant affix to the verb (*Er schämt sich - He is ashamed*). For reflexively used verbs, the reflexive pronoun indicates that the object of the sentence is identical to the subject of the sentence (*Er wäscht sich - He washes himself*).

The case depends on the role of the pronoun in the sentence. Reflexive pronouns can take on the role of all kinds of objects:

Direct object:

Ich wasche mich. - I wash myself.

Du hast dich verletzt. - You've hurt yourself.

Indirect object:

Ich kaufe mir einen DVD-Spieler. - I buy myself a DVD player.

Er gönnt sich eine Pause. - He allows himself a break.

Prepositional object:

Achtet gut auf euch! - Take good care of yourselves!

Sie adressieren den Brief an sich. - They address the letter to themselves.

Genitive object (rare):

Damit spotten sie ihrer. - They scoff at her.

Let's look at another example - what's the difference between these two sentences?

Ich wasche <u>mich</u>. - They wash <u>themselves</u>.

Ich wasche mir die Hände. - I wash (<u>myself</u>) my hands.

In the first sentence, *mich* is the direct object - the thing directly affected by the verb, receiving the verb's action. In the second sentence, *die Hände* is the direct object (directly receives the verb's action). Therefore, *mir* is the indirect object. It doesn't translate well to English, but think of it this way: what are you washing? *Die Hände!* Whom are you doing it to (to whom is a prepositional phrase; only indirect objects can be phrased with a preposition)? *Mir!*

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correctly declined reflexive pronoun. Answers are in the bottom right corner of the following page.

1. Hast du _____ verletzt? - Did you hurt <u>yourself</u>?

2. Wir schämen _____. - We're ashamed of <u>ourselves</u>.

3. Das Kind wäscht _____ die Hände. - The child washes (<u>itself</u>) its hands.

4. Der Mann rasiert _____. - The mann shaves (<u>himself</u>).

5. Ich habe _____ gedacht, das ist eine gute Idee! - I thought to <u>myself</u>, that's a good idea!

1. dich 2. uns 3. sich 4. sich 5. mir

1. dich 2. uns 3. sich 4. sich 5. mir

Relativpronomen

Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns are used to connect a clause or phrase to a noun or pronoun. The clause describes the noun.

	Maskulin	**Feminin**	**Neutral**	**Plural**
Nominativ	der	die	das	die
Genitiv	dessen	deren	dessen	deren
Dativ	dem	der	dem	denen
Akkusativ	den	die	das	die

Examples:

1. Das ist das Haus, <u>das</u> ich kaufen will. - That is the house <u>that</u> I want to buy.

2. Lisa schreibt einen Brief, <u>den</u> sie ihrer Mutter schicken wird. - Lisa writes a letter, <u>which</u> she will send to her mother.

3. Ich warme mich bei dem Feuer, <u>das</u> meine Freundin gerade angezündet hat. - I warm myself by the fire, <u>which</u> my girlfriend just lit.

4. Ich esse ein Stück Kuchen, <u>das</u> sehr lecker ist. - I eat a piece of cake <u>that</u> is very delicious.

5. Ich grüße die Leute, <u>deren</u> Kind mich mit Eiern beworfen hat. - I greet the people <u>whose</u> child threw eggs at me.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correctly declined relative pronoun. Answers are in the bottom right corner of the following page.

1. Das Gemälde, _____ an der Wand hängt, ist sehr schön. - The painting <u>that</u>'s hanging on the wall is very beautiful.

2. Die Leute, _____ Fahrräder wir reparieren, werden froh sein. - The people <u>whose</u> bikes we are fixing will be happy.

3. Der Boden, auf _____ ich gehe, ist sauber. - The floor on *which* I walk is clean.

4. Die Gedanken, _____ du im Kopf hast, sind wirklich interessant. - The thoughts <u>that</u> you have in your head are really interesting.

5. Das ist der Tag, an _____ die Sonne endlich wieder scheint. - That [will be] the day on <u>which</u> the sun finally shines again.

Interrogativpronomen

Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogative pronouns are pronouns that introduce a dependent clause that asks a question: *who, whom, which, what*, and *whose*. (Although they are question words, where, when, why, and how are not interrogative pronouns because they are adverbs, not pronouns.) The only interrogative pronouns in German that decline are welcher (which) and wer (who).

	Maskulin	**Feminin**	**Neutrum**	**Plural**
Nominativ	welcher	welche	welches	welche
Genitiv	welches	welcher	welches	welcher
Dativ	welchem	welcher	welchem	welchen
Akkusativ	welchen	welche	welches	welche

	Mask./Fem./Neut./Pl.
Nominativ	wer
Genitiv	wessen
Dativ	wem
Akkusativ	wen

Examples:

1. <u>Wer</u> ist die Mutter von Annika? - <u>Who</u> is the mother of Annika?

2. Es gibt eine Vielfalt von Keksen. Sag mir, <u>welches</u> du möchtest. - There's a variety of cookies. Tell me <u>which one</u> you would like.

3. <u>Wem</u> soll ich helfen? - <u>Whom</u> should I help?

4. <u>Wessen</u> ist die Tasche? - Do you know <u>whose</u> bag this is?

5. Du hast so eine Menge von Markentaschen. <u>Welche</u> kannst du mir leihen? - You have such a huge amount of name-brand purses. <u>Which one</u> can you lend me?

Exercises: fill in the blank with an interrogative pronoun. Answers on the following page.

1. Es gibt zwei Butterbrote. _____ von beiden willst du haben? - There are two sandwiches. <u>Which</u> of the two do you want?

2. Es gibt mehr als eine Richtung jetzt. In _____ soll ich weitergehen? - There's more than one direction now. In <u>which one</u> should I continue on?

3. _____ gehört die Eidechse? - To whom does the lizard belong?

4. _____ ist dein Name? - What is your name?

5. Da sind die Statuen, auf _____ ich so lange gearbeitet habe. - There are the statues on <u>which</u> I worked for so long.

Demonstrativpronomen

Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns (*this, that, these, those*) are used to point things out. They answer the question "*which one?*"

	Maskulin	Feminin	Neutrum	Plural
Nominativ	der	die	das	die
Genitiv	dessen	deren	dessen	deren
Dativ	dem	der	dem	denen
Akkusativ	den	die	das	die

	Maskulin	Feminin	Neutrum	Plural
Nominativ	dieser	diese	dieses	diese
Genitiv	dieses	dieser	dieses	dieser
Dativ	diesem	dieser	diesem	diesen
Akkusativ	diesen	diese	dieses	diese

	Maskulin	Feminin	Neutrum	Plural
Nominativ	jener	jene	jenes	jene
Genitiv	jenes	jener	jenes	jener
Dativ	jenem	jener	jenem	jenen
Akkusativ	jenen	jene	jenes	jene

	Maskulin	Feminin	Neutrum	Plural
Nominativ	derjenige	diejenige	dasjenige	diejenigen
Genitiv	desjenigen	derjenigen	desjenigen	derjenigen
Dativ	demjenigen	derjenigen	demjenigen	denjenigen
Akkusativ	denjenigen	diejenige	dasjenige	diejenigen

	Maskulin	Feminin	Neutrum	Plural
Nominativ	derselbe	dieselbe	dasselbe	dieselben
Genitiv	desselben	derselben	desselben	derselben
Dativ	demselben	derselben	demselben	denselben
Akkusativ	denselben	dieselbe	dasselbe	dieselben

	Maskulin	Feminin	Neutrum	Plural
Nominativ	selber/selbst	selber/selbst	selber/selbst	selber/selbst
Genitiv	selber/selbst	selber/selbst	selber/selbst	selber/selbst
Dativ	selber/selbst	selber/selbst	selber/selbst	selber/selbst
Akkusativ	selber/selbst	selber/selbst	selber/selbst	selber/selbst

Examples:

1. Der Hund, <u>der</u> mich gebissen hat, ist jetzt tot. - The dog <u>that</u> bit me is dead now.

2. Die Frau, <u>dessen</u> Kinder in meiner Klasse sind, ist sehr nett. - The woman <u>whose</u> children are in my class is very nice.

3. Deine Freundin war dieselbe, die mir beim Einparken geholfen hat. - Your (girl)friend was the same one who helped me park.

4. Die Schule hat drei Bücher für diesen Kurs. <u>Dieses</u> mag ich am liebsten. - The school has three books for this course. <u>This</u> is my favorite.

5. Wir haben über <u>dieses</u> und <u>jenes</u> gesprochen. - We spoke about <u>this</u> and <u>that</u>.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correct demonstrative pronoun. Make sure it is correctly declined. Answers can be found in the bottom right corner of the next page.

1. Das ist der Ring, _____ ich haben will. - That's the ring (<u>which</u>) I want.

2. Vor ein Paar Jahren habe ich einen Jonglierer in China getroffen. Gestern habe ich _____ in Chicago gesehen! - A couple years ago I met a juggler in China. Yesterday I saw <u>the same one</u>!

3. Das ist die Postkarte, _____ gestern angekommen ist. - That's the post card <u>that</u> arrived yesterday.

4. Das ist der Mann, _____ Kind mich nervt. - That is the man, <u>whose</u> child annoys me.

5. Hier habe ich zwei Optionen. Will ich _____ oder _____ wählen? - I have two options here. Do I want to choose this one or that one?

4

Substantive

Nouns

German nouns are different from English nouns because they inflect, or decline. This means they change form depending on three important grammatical categories: number, gender, and case.

Grammatical number is simple: either a noun is referring to one thing, in which case it is singular, or it is referring to multiple things, in which case it is plural. Number is the difference between *girl* and *girls* or *sandwich* and *sandwiches.*

Gender is a grammatical category that applies to nouns. Every noun has a gender in German: masculine, feminine, or neuter. Each gender has a distinct set of endings that apply to their nouns, depending on the case. Case is the most complex grammatical category that applies to nouns. Each noun in a sentence has a case, depending on its function in the sentence, relative to the other words. Next we will go over these concepts in more detail.

Case is a grammatical category that applies to nouns, pronouns, and adjectives, whose value reflects the grammatical function performed by that word in a sentence. The grammatical cases in German are nominative, genitive, dative, and accusative. As we learned already in Chapter 3 (Section 1: *Vorschau: Kasus und Deklination*)...

NOMINATIVE CASE IS USED FOR THE SUBJECT. ACCUSATIVE CASE IS USED FOR THE DIRECT OBJECT OR THE OBJECT OF AN ACCUSATIVE PREPOSITION. DATIVE CASE IS USED FOR THE INDIRECT OBJECT OR THE OBJECT OF A DATIVE PREPOSITION, AND GENITIVE IS THE CASE USED TO EXPRESS POSSESSION OR FOR THE OBJECT OF A GENITIVE PREPOSITION.

Das Genus

Grammatical Gender

Some English nouns have gender: think about the difference between actor and actress. But gender in German is much more complicated.

German has three noun categories, called genders. Gender is identified by the article – masculine (der), feminine (die), or neuter (das) and by word endings (see tables below). Adjectives must decline to reflect the gender of the noun they modify: there are different word endings depending on number, gender, and case. The gender is not relevant to plural nouns. The gender of a noun does not necessarily have anything to do with the masculine or feminine connotations of the thing it refers to. For example, the German word for girl (das Mädchen) is neuter – not feminine as you might have guessed. Another example: the German word for skirt (der Rock) is masculine, despite traditionally having more to do with females in fashion and society.

Mostly, you have to memorize the gender of each noun you learn. But there are some guidelines that can help you.

Masculine

Nouns that refer to male humans and animals:
> der König (king)
> der Vater (father)
> der Hund (dog)

Days, months, seasons of the year, as well as points on the compass:
> der Sonntag (Sunday)
> der Mittwoch (Wednesday)
> der Januar (January)
> der Winter (winter)
> der Osten (East)

All kinds of precipitation, words for wind:
> der Regen (rain)
> der Schnee (snow)
> der Hagel (hail)
> der Monsun (monsoon)
> der Orkan (hurricane)

Brands of cars:
> der Mercedes
> der Porsche
> der Ford

Nouns with the following endings:
-ant (der Trabant – an East German car)
-ast (der Palast – palace)
-ich (der Teppich – rug)
-ig (der Essig – vinegar)
-ismus (der Komunismus – communism)
-ling (der Flüchtling – refugee)
-or (der Meteor – meteor)
-us (der Modus – mode)
-en (der Rasen – lawn)

Many (60%) of nouns with the following endings:
-el (der Esel – donkey)
-er (der Lehrer – teacher)

The majority of nouns derived from strong (irregular) verbs without a suffix (but often with a vowel change):
> der Sprung (jump) (derived from springen – to jump)
> der Gedanke (thought) (derived from denken – to think)
> der Kauf (purchase) (derived from kaufen – to buy)

…and most (67%) of monosyllabic nouns:
> der Aal (eel)
> der Darm (intestine)
> der Fleck (stain)
> der Bus (bus)

Feminine

Female humans and animals:
    die Frau (woman)
    die Tochter (daughter)
    die Kuh (cow)
    die Lehrerin (female teacher)
    die Wölfin (she-wolf)

Numbers, when not in a set (see below, under Neuter)
    die Eins (one)
    die Neunundneunzig (ninety-nine)

Names of ships and airplanes:
    die Boeing
    die Europa

Nouns with the following endings:
-a (die Flora – flora)
-anz (die Brillanz – brilliance)
-ei (die Stafelei – easel)
-enz (die Frequenz – frequency)
-heit (die Schönheit – beauty)
-ie die Amnesie – amnesia)
-ik (die Panik – panic)
-in (die Kameradin – female companion)
-keit (die Sehenswürdigkeit – sight, place of interest)
-schaft (die Mannschaft – team)
-sion (die Illusion – illusion)
-tät (die Universität – university)

-tion (die Kommunikation – communication)
-ung (die Heizung – heat, heating)
-ur (die Tastatur – keyboard)

Most (90%) of nouns that end in –e:
    die Libelle (dragonfly)
    die Schildkröte (turtle)
    die Reise (trip)

Neuter

Names of cities, continents, and most countries:

    das Asien (Asia)

    das Frankreich (France)

    das Berlin (Berlin)

Metals and chemical elements:

    das Gold (gold)

    das Silber (silver)

    das Eisen (iron)

    das Uran (uranium)

    exceptions: der Stahl (steel), der Schwefel (sulphur), die Bronze (bronze)

All nouns that are derived from other parts of speech and do not signify people:

    das Essen (food) (derived from verb essen – to eat)

    das Leben (life) (derived from verb leben – to live)

    das Ich (ego) (derived from pronoun ich – I)

    das Schöne (the beautiful) (derived from adjective schön – beautiful)

    das Wenn und Aber (the if and but) (derived from conjunctions wenn – if and aber – but)

Collective nouns

    das Volk (the people)

    das Geschirr (the dishes)

Numbers when they indicate a set:

    das Duo (duet)

    das Jahrzehnt (decade)

    das Dutzend (dozen)

Nouns with the following endings:

-chen (das Mädchen – girl)

-lein (das Kindlein – child)

-ma (das Rheuma – arthritis)

-ment (das Medikament – drug, medicine)

-sel (das Rätsel – puzzle)

-tel (das Viertel – quarter)

-tum (das Datum – date)

-um (das Album – album)

90% of the nouns with the prefix Ge-

    das Geheimnis (secret)

    das Gehirn (brain)

Two-thirds of nouns that end in –nis and –sal:

    das Schicksal (fate)

    das Hindernis (obstacle)

Most nouns with the following endings, provided that they refer to things – nouns with these endings are generally foreign in origin:

-al (das Fahrpedal – gas pedal)

-an (das Organ – organ)

-ar (das Formular – form)

-är (das Salär – pay, salary)

-at (das Proletariat – proletariat)

-ent (das Parlament – parliament)

-ett (das Etikett – label, tag)

-ier (das Bier – beer)

-iv (das Archiv – archive)

-o (das Placebo – placebo)

-on (das Pantheon – pantheon)

Exercise: Guess the gender of the given noun based on the rules you learned in this section. Answers at the bottom of the next page.

1. _____ Häuschen - little house, cottage

2. _____ März - March

3. _____ Autorin - (female) author

4. _____ Regen - rain

5. _____ Trauma - trauma

6. _____ Schönheit - beauty

7. _____ Vöglein - little bird

8. _____ Klasse - class

9. _____ Afrika - Africa

10. _____ Socke - sock

1. das 2. der 3. die 4. der 5. das 6. die 7. die
8. die 9. das 10. die

1. das 2. der 3. die 4. der 5. das 6. die 7. das
8. die 9. das 10. die

Der Der Kasus

Case

German nouns have various **inflected** or **declined** forms. This means the word is subject to changes based on various grammatical categories. The relevant categories for nouns are **number** (singular or plural), **gender** (masculine, feminine, or neuter), and **case** (nominative, genitive, dative or accusative). Case is the confusing one for most English speakers. It's most easily explained with the example of English pronouns – which, unlike English nouns, still have distinctions based on case.

English pronouns decline to agree in number (he vs. they), gender (he vs. she vs. it), and case (he vs. him). Not all pronouns inflect in every category, but it's the best example we have in English.

Once more, the roles of each grammatical case:

NOMINATIVE CASE IS USED FOR THE SUBJECT. ACCUSATIVE CASE IS USED FOR THE DIRECT OBJECT OR THE OBJECT OF AN ACCUSATIVE PREPOSITION. DATIVE CASE IS USED FOR THE INDIRECT OBJECT OR THE OBJECT OF A DATIVE PREPOSITION, AND GENITIVE IS THE CASE USED TO EXPRESS POSSESSION OR FOR THE OBJECT OF A GENITIVE PREPOSITION.

Regular noun declension: start with the articles.

Table #: Declension of Definite Article (English *the*)	Maskulin	Feminin	Neutrum	Plural
Nominativ	der	die	das	die
Genitiv	des	der	des	der
Dativ	dem	der	dem	den
Akkusativ	den	die	das	die

Table #: Declension of Indefinite Article (English *a, an*)	Maskulin	Feminin	Neutrum
Nominativ	ein	eine	ein
Genitiv	eines	einer	eines
Dativ	einem	einer	einem
Akkusativ	einen	eine	ein

All regular nouns: generally, an "-n" or an "-en" are added to all nouns in the dative plural. If the noun in the plural ends with "-n" or "-s," nothing will be added.

Table #: Declension of Definite Article (English *the*)						
	Maskulin	**Plural**	**Feminin**	**Plural**	**Neutrum**	**Plural**
Nominativ						
Genitiv						
Dativ		- (e)n		- (e)n		- (e)n
Akkusativ						

Masculine or neuter Nouns: an "-s" or an "-es" is added in the genitive singular. Sometimes it can be either. In general, if a word ends with "-e", an "-s" is added in the genitive and if it ends with "-s" or "-z" you add "-es".

Table #: Declension of Definite Article (English *the*)						
	Maskulin	**Plural**	**Feminin**	**Plural**	**Neutrum**	**Plural**
Nominativ						
Genitiv	- (e)s				- (e)s	
Dativ		- (e)n		- (e)n		- (e)n
Akkusativ						

Feminine nouns do not change in the genitive singular.

Because a lot of feminine plural nouns end with "-n," the majority of feminine plural nouns do not change.

Table #: Declension of Definite Article (English *the*)						
	Maskulin	**Plural**	**Feminin**	**Plural**	**Neutrum**	**Plural**
Nominativ			-n			
Genitiv	- (e)s		-n		- (e)s	
Dativ		- (e)n	-n	- (e)n		- (e)n
Akkusativ			-n			

N-declension - applies to some masculine and neuter nouns.

Some nouns take a -n ending in every case, singular and plural, except nominative singular.

	Sg.	Pl.
Nom	-	-n
Gen	-n	-n
Dat	-n	-n
Akk	-n	-n

der Kunde (customer)	der Neffe (nephew)	der Soziologe (sociologist)
der Mensch (man, person)	der Schimpanse (chimpanzee)	der Löwe (lion)
der Junge (boy)	der Schwede (Swede)	der Rabe (raven)

Sometimes nouns in this class keep the -s in the genitive singular.

	Sg.	Pl.
Nom	-	-n
Gen	-ns	-n
Dat	-n	-n
Akk	-n	-n

der Wille (will)
der Gedanke (thought)
das Herz (heart)

Examples of sentences using nouns in the nominative case:

1. Das Kind versteht nicht. - The child doesn't understand.

2. Die Musik ist schön. - The music is pretty.

3. Das Hemd ist eine gute Farbe für dich. - The shirt is a good color for you.

4. Die Studenten fahren mit ihren Fahrrädern durch die Nachbarschaft. - The students ride their bikes through the neighborhood.

5. Heute sieht das Wetter ganz gut aus. - Today the weather looks good.

Examples of sentences using nouns in the genitive case:

1. Die Schlüssel des Hausmeisters sind viele. - The keys of the custodian are many.

2. Das ist die Tochter meiner Schwester. - This is the daughter of my sister.

3. Ich will außerhalb der Stadt wohnen. - I want to live outside the city.

4. Wegen des Wetters kann ich nicht Rad fahren. - Due to the weather I can't ride my bike.

5. Das sind die Worte deiner Lehrerin. - Those are the words of your teacher.

Examples of sentences using nouns in the dative case:

1. Ich gebe dem Mann ein Buch. - I give the man a book.

2. Wenn du willst, darfst du mit deinen Freunden ins Kino gehen. - If you want, you may go to the movies with your friends.

3. Das Geld ist den Leuten wichtig. - Money is important to the people.

4. das Kind zeigt seinem Vater sein Bild. - The child shows his picture to his father.

5. Ein Fußgänger hat meinem Freund gesagt, dass er seinen Hut mag. - A pedestrian told my friend that he likes his hat.

Examples of sentences using nouns in the accusative case:

1. Ohne einen Taschenrechner kann ich nicht rechnen. - I can't do arithmetic without a calculator.

2. Ich muss jetzt ein Geschenk für deine Mutter kaufen. - Now I have to buy a present for your mom.

3. Der Wecker weckt den Studenten. - The alarm clock wakes the student.

4. Ich schmeiße die Radio an die Wand. - I throw the radio against the wall.

5. Ich will nur gute Noten. - I want only good grades.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correctly declined form of the noun. Answers can be found in the bottom right corner of the next page.

1. Der Ernst des _____ ernüchterte ihn. - The gravity of the thought sobered him.

2. Ich mag den _____ nicht. - I don't like the boy.

3. In der _____ hört man Kojoten und Eulen. - In the night you can hear coyotes and owls.

4. Das Hündchen leckt den _____ sauber. - The puppy licks the plate clean.

5. Wir lieben unser _____. - We love our country.

6. Hast du neue _____ gekauft? - Did you buy new lamps?

1. Gedankens 2. Jungen 3. Nacht 4. Teller 5. Land
6. Lampen

Kompositen

Compound Words

German words are famous for their length. All these super long words like Streichholzschächtelchen (matchbox), Donaudampfschiffahrtsgesellschaftskapitän (Danube steamship navigation company captain), or even Rindfleischetikettierungsüberwachungsaufgabenübertragungsgesetz (beef labeling monitoring delegation act) - these aren't just randomly long words. They're compounds (Kompositen), combinations of many words together. We do this in English: boyfriend, bedroom, haircut. Of course, what makes German special is that you can add as many words together as you want to create ludicrously long words. But there are some rules as to how it's done.

Compound Word	Components	English Translation	Connecting Element
die Schade**n**freude	die Schade - shame + die Freude - joy	shameful happiness (enjoying someone else's misery)	-n-
das Schwein**e**fleisch	das Schwein - pig + das Fleisch - meat	pork	-e-
der Handschuh	die Hand - hand + der Schuh - shoe	glove	none
der Treppe**n**witz	die Treppe - staircase + der Witz - joke	a joke that you only understand after a few moments (as you walk away, up/down the stairs)	-n-
die Esel**s**brücke	das Esel - donkey + die Brücke - bridge	mnemonic device	-s-
das Schmerz**ens**geld	der Schmerz - pain + das Geld - money	compensation for pain and suffering	-ens-
die Jahreszeit	das Jahr - year + die Zeit - time	season (time of year)	-es-

Although there are some famous examples of compound words in German featuring many words put together, like the examples above, most compound words consist of two main parts, and sometimes a connecting element. Let's look at some examples:

The second word, or more precisely, the final word, is the **primary word** (**das Grundwort**). This means it's the word the compound is built on. The above examples are all NOUN + NOUN compounds. Another way to form compound nouns in German is VERB + NOUN. You take the verb stem and add a noun to the end: die Sprechblase (the speech bubble); der Schreibtisch (writing + table = desk).

You can do the same thing with a modifier (adjective) (MOD + NOUN): der Kühlschrank (cool + cabinet = fridge); der Schwarzmarkt (black market).

Now let's mix it up: not all compound words are nouns. The primary word can also be a verb. Here are some examples…

MOD + VERB: gutmachen (to make amends)

NOUN + VERB: achtgeben (to be careful; to pay attention)

And finally, there are the modifiers: compound words where the Grundwort is a modifier.

NOUN + MOD: arbeitsbereit (ready for work), arbeitsscheu (afraid of work)

MOD + MOD: vollreif (fully ripe), wildfremd (totally unknown)

Substantivierte Adjektive

Nominalized Adjectives

Adjectival nouns, or nominalized adjectives, are rare in English. These terms refer to an adjective being used as a noun. Here's an example, from the popular American comic book series (more popularly known for its TV adaptation) The Walking Dead:

Don't open – dead inside.

This is an adjective (dead) being used as a noun. It basically means "dead people" or "dead things" in this context. Normally, dead is an adjective that modifies people or things; but in this context it functions as a noun. In German, this sentence would be as follows:

Nicht öffnen – Tote drin.

Note that Tote, dead, is capitalized, because nouns are all capitalized in German. Also note the adjective ending –e. This is an inflection that indicates, as an adjective without an article, that it is in the nominative case and plural.

While we're on this example, let's take note that the title of the show itself – The Walking Dead – contains an adjectival noun. They could have said The Walking Dead People, but it wouldn't have had the same mysterious tone.

Let's stay with this example for a moment: *Tote* from The Walking Dead. In the German translation for The Walking Dead – Die wandelnden Toten – the adjective has a different ending: -en instead of –e. What's different? This time, there's an article preceding the adjective. There are different endings for adjectives depending on if they are preceded by a definite article, an indefinite article, or no article at all. These will be covered in Chapter 6: Attributen (Section 1: Adjektivendungen).

Let's look at some more examples:

1. <u>Die Jugendlichen</u> holen Müll von dem Strand auf. - <u>The young people</u> pick up litter from the beach.

2. Die Musik <u>der Deutschen</u> ist wirklich großartig. - The music of <u>the Germans</u> is truly magnificent.

3. Wir müssen eine Rampe bauen, damit das Theater für <u>Behinderte</u> zugänglich ist. - We have to build a ramp so the theater is accessible to <u>handicapped people</u>.

4. <u>Die Erwachsene</u> sagen, ich darf nicht die ganze Nacht lang aufbleiben und Süßigkeiten essen. - <u>The grown-ups</u> say I'm not allowed to stay up the whole night and eat candy.

5. Die Frau ruft ihren Verlobten an. Sie will die Telefonnummer eines Verwandten. - The woman calls her <u>fiancé</u>. She wants the phone number of a <u>relative</u>.

Here are a some more common examples of nominalized adjectives:

der/die Angestellte (employee)

der/die Fremde (stranger; foreigner)

der/die Bankangestellte (bank employee)

der Beamte (civil servant)

der/die Obdachlose (homeless person)

der/die Reisende (traveller)

der/die Bekannte (acquaintance)

der/die Überlebende (survivor)

der/die Gefangene (prisoner)

der/die Vorsitzende (chairperson)

5
Definite und Indefinite Artikel
Definite and Indefinite Articles

The only English example of a definite article is *the*. *The* is a definite article.

The English examples of indefinite articles are *a* and *an*.

In English, articles don't decline at all. But in German, all articles decline to agree with the noun they modify in number, gender, and case. Let's look at Tables ##.

Table #: Declension of Definite Article (English *the*)			
	Maskulin	**Feminin**	**Neutrum**	**Plural**
Nominativ	der	die	das	die
Genitiv	des	der	des	der
Dativ	dem	der	dem	den
Akkusativ	den	die	das	die

Table #: Declension of Indefinite Article (English *a, an*)		
	Maskulin	**Feminin**	**Neutrum**
Nominativ	ein	eine	ein
Genitiv	eines	einer	eines
Dativ	einem	einer	einem
Akkusativ	einen	eine	ein

Note that the indefinite article (*a, an*) does not exist in the plural. We never use it in the plural in English, either, as *a/an* basically means *one*.

Examples of definite articles:

1. <u>Der</u> Arzt sagt, ich muss diesen Pillen schlucken. - <u>The</u> doctor says I have to take these pills.

2. Ich sag <u>dem</u> Arzt, dass ich ohne <u>die</u> Pillen wieder gesund werden könnte. - I tell <u>the</u> doctor that I could get better without <u>the</u> pills.

3. Ich habe etwas besseres - <u>die</u> Pfannkuchen, <u>deren</u> Rezept ich von <u>der</u> Oma meiner Oma her habe. - I have something better - <u>the</u> pancakes, <u>whose</u> recipe I have from the grandmother of my grandmother.

4. <u>Die</u> Pillen <u>des</u> Arztes gehen in <u>den</u> Mülleimer. - <u>The</u> pills <u>of the</u> doctor go into <u>the</u> garbage can.

5. Ich warte darauf, dass <u>die</u> Pfannkuchen mich heilen. - I wait for <u>the</u> pancakes to heal me.

Examples of indefinite articles:

1. Ich habe <u>einen</u> Hund. Der heißt Käse. - I have <u>a</u> dog. Its name is Cheese.

2. Mein Hund spielt mit <u>einem</u> Ball. - My dog plays with <u>a</u> ball.

3. Der Ball gehörte einem Nachbarn. Jetzt gehört er aber meinem Hund. - The ball belonged to a neighbor. Now, however, it belongs to my dog.

4. Ich werfe den Ball und es fliegt jenseits <u>eines</u> Zaunes. - I throw the ball and it flies to the other side of <u>a</u> fence.

5. Der Nachbar schaut zu. Er sagt, ich habe <u>einen</u> Fehler gemacht. Er hebt den Ball auf. Jetzt hat der Nachbar wieder einen Ball. - The neighbor is watching. He says I made <u>a</u> mistake. He picks up the ball. Now the neighbor has <u>a</u> ball again.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correctly declined definite or indefinite article. Answers can be found in the bottom right corner of the next page.

1. _____ Hobbit wohnt in _____ Höhle. - The hobbit lives in a cave.

2. _____ Drache wohnt auch in _____ Höhle. _____ Höhle, in der _____ Drache wohnt, ist weit von _____ Höhle _____Hobbits entfernt. - The dragon also lives in a cave. The cave in which the dragon lives is far away from the cave of the hobbit.

3. _____ Hobbit könnte _____ Drachen leicht vermeiden. Aber _____ Hobbit geht auf _____ Reise in _____ Gegend, wo _____ Drache wohnt. - The hobbit could easily avoid the dragon. But the hobbit goes on a trip into the area where the dragon lives.

4. Glücklicherweise hat _____ Hobbit viele Freunde mitgenommen. _____ Freunde können gut kämpfen. Sie glauben, sie könnten _____ Drachen besiegen.

6

Adjektivendungen
Adjective Endings

German adjectives decline to agree with the Noun they modify in number, gender, and case.

Adjectives in German come before the noun, like they do in English. But don't forget - adjectives decline to agree with the noun they modify - once again, this means they take different word endings depending on the grammatical category (gender) of the noun they're describing, as well as the number (singular or plural) and the grammatical context of the word in the sentence (case).

Ein klein<u>er</u> Mann (a little man, masculine)
Eine klein<u>e</u> Frau (a little woman, neuter)
Ein klein<u>es</u> Haus (a little house, neuter)

but…

Der klein<u>e</u> Mann
Die klein<u>e</u> Frau
Das klein<u>e</u> Haus

ADJECTIVE ENDINGS NOT ONLY DEPEND ON THE NUMBER, GENDER, AND CASE OF THE NOUN THEY MODIFY, BUT THEY ALSO DEPEND ON THE PRECEDING ARTICLE - DEFINITE OR INDEFINITE? AND THERE'S MORE - WHAT IF THERE'S NO ARTICLE AT ALL? DIFFERENT ADJECTIVE ENDINGS.

You want to make it easier? We can do that. The fact is, German adjectives only decline when they're in the attributive position of a nominal phrase: when they come right before a noun. **Predicate adjectives** - introduced in English by the verb to be - are never declined at all. That means…

Predicate Adjectives

Ein Mann ist klein.

Eine Frau ist klein.

Ein Haus ist klein.

Der Mann ist klein.

Die Frau ist klein.

Das Haus ist klein.

…no adjective endings!

Additionally, there are several quantifying words that are not always inflected: nichts, wenig, etwas, viel, and genug (excluding the plural of wenig and viel, which take endings as normal).

But if you want the flexibility of more structural sentence options, you'll want to learn the attributive adjective endings.

Starke Flexion
Strong Inflection

Strong inflection is used...

(1) when there is no article

(2) when a quantity is indicated by...

- etwas (some, somewhat), mehr (more), wenig- (few), viel- (much, many), mehrer- (several, many), einig- (some)

- a number (greater than one) without a definite article before it

- non-inflectable phrases: ein Paar (a couple), ein bisschen (a little bit)

Table #: Adjective Endings when NOT preceded by an Article				
	Maskulin	**Feminin**	**Neuter**	**Plural**
Nominativ	er	e	es	e
Genitiv	en	er	en	er
Dativ	em	er	em	en
Akkusativ	en	e	es	e

Compare these to the definite article endings - there are only a couple differences.

Table #: Declension of Definite Article (English *the*)				
	Maskulin	**Feminin**	**Neutrum**	**Plural**
Nominativ	der	die	das	die
Genitiv	des	der	des	der
Dativ	dem	der	dem	den
Akkusativ	den	die	das	die

Here are a few example sentences:

1. Immer wenn ich <u>gelbe</u> Blumen sehe, geht es mir gut. - Whenever I see yellow flowers, I'm in a good mood.

2. Die Gesichter zweier <u>junger</u> Männer stehen auf der Plakatwand. - The faces of two young men are on the billboard.

3. Morgen muss ich für viele <u>wählerische</u> Kinder kochen. - Tomorrow I have to cook for many picky kids.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the appropriate adjective ending. If no ending is needed, leave the blank empty. Answers can be found at the bottom of the following page.

1. Mehrere laut_____ Kojoten laufen über den Hof. - Several loud coyotes run through the yard.

2. Nächste Woche werde ich mehr redlich verdient_____ Geld haben - dann werde ich mir drei teur_____ Videospielkonsolen kaufen. - Next week I'll have more hard-earned money - then I'll buy myself three expensive video game consoles.

3. Ich schaue bewegend_____ Filme wenn ich weinen will. - I watch moving films when I want to cry.

Schwache Flexion

Weak Inflection

Weak inflection is used after…

(1) definite article

(2) derselb- (the same), derjenig- (the one)

(3) dies- (this), jen- (that), jeglich- (any), jed- (every)

(4) manch- (some), solch- (such), welch- (which)

(5) alle (all)

(6) beide (both)

Table #: Adjective Endings when preceded by Definite Article				
	Maskulin	**Feminin**	**Neuter**	**Plural**
Nominativ	e	e	e	en
Genitiv	en	en	en	en
Dativ	en	en	en	en
Akkusativ	en	e	e	en

Let's look at a couple example sentences:

1. Aus dieser <u>seltsamen</u> Perspektive scheint die Fliege größer als das Gebäude zu sein. - From this strange perspective, the fly seems bigger than the building.

2. Der Schmuck mancher <u>alten</u> Damen ist eleganter als meiner. - The jewelry of some old women is more elegant than mine.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the appropriate adjective ending. If no ending is needed, leave the blank empty. Answers can be found at the bottom of the following page:

1. Manche nett_____ Leute sagen, ich bin klüger als ich scheine. - Some nice people say I'm smarter than I appear.

2. Der glücklich_____ Vater dieses wunderschön_____ Kindes liebt seine Familie sehr. - The happy father of my beautiful child loves his family very much.

3. Ich schreibe die schwierig_____ Test. - I take the difficult test.

Mischflexion

Mixed Inflection

Mixed inflection is used after:

(1) indefinite article ein-, kein-, eine, keine

(2) possessive determiners mein-, dein-, sein-, ihr-

Table #: Adjective Endings when preceded by Indefinite Article				
	Maskulin	**Feminin**	**Neuter**	**Plural**
Nominativ	er	e	es	e
Genitiv	en	en	en	er
Dativ	en	en	en	en
Akkusativ	en	e	es	e

Here are some example sentences:

1. Wenn ich nicht schlafen kann, lese ich mein <u>liebstes</u> Buch. - When I can't sleep, I read my most beloved book.

2. Ich schulde keinem <u>einzigen</u> Mann ein Cent. - I do not owe a single man a cent.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the appropriate adjective ending. If no ending is needed, leave the blank empty. Answers can be found at the bottom of the following page.

1. Ich will kein_____ eklig_____ Käfer sein. - I don't want to be a bug.

2. Ich brauche dein_____ neu_____ Auto. - I need your new car.

3. Nach ein_____ lang_____ heiß____ Dusche hat man Schrumpelfinger. - After a long hot shower you get pruney fingers.

4. Während ein_____ lustig_____ Spieles, hat Karl den Finger gebrochen.

1. X, -er 2. X, -es 3. -er, -en 4. -es, -en

Adverbien & Mehr Übungen

Adverbs and More Exercises

Let's go over adverbs really quickly: adverbs are like adjectives but instead of describing nouns, they describe verbs or adjectives. Some examples in English are very, happily, and fast. In German, to change an adjective into an adverb, just drop the case ending. Adverbs don't have them. Adverbs modify verbs, and verbs don't have case value, so there's no case to agree with.

Now - Example sentences:

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correct adjective ending. Leave the blank empty if it follows an adverb, because...

ADVERBS DON'T HAVE CASE ENDINGS.

Answers on the bottom of the following page.

1. Ich mag das schön_____ Blümchen. - I like the pretty little flower.

2. Mein brav_____ Hund bellt manchmal. - My good dog barks sometimes.

3. Der grün_____ Edelstein glänzt herrlich_____. - The green gemstone sparkles brilliantly.

4. Ich gehe langsam_____ in das dunkel_____ Zimmer. - I go slowly into the dark room.

5. Der Sabber des schwarz_____ Hundes ist jetzt auf mein_____ Hose. - The slobber of the black dog is now on my pants.

6. Ich sitze auf dem weiß_____ Bank. - I sit on the white bench.

7

Komparative und Superlative

Comparatives and Superlatives

+ / -

English has roots in both Old French and Old German. There are aspects of our grammar that still demonstrate these relationships. For example, to form the comparative and superlative of an adjective in English, you do one of two things:

1. You add -er to form the comparative and -est to form the superlative, or

2. you form the comparative with the word *more* + [adjective] and the superlative with *most* + [adjective].

In German, comparatives are formed like in English method #1. (Method #2 is related to our French roots.) There are, of course, irregulars that you'll have to memorize, but we'll look at those last. First, the formation of the regular German comparative and superlative adjective:

[ADJECTIVE] + -ER TO FORM THE COMPARATIVE

AM [ADJECTIVE] + STEN TO FORM THE SUPERLATIVE

Let's backtrack for a minute. If we're going to cover comparatives, let's do it all.

(not) as [adjective] as … = (nicht) so+ [adjective] + wie

ex. Laura ist (nicht) so klug wie Jan. (Laura is (not) as clever as Jan.)

Okay, returning to the main idea:

Let's take schön (beautiful) and ehrlich (honest) for examples and apply the formula.

schön + er = schöner (more beautiful)
am + schön + sten = am schönsten (most beautiful)
ehrlich + er = ehrlicher (more honest)
am + ehrlich + sten = am ehrlichsten (most honest)

To use it in a sentence, you'll want to use *als* (than): *Die Blume ist schöner als jene Blume. Aber diese Blume ist am schönsten.* (That flower is prettier than that flower over there. But this flower is the most beautiful.)

Just to clarify: if the adjective ends in -e already, you don't have to add *-er*. You just add *-r.*

müde + r = müder (more tired)
am + müde + sten = am müdesten (most tired)

Let's complicate things a little bit more. Monosyllabic adjectives go through a stem vowel change, where you turn the plain vowel into an umlaut. This only applies to stem vowels a, o, and u.

dumm + ·· + er = dümmer (dumber)
am + dumm + ·· + sten = am dümmsten (dumbest)
jung + ·· + er = jünger (younger)
am + jung + ·· + sten = am jüngsten (youngest)

Attributive Adjective: Superlative without *am:* if the adjective is followed by a noun, you drop the *am*.

Hier ist die schönste Blume der Welt. (Here is the most beautiful flower in the world.)
Now it's time to look at the irregulars. Just memorize them.

Table #: Irregular Comparatives and Superlatives			
Adjective	Comparative	Superlative	Translation
gut	besser	am besten	good/better/best
viel	mehr	am meisten	much/more/most
gern	lieber	am liebsten	gladly/preferably/most preferably
hoch	höher	am höchsten	high/higher/highest
nah	näher	am nächsten	near/nearer/nearest

DON'T FORGET: ADJECTIVE ENDINGS FOLLOW THE COMPARATIVE OR SUPERLATIVE ENDING (-ER OR –ST(E))

Das ist eine <u>bessere</u> Idee. (That's a better idea.) Diese Idee kommt vom <u>klügeren</u> Mann, bzw. vom Gehirn des <u>klügeren</u> Mannes. (This idea comes from the cleverer man, or more precisely, from the brain of the cleverer man.)

Exercises: Comparatives and superlatives. Answers on following page.

1. Dein Hund ist schön, aber mein Hund ist _____. - Your dog is beautiful, but my dog is more beautiful.

2. Mein Kuchen ist _____ als die anderen. - My cake is better than the others.

3. Dieser Hut ist _____ als der dort unten, aber der Hut da oben ist _____. Ich mag den _____ Hut _____. - This hat is warmer than the one down there, but the hat up there is the warmest. I like the warmest hat the best.

4. Das _____ Kätzchen braucht _____ Milch _____ die anderen. - The youngest kitten needs more milk than the others.

5. Dieses Fahrrad ist genau_____ das _____ Fahrrad. - This bike is just as good as the more expensive bike.

8

Präpositionen
Prepositions

Genitiv
anstatt, aufgrund, außerhalb, dank, statt, während, wegen

In English, but only with pronouns, the object of a preposition declines into the object pronoun: *with her*, not *with she*; *on him*, not *on he*. In German, further distinctions are made, between the accusative, dative, and the genitive cases: the noun's declined form is different for each one, and each preposition has a case associated with it - except the accusative/dative prepositions, which can take either the accusative of the dative case. We will cover that next.

Akkusativ

Dativ

Akkusativ/Dativ

bis, durch, für, gegen, ohne, um, wider

an, auf, hinter, in, neben, über, unter, vor, zwischen

ab, aus, außer, bei, entgegen, entsprechend, mit, nach, seit, von, zu, gegenüber
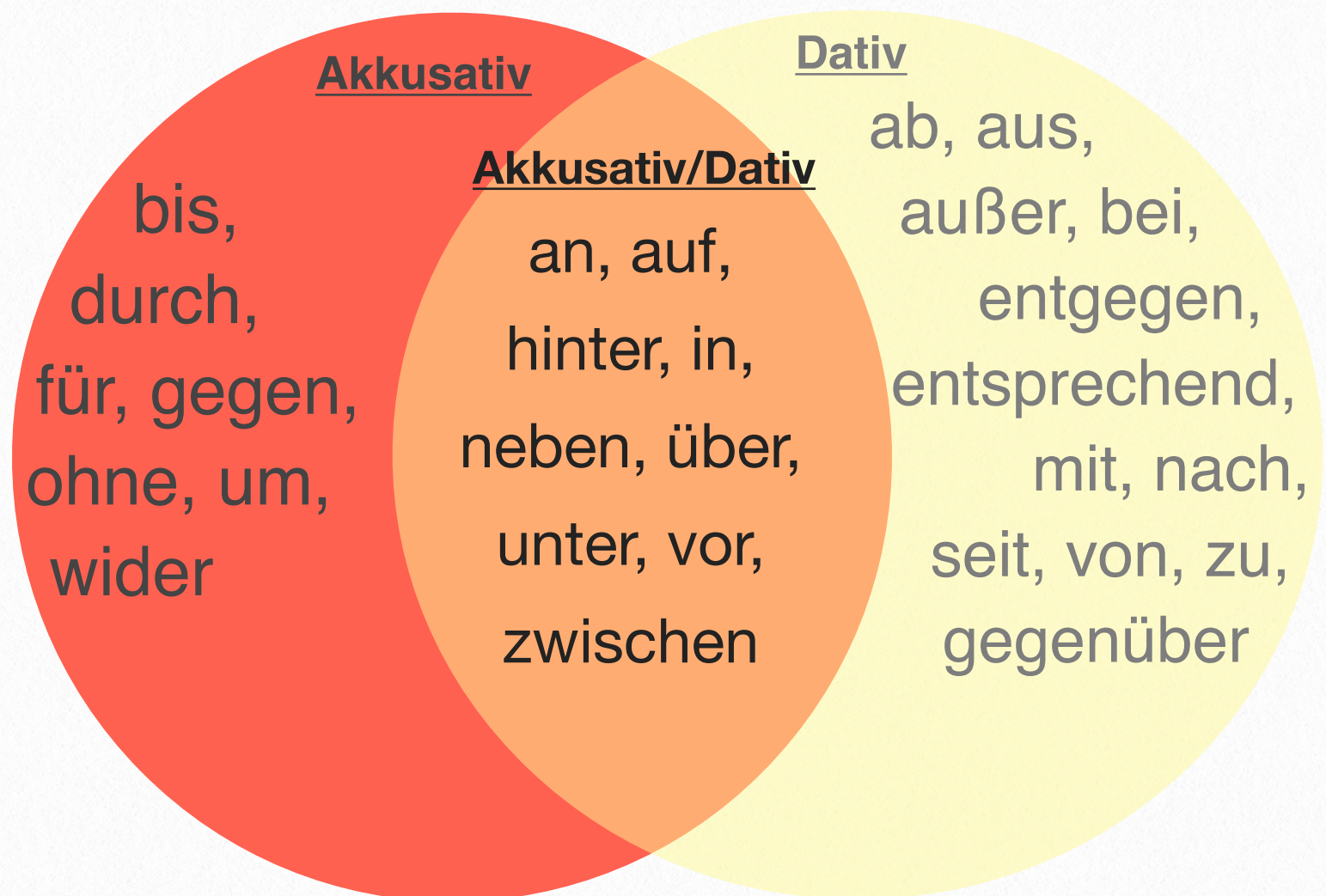
Akkusative Präpositionen

Accusative Prepositions

The accusative prepositions are *bis*, durch, für, gegen, ohne, um*, and *wider*. That means that when you use one of these prepositions, the noun that is the object of that preposition must be declined in the accusative case. Note: *bis* technically takes the accusative case, but it is usually used with another preposition like *zu* or *auf* (*bis zum bitteren Ende - until the bitter end, bis auf weiteres - until further notice*) which changes the case of the object. It is also often used without an article: *bis dann - until then, bis Montag - until Monday.*

Let's look at some examples:

1. Ich warte <u>bis morgen</u>. - I'll wait until morning.

2. Ich laufe <u>durch den Park</u>. - I run <u>through the park</u>.

3. Ich habe ein Geschenk <u>für dich</u>. - I have a present <u>for you</u>.

4. Unsere Mannschaft hat das Spiel <u>gegen euch</u> gewonnen. - Our team won the game <u>against you</u>.

5. Die Welt könnte so schön sein, <u>ohne dich</u>. - The world could be so beautiful, <u>without you</u>.

6. Schade <u>um die Noten</u>. - It's a shame about the grades.

7. <u>Wider den Rat</u> meines Freundes, kaufte ich einen Hamster. - Against the advice of my friend, I bought a hamster.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correct article or pronoun (answers on next page).

1. Ich gucke durch _____ Fenster. - I'm looking through the window.

2. Meine Mutter kocht für _____. - My mom cooks for me.

3. Ich bin mit dem Fahrrad gegen _____Baum gefahren. - I ran into a tree with my bike.

4. Gestern bin ich ohne _____ Hausaufgaben in die Schule gegangen! - Yesterday I went to school without my homework!

5. Die Kinder laufen um _____ Haus. - The children run around the house.

1. Ich gucke durch das Fenster.

2. Meine Mutter kocht für mich.

3. Ich bin mit dem Fahrrad gegen einen Baum gefahren.

4. Gestern bin ich ohne meine Hausaufgaben in die Schule gegangen!

5. Die Kinder laufen um das Haus.

Dative Präpositionen
Dative Prepositions

The dative prepositions are *ab, aus, außer, bei, mit, nach, seit, von,* and *zu*. So when you use a noun in a prepositional phrase with one of these prepositions, that noun must be declined in the dative case. Let's look at some examples:

1. Mein Mann kommt <u>aus</u> der Garage. - My husband comes out of the garage.

2. Alle <u>außer</u> mir haben Kuchen. - Everyone but me has cake.

3. Die Eidechse muss <u>bei</u> dir bleiben. - The lizard has to stay with you (at your house).

4. Ich fahre <u>mit</u> dem Auto in die Stadt. - I drive with the car into the city.

5. <u>Nach</u> der Schule muss ich Klavier üben. - After school I have to practice piano.

6. <u>Seitdem</u> ich dich kenne warst du nett zu mir. - Ever since I've known you you've been nice to me.

7. <u>Von</u> meiner Mutter bekomme ich heute ein Geschenk. - I'm getting a present today from my mother.

8. Wir gehen <u>zur</u> Post. - We're going to the post office.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correct article or pronoun. Answers on the next page.

1. Hol mir ein Eis am Stiel _____ dem Kühlschrank. - Get me a popsicle out of the fridge.

2. Niemand liebt mich, _____ dir, Fido. - Nobody loves me except you, Fido.

3. _____ uns zuhause gibt es jede Nacht Pizza zum Abendessen! - At our house we have pizza every night for dinner!

4. Ich gehe _____ meinen Freunden zu Fuß in die Schule. - I walk to school with my friends.

5. _____ deinem Geburtstag wirst du ein bisschen älter sein. - After your birthday you'll be a little older.

6. _____ dem Tag, an dem ich vom Blitz getroffen worden bin, sehe ich Doppelbilder. - Ever since the day I got hit by lightning, I have double vision.

7. Das hier ist ein Geschenk _____mir ____ dir. - This is a present from me to you.

1. aus 2. außer 3. bei 4. mit 5. nach 6. seit 7.

Akkusative/Dative Präpositionen

Accusative/Dative Prepositions

There are prepositions that can take either the accusative or the dative: *an, auf, hinter, in, neben, über, unter, vor*, and *zwischen*. Keep in mind, the translation of the preposition might change based on context.

When to use the dative and when to use the accusative? The accusative is used when there is movement implied, and the dative is used when you're talking about location or position.

1. <u>An</u> der Wand hängt eine Uhr. - A clock hangs on the wall.

2. Maria schmeißt die Uhr <u>an</u> die Wand. - Maria throws the clock at the wall.

3. Die Bruchstücke fallen <u>auf</u> den Boden. - The broken pieces fall onto the floor.

4. Die Reste liegen <u>auf</u> dem Boden. - The remains lie on the floor.

5. Ich fege die Stücke <u>hinter</u> die Couch. - I sweep the pieces behind the couch.

6. Die Stücke bleiben <u>hinter</u> der Couch. - The pieces stay behind the couch.

7. Mutter kauft eine neue Uhr und bringt sie <u>in</u> das Haus. - Mother buys a new clock and brings it into the house.

8. Jetzt haben wir eine neue Uhr <u>im</u> Haus. - Now we have a new clock in the house.

9. Vater setzt sich <u>neben</u> mich. - Father sits down beside me.

10. Da liegt eine Zeitschrift <u>neben</u> ihm. - There's a magazine lying next to him.

11. Ich werfe die Zeitschrift <u>über</u> seinen Kopf. - I throw the magazine over his head.

12. Da hängt immernoch eine Spinne <u>über</u> seinem Kopf. There's still a spider hanging over his head.

13. Die Spinne fällt <u>unter</u> das Couchkissen. - The spider falls under the couch cushions.

14. Wo ist die Spinne? Sie ist <u>unter</u> deinem Hintern, Vater! - Where is the spider? It's under your butt, father!

15. Wohin gehst du, Vater? <u>Vors</u> Haus! - Where are you going, father? In front of the house!

16. Vater wartet <u>vorm</u> Haus, bis die Spinne weg ist. - Father waits in front of the house until the spider is gone.

17. Die Spinne läuft <u>zwischen</u> die Couch und die Wand. - The spider runs between the couch and the wall.

18. Die Spinne schaut mich an. Ich lasse sie gehen. Es gibt ein stillschweigendes Übereinkommen <u>zwischen</u> uns. - The spider looks at me. I let it go. There is an unspoken agreement between us.

Hopefully the example sentences demonstrated the difference between the dative use and the accusative use well enough. Basically, ask yourself if the verb is expressing movement. If yes, use the preposition with the accusative case. If the verb is expressing location instead, use the preposition with the dative case.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correctly declined article, noun or pronoun. Answers on the next page.

1. Der Hund lief hunter _____ Baum. - The dog ran behind a tree.

2. Ich will eines Tages in _____ Innenstadt wohnen. - One day I want to live in the inner city.

3. Ich fahre in _____ Innenstadt jeden Tag. - I drive into the inner city every day.

4. Der Vogel flog über _____ Haus. - The bird flew over the house.

Da-Kompositen

Da-compounds

Da-compounds are like the answers to wo-compounds' questions. You take a preposition (but not a genitive preposition) and you stick da- to the beginning, and you get a new word. We briefly touched on da-compounds in Chapter 2 (Section 2: *Fragen*). Let's look at that table again.

formation	wo-compound	wo- compound translation	da- compound	da-compound translation
		Table #: Wo- and Da- Compounds		
wo/da + r + über	worüber	above what/above which about what/about which	darüber (drüber)	above that about that
wo/da + durch	wodurch	through what/through which	dadurch	through that
wo/da + r + um	worum	around what/around which about what/about which	darum (drum)	around that about that
wo/da + r + aus	woraus	out of what/out of which	daraus (draus)	out of that
wo/da + mit	womit	with what/with which	damit	with that
wo/da + nach	wonach	after what/after which	danach	after that
wo/da + für	wofür	for what/for which	dafür	for that
wo/da + von	wovon	from what/from which	davon	from that
wo/da + gegen	wogegen	against what/against which	dagegen	against that
wo/da + r + in	worin	in what/in which	darin (drin)	in that
wo/da + r + unter	worunter	under what/under which	darunter (drunter)	under that
wo/da + neben	woneben	next to what/next to which	daneben	next to that
wo/da + hinter	wohinter	behind what/behind which	dahinter	behind that
wo/da + r + auf	worauf	on what/on which	darauf (drauf)	on that

Let's look at some example sentences:

1. Wogegen hast du den Kopf gestoßen? - What did you hit your head against?

2. Gegen den Tisch, dagegen habe ich den Kopf gestoßen! - Against the table, that's what I hit my head against!

3. Wodurch ist der Junge gerannt? - Through where did the boy run?

4. Durch das Haus, dadurch ist er gerannt! - Through the house, that's where he ran through!

5. Womit wirst du trocken bleiben? - With what will you keep yourself dry?

6. Es gibt einen Regenschirm. Damit werde ich trocken bleiben. - There's an umbrella. With that I will keep myself dry.

7. Worin steckt das Geld? - What's the money in?

8. Nicht in meiner Tasche. Da ist kein Geld drin. - Not in my pocket. There's no money in there.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the appropriate wo- or da-compound. Answers at the bottom of the following page.

1. Es gibt ein kleines Dorf. Niemand weiß _____. - There's a little village. Nobody knows about it.

2. _____ wohnt ein großer, starker Krieger. - Therein lives a big, strong warrior.

3. Der Krieger will kämpfen, aber er weiß nicht, _____ er kämpfen soll.

4. Der Krieger wohnt in einem Häuschen. Der Priester des Dorfes wohnt

   _____.

5. Der Priester gibt dem Krieger ein Schwert. "_____ gehst du in den Wald," sagt der Priester.

6. Der Krieger geht in den Wald. Er kommt nie _____.

9

Verben
Verbs

The verb is the word or word phrase that refers to the action, occurrence, or state of being presented in the sentence.

Just like nouns, pronouns, adjectives and articles, German verbs are inflected to express various bits of grammatical information. For nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and articles, this is called declension and they inflect in number, gender, and case. For verbs, it is called conjugation, and they inflect in tense, mood, and voice to agree with the subject of the clause. Like nouns/pronouns/adjectives/articles, the changes that are made to the verb affect mostly the ending, but sometimes a stem vowel change and sometimes the use of an additional verb - called an auxiliary verb.

Every German verb has three principal parts: the infinitive, the third person simple past, and the past participle. Let's take sein and machen as examples: the three principal parts of sein are sein, war, and gewesen. The three principal parts of machen are machen, machte, and gemacht. If you memorize these for every verb you learn, you will have an easier time conjugating because they contain all the information you need to do so.

Starke, Schwache und Mischverben

Strong. Weak, and Mixed Verbs

German verbs can be categorized into three verb types based on their behavior when conjugated. These categories are strong verbs, weak verbs, and mixed verbs. Weak verbs are "regular" verbs - they are easily conjugated because all the rules apply to them. But there are verbs to which these rules don't apply, and those are the strong verbs. Think of them as strong-willed, to go against the grain. Mixed verbs, of course, are somewhere in the middle: they follow the rules in some ways but not in others. Not the infinitive, but the other two **principal parts** of each verb will show if it is a strong verb, a weak verb, or a mixed verb.

Let's start by looking at the weak verbs - what are the rules that govern them?

WEAK VERBS IN GERMAN ARE FULLY REGULAR: THERE IS NO STEM CHANGE AND THEY CONJUGATE PREDICTABLY IN EVERY PERSON, TENSE, MOOD, AND VOICE.

Most German verbs are weak. Some examples of weak verbs in German are sagen/sagte/gesagt (to say), spielen/spielte/gespielt (to play), and machen/machte/gemacht (to make; to do). Because weak verbs are so predictable and all the rules apply to them, the only form you need to memorize is the infinitive. The other principal parts never vary from the following:

infinitive = stem + -en

third person simple past = stem + -te

past participle = ge- + stem + (e)t

This pattern can be seen in English irregular verbs: singen/sang/gesungen = sing/sang/sung; sprechen/sprach/gesprochen = speak/spoke/spoken; kommen/ kam/gekommen = come/came/come. Some examples of strong verbs in German are bleiben/blieb/geblieben (to stay), tun/tat/getan (to do), and rufen/rief/gerufen (to call). German doesn't have as many strong verbs as it does weak verbs, but of the strong verbs it has, many of them are very commonly used.

A small group of strong verbs also has a stem change in present tense du– and er/sie/es-forms: fahren (du fährst/er/sie/es fährt)/fuhr/gefahren (to drive), essen (du isst/er/sie/es isst)/aß/gegessen (to eat).

The remaining verb type is the mixed category. There are 16 verbs in the mixed category - but some of them are fairly frequently used. Some examples of mixed verbs in German are nennen/nannte/genannt (to name; to call), bringen/brachte/ gebracht (to bring), and denken/dachte/gedacht (to think).

GERMAN MIXED VERBS UNDERGO A STEM-VOWEL CHANGE, BUT THE VERB ENDINGS ALL FOLLOW THE RULES OF THE WEAK VERBS.

bringen/brachte/gebracht (to bring), denken/dachte/gedacht (to think).

Some mixed verbs also have anomalies in their present tense singular conjugations. wissen (ich weiß/du weißt/er/sie/es weiß)/wusste/gewusst (to know), dürfen (ich darf/ du darfst/er/sie/es darf)/durfte/gedurft (to be allowed; may), haben (du hast/er/sie/es hat)/ hatte/gehabt (to have).

Table #: Weak Verbs (Regular Verbs)

antworten (to answer)	lernen (to learn)	erzählen (to tell)
glauben (to believe)	fragen (to ask)	legen (to put)
machen (to make; to do)	bedeuten (to mean)	schmecken (to taste; to taste good)
spielen (to play)	warten (to wait)	verkaufen (to sell)
reden (to talk)	gehören (to belong)	warten (to wait)
leben (to live)	fehlen (to lack)	studieren (to study)
arbeiten (to work)	versuchen (to try)	entwickeln (to develop)
sagen (to say; to tell)	fühlen (to feel)	suchen (to look for)

Table #: Example - Suchen

ich suche	I look for	wir suchen	we look for
du suchst	you look for	ihr sucht	you (inf. pl.) look for
er/sie/es sucht	he/she/it looks for	sie/Sie suchen	they/you (f.) look for

Table #: Example - Lernen

ich lerne	I learn	wir lernen	we learn
du lernst	you learn	ihr lernt	you (inf. pl.) learn
er/sie/es lernt	he/she/it learns	sie/Sie lernen	they/you (f.) learn

Table #: Example - Leben

ich lebe	I live	wir leben	we live
du lebst	you live	ihr lebt	you (inf. pl.) live
er/sie/es lebt	he/she/it lives	sie/Sie leben	they/you (f.) live

Table #: Strong and Mixed Verbs (Irregular Verbs)		
*bringen (to bring)	*kennen (to know, be familiar with)	
*denken (to think)	kommen (to come)	senden (to send)
essen (to eat)	lassen (to let)	sitzen (to sit)
finden (to find)	lesen (to read)	sterben (to die)
geben (to give)	nehmen (to take)	trinken (to drink)
gehen (to go, walk)	rennen (to run)	tun (to do)
halten (to hold)	schwimmen (to swim)	*wissen (to know)
helfen (to help)	sehen (to see)	zwingen (to force)
verbs marked with an asterisk (*) are mixed		

sein (to be)			
ich bin	I am	wir sind	we are
du bist	you are	ihr seid	you (informal plural) are
er/sie/es ist	he/she/it is	sie/Sie sind	they/you (formal) are

haben (to have)			
ich habe	I have	wir haben	we have
du hast	you have	ihr habt	you (inf pl) have
er/sie/es hat	he/she/it has	sie/Sie haben	they/you (f) have

essen (to eat)			
ich esse	I eat	wir essen	we eat\
du isst	you eat	ihr isst	you (inf pl) eat
er/sie/es isst	he/she/it eats	sie/Sie essen	they/you (f) eat

Examples of sentences using weak verbs:

1. Diese Tasche gehörte meinem Urgroßvater. - This bag belonged to my great grandfather.

2. Die Studenten lernten die ganze Nacht lang. - The students studied all night long.

3. Ich suchte jahrelang eine Antwort. - I searched for years for an answer.

4. Meine Mutter hat ihr Auto verkauft. - My mother sold her car.

5. Wir redeten und redeten und die Zeit flog. - We talked and talked and time flew.

Examples of sentences using strong verbs:

1. Das Kind las das Buch ohne Hilfe. - The child read the book without help.

2. Was hast du getan? - What have you done?

3. Ich trank den Gift. - I drank the poison.

4. Ich habe im Schwimmbad geschwommen. I swam in the pool.

5. Ich sah einen Regenbogen. - I saw a rainbow.

Examples of sentences using mixed verbs:

1. Ich wusste, das hier irgendetwas losgeht! - I knew something was going on here!

2. Der Hund brachte mir den Ball. - The dog brought me the ball.

3. Ich habe noch nie einen so klugen Mann gekannt. - I have never known such a clever man.

4. Ich dachte, du wärst klüger als das. - I thought you were smarter than that.

5. Der Feuer hat die ganze Nacht lang gebrannt. - The fire burned all night long.

Exercises: fill in the blank with a correctly conjugated verb. Answers are at the bottom of the next page.

1. Die Freunde _____ zusammen am Tisch. - The friends sat together at the table.

2. Wohin _____ sie letzte Nacht? - Where did they go last night?

3. Du hast mir _____. - I've missed you.

4. Cleopatra _____ in einer interessanten Welt. - Cleopatra lived in an interesting world.

5. Meine Mutter hat mir bei den Hausaufgaben _____. - My mother helped me with the homework.

Tempus

Tense

Tense is the grammatical category that defines the relative time the verb occurs in.

The German language has six grammatical tenses. Compare to the twelve we use in English (present simple, past simple, future simple, present perfect, past perfect, future perfect, present continuous, past continuous, future continuous, present perfect continuous, past perfect continuous, and future perfect continuous) The six verb tenses we use in German are…

Two finite tenses:

Present tense: I am; I do

Simple past tense: I was; I did

…and four compound tenses:

future tense: I will be; I will do

Present perfect tense: I have been; I have done

Past perfect tense: I had been; I had done

Future perfect tense: I will have been; I will have done

Present
present tense = stem + endings   stem = infinitive - en

Table #: Present Tense Endings		
	singular	plural
1st person	-e	-en
2nd person	-st	-t
3rd person	-t	-en

Table #: Vocab - Regular Verbs.	
antworten (to answer)	lernen (to learn
arbeiten (to work)	machen (to make, do)
fragen (to ask)	reden (to talk, chat)
glauben (to believe)	sagen (to say, tell)
leben (to live)	spielen (to play)

Table #: ex. antworten (to answer): stem = antworten - en = antwort-			
ich antworte	I answer	wir antworten	we answer
du antwortest	you answer	ihr antwortet	you (inf pl) answer
er/sie/es antwortet	he/she/it answers	sie/Sie antworten	they/you (f) answer

Table #: ex. machen (to make; to do): stem = machen - en = mach-			
ich mache	I make	wir machen	we make
du machst	you make	ihr macht	you (inf pl) make
er/sie/es macht	he/she/it makes	sie/Sie machen	they/you (f) make

Table #: ex. sagen (to say): stem = sagen - en = sag-			
ich sage	I say	wir sagen	we say
du sagst	you say	ihr sagt	you (inf pl) say
er/sie/es sagt	he/she/it says	sie/Sie sagen	they/you (f) say

Present Perfect

present perfect tense = present tense of auxiliary verb (sein or haben) + participle

Table #: Present Tense - Sein		
	singular	plural
1st person	bin	sind
2nd person	bist	seid
3rd person	ist	sind

Table #: ex. antworten (to answer): stem = antworten - en = antwort-			
ich habe geantwortet	I have answered	wir haben geantwortet	we have answered
du hast geantwortet	you have answered	ihr habt geantwortet	you (inf pl) have answered
er/sie/es hat geantwortet	he/she/it has answered	sie/Sie haben geantwortet	they/you (f) have answered

Table #: ex. machen (to make; to do): stem = machen - en = mach-			
ich habe gemacht	i have made	wir haben gemacht	we have made
du hast gemacht	you have made	ihr habt gemacht	you (inf pl) have made
er/sie/es hat gemacht	he/she/it has made	sie/Sie haben gemacht	they/you (f) have made

Table #: ex. sagen (to say): stem = sagen - en = sag-			
ich habe gesagt	I have said	wir haben gesagt	we have said
du hast gesagt	you have said	ihr habt gesagt	you (inf pl) have said
er/sie/es hat gesagt	he/she/it has said	sie/Sie haben gesagt	they/you (f) have said

As these examples demonstrate, most verbs are conjugated into the perfect tenses with haben (to have) – but some verbs use sein (to be) in that place. The translation still uses "have" in English. See next page for examples.

Present Perfect (cont'd)

present perfect tense = present tense of auxiliary verb (sein or haben) + participle

Table #: Present Tense - Haben		
	singular	plural
1st person	habe	haben
2nd person	hast	habt
3rd person	hat	haben

Table #: ex. sein (to be): irregular past participle			
ich bin gewesen	I have been	wir sind gewesen	we have been
du bist gewesen	you have been	ihr seid gewesen	you (inf pl) have been
er/sie/es ist gewesen	he/she/it has been	sie/Sie sind gewesen	they/you (f) have been

Table #: ex. reisen (to travel): stem = reisen - en = reis-			
ich bin gereist	I have traveled	wir sind gereist	we have traveled
du bist gereist	you have traveled	ihr seid gereist	you (inf pl) have traveled
er/sie/es ist gereist	he/she/it has traveled	sie/Sie sind gereist	they/you (f) have traveled

Future

future tense = present tense of werden + infinitive

Table #: werden (auxiliary - to become) - present tense	
ich werde	wir werden
du wirst	ihr werdet
er/sie/es wird	sie/Sie werden

Table #: ex. antworten (to answer)			
ich werde antworten	I will answer	wir werden antworten	we will answer
du wirst antworten	you will answer	ihr werdet antworten	you (inf. pl.) will answer
er/sie/es wird antworten	he/she/it will answer	sie/Sie werden antworten	they/you (f.) will answer

Table #: ex. machen (to make; to do)			
ich werde machen	I will make	wir werden machen	we will make
du wirst machen	you will make	ihr werdet machen	you (inf. pl.) will make
er/sie/es wird machen	he/she/it will make	sie/Sie werden machen	they/you (f.) will make

Table #: ex. sagen (to say)			
ich werde sagen	I will say	wir werden sagen	we will say
du wirst sagen	you will say	ihr werdet sagen	you (inf. pl.) will say
er/sie/es wird sagen	he/she/it will say	sie/Sie werden sagen	they/you (f.) will say

Simple Past

simple past = stem + endings   stem = infinitive - en

Table #: Simple Past Tense Endings		
	singular	plural
1st person	-(e)te	-(e)ten
2nd person	-(e)test	-(e)tet
3rd person	-(e)te	-(e)ten

Table #: ex. antworten (to answer)			
ich antwortete	I answered	wir antworteten	we answered
du antwortetest	you answered	ihr antwortetet	you (inf. pl.) answered
er/sie/es antwortete	he/she/it answered	sie/Sie antworteten	they/you (f.) answered

Table #: ex. machen (to make; to do)			
ich machte	I made	wir machten	we made
du machtest	you made	ihr machtet	you (inf. pl.) made
er/sie/es machte	he/she/it made	sie/Sie machten	they/you (f.) made

Table #: ex. sagen (to say)			
ich sagte	I said	wir sagten	we said
du sagtest	you said	ihr sagtet	you (inf. pl.) said
er/sie/es sagte	he/she/it said	sie/Sie sagten	they/you (f.) said

Past Perfect

past perfect tense = simple past tense of auxiliary verb (sein or haben) + participle

Table #: Past Tense - Sein

	singular	plural
1st person	war	waren
2nd person	warst	wart
3rd person	war	waren

Table #: Present Tense - Haben

	singular	plural
1st person	hatte	hatten
2nd person	hattest	hattet
3rd person	hatte	hatten

Table #: ex. antworten (to answer): stem = antworten - en = antwort-

ich hatte geantwortet	I had answered	wir hatten geantwortet	we had answered
du hattest geantwortet	you had answered	ihr hattet geantwortet	you (inf. pl.) had answered
er/sie/es hatte geantwortet	he/she/it had answered	sie/Sie hatten geantwortet	they/you (f.) had answered

Table #: ex. machen (to make; to do): stem = machen - en = mach-

ich hatte gemacht	i had made	wir hatten gemacht	we had made
du hattest gemacht	you had made	ihr hattet gemacht	you (inf. pl.) had made
er/sie/es hatte gemacht	he/she/it had made	sie/Sie hatten gemacht	they/you (f.) had made

Table #: ex. sagen (to say): stem = sagen - en = sag-

ich hatte gesagt	I had said	wir hatten gesagt	we had said
du hattest gesagt	you had said	ihr hattet gesagt	you (inf. pl.) had said
er/sie/es hatte gesagt	he/she/it had said	sie/Sie hatten gesagt	they/you (f.) had said

Table #: ex. sein (to be): irregular past participle

ich war gewesen	I had been	wir waren gewesen	we had been
du warst gewesen	you had been	ihr wart gewesen	you (inf. pl.) had been
er/sie/es war gewesen	he/she/it had been	sie/Sie waren gewesen	they/you (f.) had been

Table #: ex. reisen (to travel): stem = reisen - en = reis-

ich war gereist	I had traveled	wir waren gereist	we had traveled
du warst gereist	you had traveled	ihr waren gereist	you (inf. pl.) had traveled
er/sie/es war gereist	he/she/it had traveled	sie/Sie waren gereist	they/you (f.) had traveled

Future Perfect

future perfect tense = present tense of werden + participle + infinitive of auxiliary verb (sein or haben)

Table #: werden (auxiliary - to become) - present tense	
ich werde	wir werden
du wirst	ihr werdet
er/sie/es wird	sie/Sie werden

Table #: ex. antworten (to answer): stem = antworten - en = antwort-			
ich werde geantwortet haben	I will have answered	wir werden geantwortet haben	we will have answered
du wirst geantwortet haben	you will have answered	ihr werdet geantwortet haben	you (inf. pl.) will have answered
er/sie/es wird geantwortet haben	he/she/it will have answered	sie/Sie werden geantwortet haben	they/you (f.) will have answered

Table #: ex. machen (to make; to do): stem = machen - en = mach-			
ich werde gemacht haben	I will have made	wir werden gemacht haben	we will have made
du wirst gemacht haben	you will have made	ihr werdet gemacht haben	you (inf. pl.) will have made
er/sie/es wird gemacht haben	he/she/it will have made	sie/Sie werden gemacht haben	they/you (f.) will have made

Table #: ex. sagen (to say): stem = sagen - en = sag-			
ich werde gesagt haben	I will have said	wir werden gesagt haben	we will have said
du wirst gesagt haben	you will have said	ihr werdet gesagt haben	you (inf. pl.) will have said
er/sie/es wird gesagt haben	he/she/it will have said	sie/Sie werden gesagt haben	they/you (f.) will have said

Table #: ex. sein (to be): irregular past participle			
ich werde gewesen sein	I will have been	wir werden gewesen sein	we will have been
du wirst gewesen sein	you will have been	ihr werdet gewesen sein	you (inf. pl.) will have been
er/sie/es wird gewesen sein	he/she/it will have been	sie/Sie werden gewesen sein	they/you (f.) will have been

Table #: ex. reisen (to travel): stem = reisen - en = reis-			
ich werde gereist sein	I will have traveled	wir werden gereist sein	we will have traveled
du wirst gereist sein	you will have traveled	ihr werdet gereist sein	you (inf. pl.) will have traveled
er/sie/es wird gereist sein	he/she/it will have traveled	sie/Sie werden gereist sein	they/you (f.) will have traveled

Modus
Grammatical Mood

Grammatical mood is a verb feature used for signaling modality, or expressing an attitude about what is being said. German has three moods: indicative, subjunctive, and imperative. Every instance of a verb, except when in the infinitive, participle, or gerund form, is inflected into one of these three moods. Most of the time, verbs are conjugated in the indicative.

Indicative Mood
conjugated verb = stem + endings   stem = infinitive - en

All the verbs reviewed here up to this point have been conjugated in the indicative mood, the grammatical mood used for making factual statements, asking questions, or expressing opinions regarded as factual by the speaker. Indicative is the mood we use most of the time, and all verb tenses can be inflected within the indicative mood. You can kind of think of it as the "default" mood.

Subjunctive I (Mood) - The Special Subjunctive

present tense stem + subj. endings

The subjunctive mood is used in the context of unreality or the unknown/unknowable, such as wishes, emotions, possibilities, opinions, or actions that have not yet occurred. English has the tiniest scrap of a remnant of the subjunctive case. You can find the English special subjunctive in these examples, featuring 3rd-person commands:

So be it.

Long live the king!

May he rot in Hell.

But mostly, the English special subjunctive is obsolete.

The German special subjunctive, however, is alive and well.

How the special subjunctive is formed:

Take the stem from the present tense indicative conjugation and add the following endings:

Subjunctive Endings	
-e	-en
-est	-et
-e	-en

Table #: ex. machen			
ich mache	I do	wir machen	we do
du macheste	you do	ihr machet	you (inf. pl.) do
er/sie/es mache	he/she/it does	sie/Sie machen	they/you (f.) do

Table #: ex. antworten			
ich antworte	I answer	wir antworten	we answer
du antwortest	you answer	ihr antwortet	you (inf. pl.) answer
er/sie/es antworte	he/she/it answers	sie/Sie antworten	they/you (f.) answer

Table #: ex. sagen			
ich sage	I say	wir sagen	we say
du sagest	you say	ihr saget	you (inf. pl.) say
er/sie/es sage	he/she/it says	sie/Sie sagen	they/you (f.) say

Note that all of these forms are regular. It doesn't matter if the verb is strong or weak.

Subjunctive I (Mood) - The Special Subjunctive

present tense: present tense stem + subj. endings
past: present tense special subjunctive haben/sein + past participle
future: present tense special subjunctive werden (würden) + infinitive
future perfect: present tense special subjunctive werden (würde) + past participle + infinitive

All verbs are regular in the special subjunctive - except sein:

Table #: ex. machen			
ich sei	I am	wir seien	we are
du seist	you are	ihr seiet	you (inf. pl.) are
er/sie/es sei	he/she/it is	sie/Sie seien	they/you (f.) are

Indirect Discourse: one of the main uses of the special subjunctive is to restate something someone else said.

Examples:

1. Meine Mutter sagt, wir seien zu lange fort. - My mother says we were gone for too long.

2. Dein Freund sagt, du habest Melone gern. - Your boyfriend says you like melons.

3. Der Lehrer sagt, ihr machet die Hausaufgaben nicht. - The teacher says you don't do your homework.

4. Der Politiker sagt, er sei kein Gauner. - The politician says he's not a crook.

5. Marla sagt, die Katze wolle essen. - Marla says the cat wants to eat.

Examples:

1. Dein Mann sagt, du habest pizza gewollt. - Your husband says you wanted pizza.

2. Meine Schwester sagt, sie werde das Geschirr spülen. - My sister says she will do the dishes.

3. Der Lehrer sagt, die Klasse werde es vor Freitag fertig gemacht haben. - The teacher says that the class will have it done before Friday.

4. Meine Nichte sagt, ihre Mutter sei Nummer Eins! - My niece says her mother is number one!

5. Der Arzt sagt, ich müsse gesünder essen. - The doctor says I have to eat healthier.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correctly conjugated verb (in the special subjunctive). Answers are at the bottom of the following page.

1. Meine Tante sagt, ihr Mann _____ihr dreimal das Leben gerettet. - My aunt says her husband saved her life three times.

2. Mein Onkel sagt, in seiner Zeit _____ es keine Videospiele. - My uncle says there were no video games in his days.

3. Der Wetteransager sagt, am Mittwoch _____ es regnen. - The weatherman says it will rain on Wednesday.

4. Die Polizei sagt, ich _____ nicht im Garten meines Nachbarn pinkeln. - The police say I'm not allowed to pee in my neighbor's yard.

5. Mein Nachbar sagt, ich _____ auf die Polizei hören. - The neighbor says I should listen to the police.

Subjunctive II (Mood) - The General Subjunctive

The general subjunctive in English:

I wouldn't do that if I were you.

If I had a million dollars….

Had she known that, she wouldn't have done what she did.

German forms the general subjunctive with the simple past indicative form. (And the subjunctive form of weak verbs looks exactly the same as the simple past form.):

Wenn ich diesen Ring haben wollte, kaufte ich ihn sofort. - If I wanted to have this car, I would buy it immediately.

Strong verbs also use the simple past, adding an umlaut where possible, along with the endings that follow the -t- in the weak simple past:

Table #: ex. machen			
ich wäre	I would be	wir wären	we would be
du wärest	you would be	ihr wäret	you (inf. pl.) would be
er/sie/es wäre	he/she/it would be	sie/Sie wären	they/you (f.) would be

Irregular weak verbs add an umlaut to the imperfect form: brächte, dächte, hätte, wüsste, and in some cases substitute an "-e-" for the "-ä-": brennte, kennte, nennte, rennte, sendete, wendete.

Modals also add an umlaut to the imperfect form, if there was one in the infinitive: dürfte, könnte, möchte, müsste. "Sollen" and "wollen," however, do not add an umlaut: sollte, wollte.

1. hätte 2. gäbe 3. würde 4. dürfte 5. solle

Subjunctive II (Mood) - The General Subjunctive (cont'd)

There are only two tenses in the German general subjunctive: the past and the non-past.

Non-Past:

Wenn ich länger schliefe, käme ich bestimmt spät in die Schule.

Wenn ich länger schliefe, würde ich bestimmt spät in die Schule kommen.

Past:

Wenn ich länger geschlafen hätte, wäre ich bestimmt spät in die Schule gekommen.

Wenn ich länger geschlafen hätte, würde ich bestimmt spät in die Schule gekommen sein.

Examples:

1. Wenn ich mehr geübt hätte, hätte ich siche mehr Lob bekommen. - If I had practiced more, I would have received more praise.

2. Wenn ich weniger gegessen hätte, würde ich mich jetzt besser fühlen. - If I had eaten less, I would feel better now.

3. Wenn ich einen Wachhund hätte, würde niemand mich stören. - If I had a watchdog, nobody would bother me.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correctly conjugated verb (in the general subjunctive). Answers are at the bottom of the following page.

1. Wenn ich jünger _____, _____ ich besser lieben. - If I were younger, I could love better.

2. Wenn ich das nicht _____, _____ ich jetzt mehr Optionen _____. - If I hadn't done that, I would have more options now.

3. Wenn ich nicht so viel Zeit am Computer _____, _____ die Sehkraft besser. - If I hadn't spent so much time at the computer, my eyesight would be better.

4. Wenn der Hund sauberer _____, _____ er nicht so sehr. - If the dog were cleaner, it wouldn't stink so much.

5. Wenn ich gestern_____, _____ ich jetzt Lebensmittel. - If I had gone shopping yesterday, I would have groceries now.

Imperative Mood

The imperative mood is used when giving commands. German has an imperative form for du, one for ihr, and one for Sie. There are also command forms for the first person plural (wir) and for the third person (er/sie/es/sie), but these are less common.

Second Person Formal (Sie)

Add -en to the verb stem to make the formal 2nd person command. Always followed by the pronoun (Sie). Looks like a question except for the punctuation (except sein).
Examples:

1. Machen Sie das Licht aus! - Turn off the light!
2. Geben Sie mir fünf Euro! - Give me five Euros!
3. Schauen Sie das mal an! - Look at that!
4. Seien Sie nicht so gemein. - Don't be so mean.
5. Schreiben Sie mir einen Brief. - Write me a letter.

Second Person Singular Informal (Du)

1. In the case of weak verbs, the imperative second person singular informal (du) form is the same as the stem, usually + -e (optional). If the stem ends in -d, -t, -ig, or in -m or -n preceded by certain consonants (not -l- or -r-), you <u>must</u> add an -e.

   a. Tu(e) das nicht! - Don't do that!

   b. Hör(e) gut zu! - Listen closely!

   c. Bau(e) mir ein Haus! - Build me a house!

   d. Arbeite schneller! - Work faster!

   e. Antworte mir! - Answer me!

2. Strong verbs that do not change the stem vowel at all in the present tense (e.g. "rufen"), or, in the "du"-form, change only by adding an umlaut (e.g. "fahren"), act the same as weak verbs:

   a. Lauf schneller! - Run faster!

   b. Schlaf gut! - Sleep well!

   c. Ruf mich an! - Call me!

1. wäre, könnte 2. getan hätte, würde, haben 3. verbracht gehabt hätte, wäre 4. wäre, hätte, stänke 5. einkaufen gegangen wäre, hätte

Imperative Mood (cont'd)

3. Other strong verbs: Strong verbs that change the stem vowel to "-i-" or "-ie-" retain that change in the "du"-imperative. Here you may not add an "-e" -
   a. Lies mal ein Buch. - Read a book for once.
   b. Sieh das mal an! - Look at that!
   c. Hilf mir! - Help me!
...and there are three exceptions: sein, wissen and werden do not change.
   a. Sei nicht so blöd! - Don't be so stupid.
   b. Wisse, dass niemand dir helfen wird. - Know that nobody is going to help you.
   c. Werde gut, mein Sohn. - Become good, my son.

Second Person Plural Informal (Ihr)
Same as indicative ihr-conjugation: stem + -t. Not followed by the pronoun.
1. Kauft mir eine Flasche Wein. - Buy me a bottle of wine.
2. Bleibt noch eine Weile länger. - Stay a while longer.
3. Gebt mir die Hausaufgaben. - Give me the homework.
4. Lasst mir in Ruhe! - Leave me in peace! (Leave me alone!)
5. Seid ein bisschen leiser, bitte. - Be a little quieter, please.

1st Person Plural (Wir)
Same as second person formal command, stem + -en and followed by the pronoun (wir). Also possible: use "lassen," to mean something like the English "let's…". Examples:
1. Kaufen wir eine Katze. - Let's buy a cat.
2. Gehen wir in den Park. - Let's go to the park.
3. Seien wir klug. - Let's be smart.
4. Lassen wir ein bisschen lernen. - Let's study a little bit.
5. Lass uns ins Kino gehen. - Let's go to the movies.

3rd Person (er/sie/es/sie)
German used to use the special subjunctive to create third-person commands, but this sounds dated now, except in certain phrases, and in recipes:
1. Es lebe der König! - Long live the king!
2. Edel sei der Mensch. - Let man be noble.
3. Man nehme eine Prise Salz. - Take a pinch of salt.
another form of the third-person command is with mögen in the special subjunctive:
1. Möge dir Gott helfen. - May God help you.
2. Möge sie glücklich sein. - May she be happy.

Examples.

1. Hört mir zu! - Listen to me!

2. Sitzen Sie in der Sonne. - Sit in the sun.

3. Streichel den Hund. - Pet the dog.

4. Trinken wir das Bier. - Let's drink the beer.

5. Fahr doch nicht so schnell! - Don't drive so fast!

6. Geh nicht in die Arbeit. - Don't go to work.

7. Lassen wir heute eine Party schmeißen! - Let's throw a party!

8. Schmecken Sie dieses Häppchen! - Taste this horsdoeuvre!

9. Öffnet die Champagne! - Open the champagne!

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correctly conjugated verb form. Answers are at the bottom of the next page.

1. _____ die Katzen! - Feed the cats!

2. _____ Sie den Fernseher aus! - Turn off the TV!

3. _____ Sie sich! - Bathe yourself!

4. _____ das Handy aus. - Turn off your phone.

5. _____ wir Mutter _____. - Let's call mother.

6. _____ mir eine Fahrkarte. - Buy me a [train] ticket.

7. _____ uns die Treppe _____. - Let's go up the stairs.

Diathese

Grammatical Voice

Grammatical voice is the relationship between the subject of the sentence and the action being undertaken as expressed by the verb. The German language has two grammatical voices: active and passive. If the subject is the "doer" of the action (verb), the voice is active. If the subject is the target or recipient of the action (verb), the sentence is in the passive voice. Really, almost all sentences in English and in German are in the active tense. Using the passive often results in awkward-sounding sentences. But every once in a while, you'll need to understand or say something that's most effectively expressed with the passive voice.

Let's look at some examples.

The apple is eaten (by the woman).

The act of eating is being performed by the woman, but the woman isn't the subject of the sentence. (In fact, it's optional information when forming this sentence.) The subject is the apple, the target of the action expressed by the verb (eat). Let's compare our example sentence to another example:

The woman eats the apple.

This is the same sentence, but in the active voice. The subject, the woman, is performing the action, eat. The target of the action, the apple, is the object of the sentence.

Some more examples of passive sentences and their active equivalents:

Passive Voice	Active Voice
The hunter has been bitten (by the bear).	The bear has bitten the hunter.
The child is driven to school (by grandmother).	The grandmother drives the child to school.
The paper was written (by an academic).	An academic wrote the paper.

Does the subject perform the action expressed by the verb? Then it's in the active voice. Is the action directed toward the subject? Then the sentence is in the passive voice.

Active Voice

Active voice is the grammatical voice used most of the time, as opposed to passive voice. In sentences with active voice, the subject performs the action indicated by the verb. All the verbs featured so far in this guide have been conjugated in the active voice.

Example: Die Frau isst den Apfel.

The eating is being performed by the woman, and die Frau is the subject of the sentence – in the nominative case. The target of the action expressed by the verb is den Apfel. It's the object of the verb, so it's in the accusative case. To make this sentence shorter, you could leave out the object, and just say:

Die Frau isst.

This is still grammatically correct, because it has a subject (die Frau) and a predicate (isst).

Passive Voice

passive voice = auxiliary verb (sein or werden) + participle   participle of weak verbs = ge- + stem + -(e)t
participle of strong verbs = ge- + stem including stem changes + -en

Passive voice is the alternative to active voice. In passive sentences, the subject (nominative case) is the target or recipient of the action indicated by the verb. An example:

Der Apfel wird (von der Frau) gegessen.

The subject of the sentence is der Apfel, appropriately in the nominative case. The predicate is wird gegessen, and there is no object. (The remaining portion of the sentence, von der Frau, is called the agent. More on that later.) The subject is the target of the action expressed by the verb. Thus, this sentence is passive. To make this sentence shorter, you could leave out the information about the agent, and just say:

Der Apfel wird gegessen.

German	English
Das Licht wird (von der Lehrerin) ausgeschaltet.	The light is turned off (by the teacher).
Die Wandmalerei wird (von den Studenten) gemalt.	The mural is painted (by the students).
Der Film wird (von uns) angesehen.	The movie is watched by us.

In English, the passive voice is formed with a conjugated auxiliary verb (to be) and the participle form of the main verb. In German, it's basically the same: conjugated auxiliary verb (sein or werden) plus the participle of the main verb. Let's start with some example sentences in the present tense (we will address when to use sein and when to use werden in the next section, *Stative vs. Dynamic Passive*):

Passive Voice (cont'd)

passive voice = auxiliary verb (sein or werden) + participle   participle of weak verbs = ge- + stem + -(e)t
participle of strong verbs = ge- + stem including stem changes + -en

Table #: Present Tense - Sein	singular	plural
1st person	bin	sind
2nd person	bist	seid
3rd person	ist	sind

Table #: Present Tense - Werden	singular	plural
1st person	werde	werden
2nd person	wirst	werdet
3rd person	wird	werden

ex. antworten (to answer): participle = ge- + stem (antwort-) + -(e)t = geantwortet			
ich bin/werde geantwortet	I am answered	wir sind/werden geantwortet	we are answered
du bist/werdest geantwortet	you are answered	ihr seid/werdet geantwortet	you (informal plural) are answered
er/sie/es ist/wird geantwortet	he/she/it is answered	sie/Sie sind/werden geantwortet	they/you (formal) are answered

ex. machen (to make; to do): participle = ge- + stem (mach-) + -(e)t = gemacht			
ich bin/werde gemacht	I am made	wir sind/werden gemacht	we are made
du bist/wirst gemacht	you are made	ihr seid/werdet gemacht	you (informal plural) are made
er/sie/es ist/wird gemacht	he/she/it is made	sie/Sie sind/werden gemacht	they/you (formal) are made

ex. sagen (to say): participle = ge- + stem (sag-) + -(e)t = gesagt			
ich bin/werde gesagt	I am said	wir sind/werden gesagt	we are said
du bist/wirst gesagt	you are said	ihr seid/werdet gesagt	you (informal plural) are said
er/sie/es ist/wird gesagt	he/she/it is said	sie/Sie sind/werden gesagt	they/you (formal) are said

Some of these examples might not make much sense. Sentences like "we are said" and "you are made" are not commonly used in English or in German. Remember: the passive voice in general is not very commonly used, in English or in German, and often results in awkward-sounding sentences. A lot of these examples are very rarely used in German and in English, but the example serves as a reference so you can understand how the verb is conjugated. That being said, when the passive voice is used, the verb is usually conjugated in the third person: "it is said", "it is made".

Stative vs. Dynamic Passive

These examples all use the auxiliary verb werden. Passives formed with werden are called dynamic passives, because they have some kind of change involved. But there's another kind of German passive – the stative passive. The stative passive expresses that the subject is in a state (e.g. standing, seated, satisfied) as a result of a previous action, and uses sein as an auxiliary verb. Here are some examples:

Dynamic Passive	Stative Passive	Translation
Die Tür wird geschlossen.	Die Tür ist geschlossen.	The door is closed.
Der Apfel wird gegessen.	Der Apfel ist gegessen.	The apple is eaten.
Die Katze wird gefüttert.	Die Katze ist gefüttert.	The cat is fed.

In these examples, the dynamic version tells the story of the process that takes place as expressed by the verb. Die Tür wird geschlossen refers to the action of closing. The door is moving during this story. In the stative version, the action has already taken place. The door has been closed; the apple has been eaten; the cat has been fed. The stative

Special Examples of the Passive Voice in German

There are some examples of the passive voice in German that can't be expressed the same way in English. These examples aren't directly translateable.

The introductory "es" is often used in German to introduce passive sentences. It is sometimes called "the false subject," because the real subject appears after the verb. The verb is conjugated to agree with the real subject, not "es". When something else is added in first position, the introductory "es" usually disappears.

German	English
Es werden viele Klamotten aus Baumwolle gemacht.	Many clothes are made out of cotton.
Heutzutage werden viele Klamotten aus Baumwolle gemacht.	These days, many clothes are made out of cotton.
Es wird Spanisch gesprochen.	Spanish is spoken.
Hier wird Spanisch gesprochen.	Spanish is spoken here.

The so-called impersonal passive can denote general activity, often used with an intransitive verb. When the word order is inverted, the "es" normally disappears. Note that such an inversion is not possible when the finite verb is a modal auxiliary:

Es wurde die ganze Nacht getanzt. → Die ganze Nacht wurde getanzt. There was dancing going on all night.

Es wird bei uns zu Hause viel gelacht. → Bei uns zu Hause wird viel gelacht.   At our house there is a lot of laughter.

Es wird hier selten geraucht. → Hier wird selten geraucht.   There seldom any smoking here.

Example sentences:

1. Das Eis wurde gegessen. - The ice cream was eaten.

2. Es wurde ein Film angeschaut. - A movie was watched.

3. Beim Abendessen wurden sechs Shrimps gegessen. - At dinner, six shrimp were eaten.

4. Die Reifenpanne wurde von meiner Mutter gewechselt. - The flat tire was changed by my mother.

5. Der Hindernislauf wurde von Dirk in Rekordzeit durchgeführt.

6. Der Roman wird von meiner Schwester gelesen. - The novel is being read by my sister.

Exercises: fill in the blanks with verbs correctly conjugated in the passive voice. Answers are on the bottom of the following page.

1. Eine schlechte Bewertung _____ vom Kritiker _____. - A bad review was written by the critic.

2. Die Straße _____ von den Arbeitern _____. - The road was repaired by the workers.

3. Die Fragen der Schüler _____ immer vom Lehrer _____. - The questions of the students are always answered by the teacher.

4. Die Stadt _____ durch das Feuer _____. - The town was destroyed by the fire.

5. Ein besonderes Abendessen _____ heute Abend von Vanessa _____. - A special dinner is being made by Vanessa tonight.

1. wurde, verfasst (geschrieben) 2. wurde, repariert
3. werder, beantwortet (geantwortet) 4. wurde, zerstört
5. wird, zubereitet (vorbereitet)

Modalverben
Modal Auxiliaries

Modal verbs are verbs that must be followed by a verb in the infinitive. All modal verbs are irregular: the 3rd person singular does not end in –t, and the third person singular forms do not have an umlaut.

Table #: Vocabulary - Modal Verbs	
dürfen	to be allowed to; may
können	to be able to; can
mögen	to like
müssen	to have to; must
sollen	to be supposed to; should
wollen	to want

Modal Auxiliaries (cont'd)

ex. dürfen (to be allowed to; may)			
ich darf	I may	wir dürfen	we may
du darfst	you may	ihr dürft	you (informal plural) may
er/sie/es darf	he/she/it may	sie/Sie dürfen	they/you (formal) may

ex. können (to be able to; can)			
ich kann	I can	wir können	we can
du kannst	you can	ihr könnt	you (informal plural) can
er/sie/es kann	he/she/it can	sie/Sie können	they/you (formal) can

ex. mögen (to like to)			
ich mag	I like to	wir mögen	we like to
du magst	you like to	ihr mögt	you (informal plural) like to
er/sie/es mag	he/she/it likes to	sie/Sie mögen	they/you (formal) like to

ex. müssen (to have to; must)			
ich muss	I must	wir müssen	we must
du müsst	you must	ihr müsst	you (informal plural) must
er/sie/es muss	he/she/it must	sie/Sie müssen	they/you (formal) must

ex. sollen (to be supposed to; should)			
ich soll	I should	wir sollen	we should
du sollst	you should	ihr sollt	you (informal plural) should
er/sie/es soll	he/she/it should	sie/Sie sollen	they/you (formal) should

ex. wollen (to want to)			
ich will	I want	wir wollen	we want
du willst	you want	ihr wollt	you (informal plural) want
er/sie/es will	he/she/it want	sie/Sie wollen	they/you (formal) want

Examples:

1. Ich <u>muss</u> jetzt meine Hausaufgaben machen. - I have to do my homework now.

2. <u>Darf</u> ich nach dem Abendessen mit meinen Freunden spielen? - May I play with my friends after dinner?

3. Du <u>sollst</u> den Tisch abräumen und das Geschirr spülen. - You should clear off the table and wash the dishes.

4. Das Kind <u>mag</u> die Nachspeise. - The child likes the dessert.

5. Die Familie <u>will</u> ein Brettspiel spielen. - The family wants to play a board game.

6. Die Eltern <u>dürfen</u> nicht gewinnen. - The parents aren't allowed to win.

Exercises: fill in the blank with the correctly conjugated form of a modal verb. Answers at the bottom of the next page.

1. Der Hund _____ nicht auf den Möbeln liegen. - The dog is not allowed to lie on the furniture.

2. Wir _____ heute das ganze Haus saubermachen. - We have to clean the whole house today.

3. Ich _____ dieses Auto kaufen. - I want to buy this car.

4. Die Kinder _____ schwimmen. - The children like to swim.

5. Jugendliche _____ wenigstens 9 Stundem pro Nacht schlafen. - Young people should sleep at least 9 hours each night.