

Collins easy learning

German Audio Course

THE EASIEST WAY TO LEARN A LANGUAGE



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INTRODUCTION

Track 1

Easy Learning German is a course specifically designed to help you to ask for the things you're most likely to need when visiting Germany, and to give you the skills to cope with situations you might find yourself in. This course is different from other courses in that you also learn to understand the likely replies to your questions. You hear key words and phrases used in dialogues between native speakers, so you learn not only how to say them but how they are used in conversation. To help you remember what you learn, the course makes use of all the latest techniques in memory building, backed up by regular revision. Unlike some other courses, *Easy Learning German* is not just a collection of useful phrases to learn by rote; it allows you to practise them, gives you listening tips to help you recognize what you hear, and tells you what to say when you don't understand and need help.

Your course consists of audio files with an accompanying guide. There are 12 units, each divided into two parts. In the first part, *The basics*, you are given just a handful of key words or phrases to learn. You can listen to them and repeat them as many times as you like. Next, you hear these words and phrases in short conversations, to help you recognize them when you hear them. Finally, you are given the chance to say the words and phrases in the gaps in the conversations. By learning just a few new words or phrases at a time, you can quickly build up a store of essential, everyday language that you can draw on when you need it.

If you already know some of the language in *The basics*, you can carry straight on to the second part of the unit, *Taking it further*. Otherwise, you can come back to it later. *Taking it further* is optional and provides more listening and speaking practice. You hear your new language in one or more longer conversations, with further explanation and cultural tips related to the situation presented in

each unit. First you hear each conversation straight through. Then you hear it again line by line, with explanations of new words and phrases. After that, you listen to the whole dialogue again before going on to take the part of one of the speakers. This step-by-step approach is designed to build up your confidence in understanding and speaking.

Revision of the key words is built into the course, so you don't have to keep going back if you have forgotten something. There is a quick review before the second part of each unit. *Noch einmal!*, the review section, gives you the chance to revise and test your knowledge of the key words and phrases from the previous four units, and to practise the main dialogues again. If you find you have forgotten something, you can always go back and listen to the appropriate track again.

In this guide you will find extracts from each unit, including the key phrases and dialogues, with translations and learning tips, for easy reference. *Tips* provide extra information about the new language in the unit, as well as hints on learning, and *Language lab* boxes give brief and simple explanations of how German works.

It has been found that the optimum learning time for new material is about 8 to 10 minutes, although you can manage longer sessions if some of the material is already familiar to you. In each unit, *The basics* is about 6 to 8 minutes long, so if the material is new to you, take a break before going on to *Taking it further*. This lasts about 8 to 10 minutes. Don't try to tackle too much at a time, and remember to take frequent breaks.

UNIT 1

Hello · Guten Tag!

Track 2

Key phrases

Tip

Sounding German is easy because a lot of the sounds are similar to the English and a lot of the words are related to English words: *bus* is **Bus** and *butter* is **Butter**. *Bread* is **Brot** and a *sandwich* is **Butterbrot**.

The first thing you need to say in any language is *Hello*, *Good morning*, *Good afternoon* or *Good day*. So your first words and phrases are:

Hallo! Hello
Guten Morgen! Good morning
Guten Tag! Good day
Guten Abend! Good evening
Gute Nacht! Good night
Auf Wiedersehen! Goodbye

Track 3

Listening and speaking

Tip

Communication Did you know that the actual words only convey about 30-40% of the meaning? The situation you are in and the tone of voice conveys roughly another 40% and the rest is made up of facial expression, body language and gestures.

Guten Tag, Herr Braun.

Good day, Mr Braun.

Guten Tag, Frau Schmidt.

Good day, Mrs Schmidt.

Guten Morgen, Herr Doktor.

Good morning, doctor.

Guten Morgen, Frau Fiedler. Wie geht es Ihnen?

Good morning, Mrs Fiedler. How are you?

Guten Abend, Jürgen.

Good evening, Jürgen.

Guten Abend, Ursula.

Good evening, Ursula.

Tip

Wiedersehen is spelt with a **W**, but in German a **W** is pronounced as **V** and a **V** is pronounced as **F**. Just remember **VW** are the letters for Volkswagen cars, which in German is pronounced **Folks vagen**. **Volkswagen**: the people's car.

Gute Nacht, Silke.

Good night, Silke.

Gute Nacht, Georg.

Good night, Georg.

Auf Wiedersehen, Herr Fischer.

Goodbye, Mr Fischer.

Auf Wiedersehen, Frau Zimmerman.

Goodbye, Mrs Zimmerman.

Track 4

Dialogue 1

Guten Tag, Herr Smith!

Good day, Mr Smith.

Guten Tag, Frau Wachsmann!

Good day, Mrs Wachsmann.

Wie geht es Ihnen?

How are you?

Es geht mir gut, danke. Und Ihnen?

Fine, thanks. (Literally, "It goes well, thanks.") And you?

Auch gut, danke. Auf Wiedersehen!

I'm fine, too. Goodbye.

Auf Wiedersehen!

Goodbye.

**LANGUAGE LAB**

In German, **all** nouns (words for people, places and things, including words for abstract things like 'love') are written with a capital letter.

Track 5

Dialogue 2

Guten Abend, Frau Schmidt!

Good evening, Mrs Schmidt.

Guten Abend, Herr Kohl! Wie geht es Ihnen?

Good evening, Mr Kohl. How are you?

Gut, danke. Und Ihnen?

Good, thanks. And you?

Sehr gut, danke. Auf Wiedersehen!

Very well, thanks. Goodbye.

Auf Wiedersehen!

Goodbye.

Track 6

Extras

Tag, Ilse, wie geht's?

Hello, Ilse, how are you?

Gut, danke, Olli.

Fine, thanks, Olli.

Möchtest du einen Kaffee trinken?

Would you like to drink a coffee?

Ja, gerne.

Yes, please!

Guten Tag, Uschi.

Good day, Uschi.

Tag, Norbert, wie geht's?

Hello, Norbert, how are you?

Gut, danke. Möchtest du einen Kaffee trinken?

Fine, thanks. Would you like to drink a coffee?

Nein, danke, ich muss mich beeilen. Tschüss!

No, thanks, I'm in a hurry. Bye!

Tschüss!

Bye!



LANGUAGE LAB

You may have wondered why you use **Guten** with **Tag**, **Morgen** and **Abend**, and **Gute** with **Nacht**. This is because **Tag**, **Morgen** and **Abend** are masculine or **der** words and **Nacht** is feminine or a **die** word. In German all nouns are either masculine, feminine or neuter.

Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
der Tag day	die Nacht night	das Wetter weather
der Mond moon	die Sonne sun	das Auto car
der Regen rain		

The article **der** is pronounced 'dare' and **die** is pronounced 'dee'. Unfortunately there does not seem to be any reason why a word is one gender or another. German children just learn the gender at the same time as the word. If you get it wrong, though, you will still be understood. If you listen carefully, you will notice that Germans don't always pronounce them clearly all the time, so when in doubt just make a 'duh' noise!



LANGUAGE LAB

You may have noticed two dots over some vowels (ä, ö, ü). This accent is called an Umlaut and it changes the sound of the vowel. Listen carefully to the sound of the vowel and try to imitate it. It can help if you exaggerate the shape you make with your lips when you say **ü**, **ö** or **ä**.

UNIT 2

Do you speak English? · Sprechen Sie Englisch?

Track 7

Tip

Pronunciation
In English we tend to stress one part of each word and mumble the rest. In German you stress each part equally and pronounce all the letters: **bitte** and **verstehe** end with '-e' which sounds like 'uh' at the end of a word - 'bittuh', 'verstehuh'.

Key phrases

When you first arrive in Germany you will need to say and understand the following words and phrases.

Bitte. Please.

Sprechen Sie Englisch? Do you speak English?

Tut mir leid. I'm sorry.

Ich verstehe nicht. I don't understand.

Danke. Thank you.

Ja. Yes.

Nein. No.

Track 8

Listening and speaking

Danke.

Thank you.

Tip

ein bisschen
a little bit
If a word ends in **-chen** it usually means it's something small.

Bitte, sprechen Sie Englisch?

Do you speak English?

Nein, tut mir leid.

No, I'm sorry.

Ja, ein bisschen.

Yes, a bit.

Wie bitte? Ich verstehe nicht.

Pardon? I don't understand.

Track 9

Dialogue 1

Bitte, sprechen Sie Englisch?

Please, do you speak English?

Nein, tut mir leid. Ich kann Ihnen nicht helfen.

No, I'm sorry. I can't help you.

Ich verstehe nicht.

I don't understand.

Es gibt ein Touristenbüro dort drüben.

There is a tourist office over there.

Danke. Auf Wiedersehen.

Thank you. Goodbye.

Track 10

Tip

Gerne

Gerne is an enthusiastic way of saying *yes, please*, or *yes, sure*, whenever you would like what is being offered.

Dialogue 2

Guten Tag, Herr Schmidt.

Good day, Mr Schmidt.

Guten Tag, Frau Braun. Sprechen Sie Englisch?

Good day, Mrs Braun. Do you speak English?

Ich habe ein bisschen in der Schule gelernt.

Yes, I learned a bit in school.

Tut mir leid, ich verstehe nicht.

Sorry, I don't understand.

Möchten Sie einen Kaffee trinken?

Would you like a coffee?

Ja, gerne!

Yes, please!

Mit Milch und Zucker?

With milk and sugar?

Nein, danke.

No, thank you.

Bitte schön.

Here you are.



LANGUAGE LAB

In German, a lot of words are made up by adding other words together. **Touristenbüro** is a *tourist office* and **Bushaltestelle** is a *bus stop* or *bus stopping* place.

Remember to use the context to help you understand. If you are being offered *Kaffee* then you can guess what **Milch** und **Zucker** are!

UNIT 3

Where is the bar? · Wo ist die Bar?

Track 11

Key phrases

Wo? Where?**Wo ist die Bar?** Where is the bar?**Wo ist das Hotel?** Where is the hotel?**Wo ist mein Zimmer?** Where is my room?**Wo ist der Aufzug?** Where is the lift?**Wo ist das Restaurant?** Where is the restaurant?**Wo sind die Toiletten?** Where are the toilets?**Ich weiss es nicht.** I don't know.

Track 12

Listening and speaking

Tip

A lift might be called **der**

Aufzug - **auf** is *up* and **Zug** is something which pulls; **der Zug** is the word for a *train*. It can also be called **der Fahrstuhl**. **Stuhl** is the word for *chair* and **fahren** is *to go* or *to travel*, so it is a chair which travels!

Bitte, wo ist das Touristenbüro?

Where is the tourist office?

Tut mir leid, ich weiss es nicht.*Sorry, I don't know.*

Entschuldigung, wo ist das Hotel?

Excuse me, where is the hotel?

Tut mir leid, ich weiss es nicht.*Sorry, I don't know.*

Bitte, wo ist mein Zimmer?

Please, where is my room?

Im zweiten Stock.*On the second floor.*

Bitte, wo ist der Aufzug?

Please, where is the lift?

Dort drüben.*Over there.*

Bitte, wo ist das Restaurant?

Tip

Entschuldigen Sie, bitte

Instead of saying **Entschuldigung** or **Entschuldigen Sie, bitte**, which means *Excuse me, please*, most people just say **Bitte**.

Tip

ersten, zweiten und dritten

To say something is on the first floor, you say **im ersten Stock**, on the second floor is **im zweiten Stock**, and on the third floor is **im dritten Stock**.

Track 13

Please, where is the restaurant?

Im ersten Stock.*On the first floor.***Bitte, wo ist die Bar?**

Please, where is the bar?

Dort drüben neben der Rezeption.*Over there near the reception.***Bitte, wo sind die Toiletten?**

Please, where are the toilets?

Neben der Bar.*Near the bar.*

Dialogue 1

Bitte, wo ist das Hotel Alsterhaus?

Please, where is the Alsterhaus Hotel?

Wie bitte?*Pardon?***Wo ist das Hotel Alsterhaus?**

Where is the Alsterhaus Hotel?

Tut mir leid, ich weiss es nicht.*Sorry, I don't know.***Danke, auf Wiedersehen.**

Thank you, goodbye.

Dialogue 2

Tip

.....
der Geldautomat *cash machine* (**Geld** is money, it is like *gold* spelled with an e)
der Ausgang *exit* (**aus** means *out* and **gang** is to do with *going* – think of the word *gangplank* which you use to get on or off a boat)
der Eingang *entrance* or ‘in-go’

Bitte, wo ist mein Zimmer?

Please, where is my room?

Wie bitte?*Pardon?***Wo ist mein Zimmer?**

Where is my room?

Im zweiten Stock.*On the second floor.***Wo ist der Aufzug?**

Where is the lift?

Wir haben keinen Aufzug.*We don't have a lift.***Die Treppen sind dort drüben.***The stairs are over there.***Tut mir leid, ich verstehe nicht. Sprechen Sie Englisch?**

Sorry, I don't understand. Do you speak English?

Nein, leider nicht. Die Treppen sind dort drüben neben der Bar.*No, unfortunately not. The stairs are over there next to the bar.***Ach, ja! Danke.**

Oh, yes. Thank you!

Nichts zu danken.*Don't mention it.***LANGUAGE LAB**

You might have noticed the word **kein**: **Wir haben keinen Aufzug.** – *We don't have a lift.* Whenever you hear **kein** it means there *isn't* something: **Kein Problem!** *No problem!* It is also used on signs: **Kein Zutritt/Ausgang.** *No way/exit.*

UNIT 4

Over there · Dort drüben

This unit is about understanding the answers to the questions you were asking in Unit 3, so the emphasis is on listening and understanding.

Track 15

Tip

Gleich

When giving directions, you can add **gleich**, which means *directly* or *immediately*, and say:
gleich hier *just here*
gleich links *just on the left*
gleich rechts *just on the right*

Key phrases

dort drüben over there

hier here

rechts on the right

links on the left

neben next to, near

vor in front of

hinter behind

Track 16

Listening practice

Bitte, wo ist der Aufzug?

Please, where is the lift?

Der Aufzug? Ach, gleich hier links.

The lift? Oh, just here on the left.

Bitte, wo ist das Restaurant?

Please, where is the restaurant?

Das Restaurant? Warte mal ... Ich glaube ...

The restaurant? Just wait ... I think ...

Ach ja, das Restaurant ist dort drüben rechts.

Oh yes, it's over there on the right.

Ich verstehe nicht.

I don't understand.

Dort drüben rechts.

Over there on the right.

Vielen Dank.

Many thanks.

Bitte, wo sind die Toiletten?

Please, where are the toilets?

Ich bin nicht sicher ... warte mal ... ach ja, gleich hier rechts, neben dem Fahrstuhl.*I'm not sure. Just a moment ... oh yes, just here on the right, by the lift.***Vielen Dank.**

Many thanks.

Nichts zu danken.*Don't mention it.***Bitte, wo ist die Bar?**

Please, where is the bar?

Die Bar? Dort drüben ... gleich hinter der Rezeption.*The bar? Over there ... just behind the reception.***Vielen Dank.**

Many thanks.

Nichts zu danken.*Don't mention it.***Bitte, wo ist hier ein Geldautomat?**

Please, where is there a cash machine?

Geldautomat? Es gibt einen Geldautomat neben dem Ausgang, gleich vor dem Hotel.*Cash machine? There's a cash machine near the exit, just in front of the hotel.***Vielen Dank.**

Many thanks.

Nichts zu danken.*Don't mention it.***Bitte, wo ist hier ein Telefon?**

Please, where is there a telephone?

Es gibt eine Telefonkabine ... gleich links, neben der Bar.*There is a phone booth ... just on the left, near the bar.***Vielen Dank.**

Many thanks.

Nichts zu danken.*Don't mention it.*

Track 17

Dialogue 1

Bitte, wo ist mein Zimmer?

Please, where is my room?

Ihr Zimmer ist im zweiten Stock. Nehmen Sie den Aufzug.*Your room is on the second floor. Take the lift.***Wo ist der Aufzug?**

Where is the lift?

Dort drüben, links, neben der Bar.*Over there, on the left, near the bar.***Danke.**

Thanks.

Nichts zu danken.*Don't mention it.*

Track 18

Dialogue 2

Bitte, wo ist die Bar?

Please, where is the bar?

Die Bar ist im Erdgeschoss.*The bar is on the ground floor.***Tut mir leid, ich verstehe nicht. Sprechen Sie Englisch?**

Sorry, I don't understand. Do you speak English?

Nein, leider nicht. Die Bar ist im Erdgeschoss, neben der Rezeption.*No, unfortunately not. The bar is on the ground floor, next to reception.***Wo ist hier ein Geldautomat?**

Where is there a cash machine?

Das weiss ich nicht, aber man kann Geld an der Rezeption wechseln.*I don't know, but you can change money at reception.***Danke.**

Thanks.

Nichts zu danken.*Don't mention it.*

Tip

ErdgeschossIn a lift, the letter for the ground floor is **E**, for **Erdgeschoss**.

**LANGUAGE LAB**

Ich verstehe means *I understand*. To say *I don't understand* you add **nicht**: **Ich verstehe nicht** – *I understand not/I don't understand*.

Ich weiss means *I know*. To say *I don't know* you add **nicht**:

Ich weiss nicht.

When you hear **nicht**, you know the statement is negative, they don't do it or can't do it. **Ich kann nicht** means *I can't*.

UNIT 5

I would like · Ich möchte

In this unit you will learn how to ask for a drink.

Track 27

Tip

If you ask for **einen Kaffee** you will usually get a small black coffee. A coffee with milk is **Kaffee mit Milch** or a **Cappuccino** or **Café latte**.

Track 28

Tip

In Germany, tea will normally be served without milk, and there are a lot of herbal teas, such as **Kamillentee** (camomile tea), **Pfefferminztee** (peppermint tea) and **Früchtetee** (fruit tea). Normal black tea is called **schwarzer Tee** and green tea is **grüner Tee**.

Tip

Decaf
Decaffeinated coffee is called **koffeinfrei** or **entkoffeiniert**.

Key phrases

Ich möchte I would like ...

Ich möchte eine Tasse Kaffee. I would like a cup of coffee.

Ich möchte eine Tasse Tee. I would like a cup of tea.

Ich möchte ein Glas Mineralwasser. I would like a glass of mineral water.

Ich möchte eine Glas Bier. I would like a glass of beer.

Ich möchte ein Glas Wein. I would like a glass of wine.

Listening practice

Ich möchte eine Flasche Bier.

I would like a bottle of beer.

Ich möchte eine Tasse Kaffee mit Sahne.

I would like a cup of coffee with cream.

Ich möchte ein Glas Mineralwasser.

I would like a glass of mineral water.

Ich möchte Rotwein.

I would like red wine.

Ich möchte eine Tasse Tee mit Milch.

I would like a cup of tea with milk.

Ich möchte eine Tasse Kaffee. Haben Sie koffeinfrei?

I would like a cup of coffee. Do you have decaf?

Eine Flasche Weisswein, bitte.

A bottle of white wine, please.

Track 29

Tip

Bitte schön

When a waiter or waitress gives you what you have ordered, they will say **Bitte schön**, which means *There you go*, or *Here you are*.

Tip

Wine

When talking about wine, you use **süß** for *sweet* and **trocken** for *dry*. **Halbtrocken** is *medium dry*. Sometimes double 'ss' in German is written as ß.

Dialogue 1

Guten Tag! Was darf es sein?

Good day, what would you like?

Ich möchte ein Glas Wein, bitte.

I would like a glass of wine, please.

Rotwein oder Weisswein?

Red wine or white wine?

Weisswein, bitte.

White wine, please.

Süß oder trocken?

Sweet or dry?

Halbtrocken.

Medium dry.

Bitte schön.

Here you are.

Danke.

Thank you.

Bitte.

Don't mention it.

**LANGUAGE LAB**

Ein Glas is a glass and **eine Flasche** is a bottle. The article **ein** changes to **eine** because **Flasche** is a feminine word. A lot of words which end in **-e** are feminine, but not all. It is a good idea to listen to which article is being used and to copy it. **Ein Glas – eine Flasche – einen Tee – einen Kaffee**, but if you don't get it right, it doesn't really matter, you will still be understood.

Track 30

Dialogue 2

Tip

Water is **Wasser**
and mineral water
is **Mineralwasser**;
still water is **stilles**
Wasser and fizzy
water is **Sprudel**.
Red wine is **Rotwein**
and white wine is
Weisswein.

Guten Tag! Was darf es sein?

Good day, what will it be?

Ich möchte eine Tasse Kaffee mit Milch und eine Tasse Tee.

I would like a cup of coffee with milk and a cup of tea.

Mit Milch oder Zitrone?

With milk or lemon?

Mit Milch.

With milk.

Sonst noch etwas?

Otherwise anything else?

Ein Mineralwasser.

A mineral water.

Stilles Wasser oder Sprudel?

Still water or fizzy?

Stilles, bitte.

Still, please.

Ein Glas oder eine Flasche?

A glass or a bottle?

Eine Flasche, bitte ..., ach ja, und ein Glas Rotwein.

A bottle, please ... and oh yes, a glass of red wine.

UNIT 6

Do you have ...? · Haben Sie ...?

This unit is about asking for things at breakfast in a hotel or restaurant.

Track 31

Key phrases

Haben Sie ...? Do you have or Have you got ...?

Haben Sie Brot? Do you have any bread?

Haben Sie Butter? Do you have any butter?

Haben Sie Orangensaft? Do you have any orange juice?

Haben Sie heiße Schokolade? Do you have any hot chocolate?

Haben Sie Zucker? Do you have any sugar?

Haben Sie Salz? Do you have any salt?

Track 32

Listening and speaking

Bitte, haben Sie noch Brot?

Please, do you have any more bread?

Ja, das Brot ist dort drüben.

Yes, the bread is over there.

Bitte, haben Sie Orangensaft?

Please, have you got any orange juice?

Ja, hier rechts.

Yes, here on the right.

Bitte, haben Sie noch Butter?

Please, do you have any more butter?

Ja, natürlich. Butter ist auf dem Tisch.

Yes, of course, butter is on the table.

Bitte, haben Sie Salz?

Please, have you got salt?

Ja, selbstverständlich. Das Salz ist gleich hier auf dem Tisch.*Yes, of course, the salt is just here on the table.***Bitte, haben Sie heiße Schokolade?**

Please, do you have hot chocolate?

Kommt gleich.*Just coming.*

Track 33

Dialogue 1

Tip

Bread

There is a large range of different kinds of bread in Germany, including **Weissbrot** which is white bread, and **Schwarzbrot** which is black bread. **Brötchen** is the word for bread buns or rolls.

Tip

Orangensaft

Saft is juice and **Orangensaft** is orange juice. Just add the word **Saft** to any fruit and you can ask for its juice – **Apfelsaft** is apple juice.

Bitte, haben Sie noch Brot?

Excuse me, please, do you have some more bread?

Noch Brot? Weissbrot oder Schwarzbrot?*More bread? White bread or black bread?***Weissbrot.**

White bread.

Möchten Sie auch Brötchen?*Would you also like some rolls?***Gerne. Haben Sie noch Butter?**

Yes, please! Do you have any more butter?

Bitte schön. Sonst noch etwas?*There you are. Anything else?***Haben Sie noch Orangensaft?**

Have you got any more orange juice?

Ja, natürlich. Kommt gleich.*Yes, of course. It's just coming.*

Track 34

Tip

Danke

Saying **danke** is a shortened way of saying **nein, danke** – *no, thank you*. If you are asked if you would like something, and you just say **danke**, they will think you mean *No, thank you* and take it away. If you do want it, say **Ja, bitte**. It is a mistake you only make once!

Dialogue 2

Bitte, haben Sie noch Muesli?

Excuse me, please, do you have any more muesli?

Dort drüben. Möchten Sie Toastbrot?

Over there. Would you like toast?

Danke.

No, thank you.

Möchten Sie noch Milch?

Would you like more milk?

Ja, bitte.

Yes, please!

Sonst noch etwas?

Anything else?

Haben Sie Joghurt?

Have you got any yoghurt?

Ja, Joghurt ist auf dem Tisch. Was trinken Sie?**Tee oder Kaffee?**

Yes, yoghurt is on the table. What would you like to drink – tea or coffee?

Kaffee.

Coffee.

Möchten Sie Zucker oder Süßstoff?

Would you like sugar or sweetener?

Danke.

No, thanks.



LANGUAGE LAB

As mentioned before in Unit 2, in German two or more words are often put together to make a new word: **Rotwein, Weisswein, Weissbrot, Schwarzbrot, Toastbrot, Fruchtsaft, Mineralwasser**. For **das Frühstück**, which is , **früh** means and **Stück** means a , as in a piece of cake: **ein Stück Kuchen**. So **Frühstück** is the early meal, or the first meal of the day. For **Süßstoff**, which is , **süß** means and **Stoff** means – sweet stuff.

UNIT 7 Excuse me, can you help me? · Entschuldigung, können Sie mir helfen?

This unit is about asking the way.

Track 35

Key phrases

Entschuldigung, können Sie mir helfen? Excuse me, can you help me?

Wie komme ich zum Bahnhof? How do I get to the station?

Ist es weit? Is it far?

Können Sie das bitte wiederholen? Can you repeat that, please?

Wie bitte? Pardon?

Track 36

Listening practice

Guten Tag!

Good day!

Guten Tag!

Good day!

Entschuldigung, können Sie mir helfen?

Excuse me, can you help me?

Nein, tut mir leid, ich verstehe kein Deutsch.

No, sorry. I don't understand any German.

Entschuldigung, können Sie mir helfen?

Excuse me, can you help me?

Ja?

Yes?

Wie komme ich zum Bahnhof?

How do I get to the station?

Tut mir leid, ich weiss es nicht. Ich bin hier fremd.

Sorry, I don't know that. I am a stranger here.

Entschuldigung, wie komme ich zum Bahnhof, bitte?

Excuse me, how do I get to the station, please?

Sie gehen hier rechts und dann gleich links.

You go right here and then immediately left.

Tip

Können is a very useful verb. It means to be able to.

Können Sie?

Can you?

Können Sie mir helfen?

Can you help me?

Tip

Ist es weit? *Is it far?*

To say *Yes, it is far* you say **Ja, es ist weit** and if you want to say *No, it's not far*, you just add **nicht** and say **Nein, es ist nicht weit**.

Track 37

Tip

Bahnhof means station. You will see signs for **DBB** or **Deutsche Bundesbahn** which means the German railway. **Straßenbahn** is a street railway or tram, and **U-Bahn** or **Utergrundbahn** is the underground railway.

Tip

Expressions
You use **gar nicht** to say *not at all*.
Gar nicht weit is *Not far at all*.
When you say **Gern geschehen**, which means *Don't mention it* or *My pleasure*, you're literally saying *Gladly done*.

Dialogue 1

Entschuldigung, können Sie mir helfen?

Excuse me, can you help me?

Ja?

Yes?

Wie komme ich zum Bahnhof?

How do I get to the station?

Sie gehen hier geradeaus ... und nehmen die erste Straße links.*You go straight here ... and take the first street on the left.***Können Sie das wiederholen?**

Can you repeat that?

Ja, Sie gehen hier geradeaus und nehmen die erste Straße links.*Yes, you go straight here ... and take the first street on the left.***Ist es weit?**

Is it far?

Gar nicht weit. Fünf Minuten zu Fuß.*Not far at all. Five minutes on foot.***Vielen Dank.**

Many thanks.

Gern geschehen. Auf Wiedersehen.*Don't mention it. Goodbye.***Auf Wiedersehen.**

Goodbye.

Track 38

Dialogue 2

Tip

Zu Fuß – *on foot*. Rather than saying *you can walk there*, you say *on foot*. **Fünf Minuten zu Fuß** – *You can walk there in five minutes*. When saying which bus route you need to take, you usually say **Linie** – route.

Tip

Tickets
You usually have to buy your ticket at a newsagents or from a ticket machine at the station, tram or bus stop. Once you have your ticket, you have it stamped and validated by another machine called an **Entwerter**. If you forget, you would be shamed into doing so by the looks you would get from other people!

Entschuldigung, können Sie mir helfen?

Excuse me, can you help me?

Ja?

Yes?

Wie komme ich zum Bahnhof?

How do I get to the station?

Am besten nehmen Sie die Straßenbahn.*It's best if you take the tram.***Tut mir leid. Ich verstehe nicht. Sprechen Sie Englisch?**

Sorry, I don't understand. Do you speak English?

Leider nicht. Die Straßenbahn ... die Haltestelle ist dort drüben.*Unfortunately not. The tram ... the stop is over there.***Straßenbahn Linie 5 fährt direkt zum Bahnhof.***Tram route 5 goes directly to the station.***Können Sie das bitte wiederholen?**

Can you repeat that, please?

Straßenbahn Linie 5, direkt zum Bahnhof.*Tram route 5, directly to the station.***Linie 5. Vielen Dank.**

Route 5. Many thanks.

Nichts zu danken. Auf Wiedersehen.*Don't mention it. Goodbye.***Auf Wiedersehen.**

Goodbye.

UNIT 8 How do I get to ...? · Wie komme ich ...?

This unit will help you to ask the way to specific places and use buses and trams to get there. You will also learn to understand people's responses to your questions.

Track 39

Key phrases

Wie komme ich ...? How do I get to ...?

... **ins Stadtzentrum** ... the town centre

... **zur Bushaltestelle** ... the bus stop

... **ins Einkaufszentrum** ... the shops/shopping centre

... **zur Messe** ... the trade fair

... **zum Parkplatz** ... the car park

... **zum Flughafen** ... the airport

Track 40

Listening practice

Ich will ins Einkaufszentrum gehen. Wie komme ich ins Stadtzentrum?

I want to go to the shops. How do I get to the town centre?

Wie komme ich zur Messe?

How do I get to the trade fair?

Der Bus Linie 2 fährt direkt zum Messegelände.

Bus route 2 goes directly to the trade fair grounds.

Tip

Kaufen is to *buy*,
einkaufen is to *shop*
(to 'buy in'), and
verkaufen is to *sell*.

The sign **Ausverkauf**
in a shop window
means there is a *sale*
(‘out sell’). **Haus zu**
verkaufen means
a *house for sale*.

Anything to do with
kauf is to do with
buying or selling.

Wo ist hier eine Bushaltestelle?

Where is there a bus stop?

Dort drüben!

Over there.

Wo kann ich hier parken?

Where can I park here?

Es gibt ein Parkhaus zwei Minuten von hier.

There is a car park two minutes from here.

Fahren Sie gleich hier links und nehmen Sie die zweite Straße rechts. Es ist beschildert.

Go directly left here and take the second street to the right. It is signposted.

Wie komme ich zum Flughafen?

How do I get to the airport?

Es gibt einen Pendelbus, der fährt direkt zum Flughafen.*There is a shuttle bus, it goes directly to the airport.***Und wo ist die Bushaltestelle?**

And where is the bus stop?

Hier gleich rechts.*Just here on the right.***LANGUAGE LAB**

You may wonder why some words have *zum* in front of them and others have **zur** or **zu den**. The word for *to* is **zu** (pronounced 'tsoo'). With masculine nouns it becomes **zum** - **zum Parkplatz**. With feminine nouns it becomes **zur** - **zur Straßenbahn** and with plural nouns it becomes **zu den**. Don't worry about it, though. Just try to copy the ones you hear people use, and remember, even if you do get it wrong, you will still be understood.

Track 41

Dialogue 1**Entschuldigung, wie komme ich ins Einkaufszentrum?**

Excuse me, how do I get to the shopping centre?

Das Einkaufszentrum ist im Stadtzentrum.*The shopping centre is in the town centre.***Und wie komme ich ins Stadtzentrum?**

And how do I get to the town centre?

Am besten fahren Sie mit der Straßenbahn.*The best way is by tram.***Wie bitte?**

Pardon?

Straßenbahn ... dort drüben. Linie 5.*Tram ... over there, route 5.***Vielen Dank.**

Many thanks.

Nichts zu danken. Gern geschehen.*Don't mention it. My pleasure.*

Track 42

Tip

You use the verb **gehen** - to go - if you are going on foot. You already know the related words **Ausgang** - way out - and **Eingang** - way in.

Tip

If you are using transport of any kind, you use the verb **fahren**. *I am going* in this case is **ich fahre**. Remember a lift is called **ein Fahrstuhl**, a 'chair that goes'. A ticket is **eine Fahrkarte** and a timetable is **ein Fahrplan**. **Eine Fahrt** is not what it sounds like in English, but a *journey*!

Dialogue 2

Entschuldigung, wie komme ich zum Flughafen?

Excuse me, how do I get to the airport?

Am besten nehmen Sie den Pendelbus.*The best way is to take the shuttle bus.***Wie bitte? Ich verstehe nicht.**

Sorry, I don't understand.

Der Pendelbus. Der Shuttle ... der Bus fährt direkt zum Flughafen.*The shuttle bus. The shuttle ... it goes directly to the airport.***Wo ist die Haltestelle?**

Where is the bus stop?

Die Haltestelle ist vor dem Hotel. Sie müssen Ihre Fahrkarte am Automaten kaufen.*The bus stop is in front of the hotel. You have to buy your ticket at the machine.***Können Sie das bitte wiederholen?**

Can you repeat that, please?

Ja, Fahrkarte ... Ticket. Am Automaten kaufen. Es kostet 5 Euro.*Yes, ticket. Buy at the machine. It costs 5 Euros.***Ach, vielen Dank.**

Many thanks.

Nichts zu danken. Gern geschehen.*Don't mention it. My pleasure.*

UNIT 9 Do you have a room free? · Haben Sie ein Zimmer frei?

Track 52

Key phrases

Tip

Raucher oder Nichtraucher?

Smoker or non-smoker?

If you are a smoker, be aware that most public establishments in Europe will be under an obligation to apply a non-smoking policy throughout.

Haben Sie ein Zimmer für ... Do you have a room for ...

eine Person one person,

zwei Personen two people

eine Nacht one night

zwei Nächte two nights

eine Woche one week

das Wochenende the weekend

dieses Wochenende this weekend

Track 53

Listening and speaking

Guten Abend!

Good evening.

Guten Abend, wie kann ich Ihnen helfen?

Good evening, how can I help you?

Haben Sie ein Zimmer für eine Person für eine Nacht?

Do you have a room for one person for one night?

Ich möchte ein Zimmer für zwei Personen für eine Woche.

I would like a room for two people for a week.

Haben Sie noch ein Zimmer für zwei Personen für's Wochenende?

Do you still have a room for two for the weekend?

Haben Sie ein Zimmer für eine Person für dieses Wochenende?

Do you have a room for one person for this weekend?

Track 54

Tip

Saying the time

In German, you usually use **Uhr** or *hour* when giving the time, as in **sechs Uhr dreißig, 6 Uhr 30**. And when you ask *At what time?* you say **Um wie viel Uhr?** – *At what hour?* **Wir treffen uns um sieben Uhr.** – *We'll meet at seven o'clock.*

Tip

Offen and geschlossen

A sign on a restaurant or shop saying **offen** means it is *open*; **geschlossen** means it is *closed*.

Dialogue

Guten Abend! Wie kann ich Ihnen helfen?

Good evening. How can I help you?

Haben Sie ein Zimmer frei?

Do you have a room free?

Für wie viele Personen?

For how many people?

Für eine Person.

For one person.

Für wie lange?

For how long?

Für zwei Nächte.

For two nights.

Raucher oder Nichtraucher?

Smoker or non-smoker?

Nichtraucher.

Non-smoker.

Ja, Zimmer 245 im zweiten Stock. Und wie heißen Sie?

Yes, room 245 on the second floor. And what is your name?

Frau Smith.

Mrs Smith.

Darf ich ihren Reisepass und Kreditkarte bitte haben?

May I have your passport and credit card, please?

Können Sie das bitte wiederholen?

Can you please repeat that?

Reisepass und Kreditkarte, bitte. Unterschreiben Sie bitte hier. Gut, danke. Zimmer 245.

Passport and credit card, please. Please sign here. Good, thanks. Room 245.

Wo ist der Aufzug?

Where is the lift?

Dort drüben. Frühstück ist ab 6 Uhr 30.

Over there. Breakfast is from 6.30.

Wie bitte?

Pardon?

Frühstück ist ab 6 Uhr 30.

Breakfast is from 6.30.

Ach ja, danke.

Oh yes, thanks.

**LANGUAGE LAB**

If you can remember the numbers 0–10, you can always say any larger number, one digit at a time; for instance, you can say a room number, telephone number or post code, or even read out prices or dates by saying the numbers separately.

1 eins	6 sechs
2 zwei	7 sieben
3 drei	8 acht
4 vier	9 neun
5 fünf	10 zehn

UNIT 10

When shall we meet? · Wann treffen wir uns?

.....

This unit is about trying to arrange a time to meet up with someone and learning how to refer to the different times of the day.

Track 55

Key phrases

Wann treffen wir uns? When shall we meet?

heute today

morgen tomorrow

Vormittag morning

Nachmittag afternoon

Um wie viel Uhr? At what time?

Das geht. That's okay.

Das geht nicht. That's not okay.

Track 56

Listening practice

When are these people meeting?

Wann treffen wir uns?

When shall we meet?

Morgen Vormittag, geht das?

Tomorrow morning, is that okay?

Wir könnten uns heute Nachmittag treffen.

We could meet this afternoon.

Nein, das geht nicht.

No, I can't. (literally: That's not okay.)

Morgen Nachmittag?

Tomorrow afternoon?

Ja, das geht.

Yes, that's okay.

Wann treffen wir uns?

When shall we meet?

Wie wäre es mit morgen Vormittag?*How about tomorrow morning?***Nein, das geht nicht.**

No, I can't.

Morgen Nachmittag?*Tomorrow afternoon?***Ja, das geht.**

Yes, that's okay.

So wir treffen uns heute Nachmittag?

So we'll meet this afternoon?

Ja, um wie viel Uhr?*Yes, at what time?***So um zwei?**

About two?

Ja, das geht.*Yes, that's okay.***Wann treffen wir uns?**

When shall we meet?

Heute Abend?*This evening?***Um wie viel Uhr?**

At what time?

Um sieben? Geht das?*At seven? Is that okay?***Ja, gut. Heute Abend um sieben Uhr.**

Yes, good. This evening at seven.

**LANGUAGE LAB****Es geht.** It's okay. (literally *it goes*)**Es geht nicht.** It's not okay. (literally *it doesn't go*)**Wie geht es Ihnen?** How are you? (literally *How goes it with you?*)**Es geht mir gut.** I'm fine. (literally *It goes with me well.*)**Geht** is from the verb **gehen** (to go), but it is frequently used in lots of idiomatic expressions.

Track 57

Tip

.....
The days of the week are:

**Montag, Dienstag,
Mittwoch,
Donnerstag,
Freitag, Samstag,
Sonntag.**

Dialogue

Möchten Sie ins Einkaufszentrum gehen?

Would you like to go to the shopping center?

Ja, gerne. Wann treffen wir uns?

Yes, please. When shall we meet?

Heute Nachmittag um zwei. Geht das?

This afternoon at two. Is that okay?

Nein, das geht nicht.

No, it's not okay.

Wann sind Sie frei?

When are you free?

Morgen Vormittag?

Tomorrow morning?

Morgen Vormittag geht nicht für mich.

Tomorrow morning is not okay for me.

Morgen Nachmittag?

Tomorrow afternoon?

Ja, morgen Nachmittag bin ich frei.

Yes, I am free tomorrow afternoon.

Um wie viel Uhr?

At what time?

Um zwei?

At two?

Das geht nicht.

I can't.

Um wie viel Uhr denn?

At what time, then?

Um drei?

At three?

Gut, morgen Nachmittag um drei! Bis dann, tschüss!

Good, tomorrow afternoon at three. 'Till then, bye.

Tschüss!

Bye!



LANGUAGE LAB

To understand the time, you will need to be able to use the twenty-four hour clock.

11 elf	16 sechzehn
12 zwölf	17 siebzehn
13 dreizehn	18 achtzehn
14 vierzehn	19 neunzehn
15 fünfzehn	20 zwanzig

In German, you turn the numbers around, so instead of saying twenty-one, you say one and twenty:

21 einundzwanzig	23 dreiundzwanzig
22 zweiundzwanzig	24 vierundzwanzig

Es ist einundzwanzig Uhr. It is 21 hours.
um dreiundzwanzig Uhr at 23 hours

Some larger numbers:

30 dreißig	80 achtzig
40 vierzig	90 neunzig
50 fünfzig	100 hundert
60 sechzig	200 zweihundert
70 siebzig	

UNIT 11

I like eating Schnitzel · Ich esse gern Schnitzel

This unit is about how to say what you like and don't like to eat or drink, or if you prefer something else to eat or drink.

Track 58

Key phrases

Ich esse gern ... I like to eat ...

Ich esse nicht gern ... I don't like to eat...

Ich esse lieber ... I prefer to eat...

Ich trinke gern ... I like to drink ...

Ich trinke nicht gern ... I don't like to drink ...

Ich trinke lieber ... I prefer to drink ...

Track 59

Listening practice

Essen Sie gern Pizza?

Do you like to eat pizza?

Ja, ich esse gern Pizza, aber ich esse lieber Spaghetti.

Yes, I do like to eat pizza, but I prefer to eat spaghetti.

Trinken Sie gern Tee?

Do you like to drink tea?

Ja, ich trinke gern Tee, aber ich trinke lieber Kaffee.

Yes, I like to drink tea, but I prefer to drink coffee.

Essen Sie gern Schnitzel?

Do you like to eat Schnitzel?

Nein danke, ich bin Vegetarierin.

No thanks, I am a vegetarian.

Tip

You use **gern** to say you like something and **nicht gern** to say you don't like it. **Lieber** means you prefer something and is like the English word *rather* – **Ich esse/trinke/mache lieber ...** I would rather eat/drink/do ... **Lieber** comes from the verb **lieben** – to love. **Ich liebe dich** means I love you.

Trinken Sie gern Kaffee?

Do you like to drink coffee?

Gerne, aber haben Sie koffeinfreien Kaffee?*Yes, sure, but do you have decaffeinated coffee?***Essen Sie gern heute abend in einem Restaurant, oder essen Sie lieber im Hotel?**

Would you like to eat in a restaurant this evening, or do you prefer to eat in a hotel?

Ich esse lieber in einem Restaurant.*I prefer to eat in a restaurant.***Essen Sie gern italienisch?**

Do you like to eat Italian food?

Ja, aber ich esse lieber chinesisch.*Yes, but I prefer to eat Chinese food.*

Track 60

Dialogue**Essen Sie gern im Hotel heute Abend, oder essen Sie lieber in einem Restaurant?**

Would you like to eat in the hotel this evening or would you prefer to eat in a restaurant?

Ich esse lieber in einem Restaurant.*I would prefer to eat in a restaurant.***Essen Sie gern italienisch?**

Do you like to eat Italian food?

Ja, aber ich esse lieber chinesisch.*Yes, but I prefer to eat Chinese food.***Essen Sie gern Nudeln?**

Do you like to eat noodles?

Ja, ich esse gern Nudeln.*Yes, I like to eat noodles.***Essen Sie gern Schweinefleisch?**

Do you like to eat pork?

Ich verstehe nicht.*I don't understand.*

Schwein.

Pig.

Nein, ich esse nicht gern Schweinefleisch.*No, I don't like to eat pork.***Essen Sie gern Hähnchen?**

Do you like to eat chicken?

Was ist Hähnchen?*What is chicken?***Ja, ich esse gern Hähnchen.***Yes, I like to eat chicken.***Trinken Sie gern Wein?**

Do you like to drink wine?

Nein, ich trinke lieber Bier.*No, I prefer to drink beer.***Gut, wir gehen in die Nudelbar. Ich komme vorbei und hole Sie ab.**

Okay, we'll go to the noodle bar. I'll come by and pick you up.

Um wie viel Uhr?*At what time?***So um halb sieben.**

About half past six.

Halb sieben?*Half past six?***Ja, bis dann. Tschüss!**

Yes, till then. Bye!

Tschüss!*Bye!*

UNIT 12 On the phone · Am Telefon

This unit is about learning to talk on the phone and making appointments to meet with someone.

Track 61

Tip

Auf Wiederhören
When you are talking on the phone, you usually say **Auf Wiederhören** instead of **Auf Wiedersehen**. **Auf Wiedersehen** really means *Till we see each other again* and **Auf Wiederhören** means *Till we hear from each other again*.

Key phrases

Hallo? Hello?

Ich möchte bitte Herrn Huber sprechen. I would like to speak to Mr Huber.

Mein Name ist ... My name is ...

Ich möchte eine Verabredung treffen. I would like to arrange a meeting.

Kann er mich bitte zurückrufen? Can he call me back?

Könnten Sie mir bitte eine SMS oder ein E-Mail schicken? Could you please send me a text or an e-mail?

Auf Wiederhören! Goodbye.

Track 62

Listening practice

Hallo, ich möchte bitte Herrn Lange sprechen.

Hello, I would like to speak to Mr Lange.

Tut mir leid, er ist heute nicht da.

Sorry, he isn't here today.

Kann er mich bitte zurückrufen?

Can he please phone me back?

Hallo, ist Frau Backmann da?

Hello, is Mrs Backmann there?

Nein, leider nicht.

No, unfortunately not.

Kann sie mich bitte zurückrufen?

Can she please phone me back?

Hallo. Mein Name ist Schmidt. Ich möchte eine Verabredung mit Herrn Fischer treffen.

Hello. My name is Schmidt. I would like to make an appointment with Mr Fischer.

Er ist leider nicht hier. Soll er Sie zurückrufen?

He is unfortunately not here. Should he phone you back?

Ja, bitte.

Yes, please.

Wie ist ihre Handynummer?

What is your mobile number?

0 7 9 3 4 6 5 2 1

Ja, gut.

Yes, okay.

Herr Braun ist nicht da. Bitte hinterlassen Sie eine Nachricht nach dem Signalton.

Mr Braun is not here. Please leave a message after the beep.

Hallo, mein Name ist Schneider. Ich möchte eine

Verabredung mit Herrn Braun treffen. Kann er

mich bitte zurückrufen oder eine SMS schicken?

Meine Handynummer ist 0 7 9 7 7 2 3 1 4. Vielen

Dank.

Hello, my name is Schneider. I would like to make an

appointment with Mr Braun. Can he please phone me

back or send me a text message? My mobile number is 0

7 9 7 7 2 3 1 4. Thank you very much.



LANGUAGE LAB

The personal pronouns you will need most are **ich** and **Sie**.

ich	I
Sie	you
er	he
sie	she
es	it
wir	we
sie	they

In German, **sie** or **Sie** can refer to different people: you, she or they.

Dialogue

Hallo, Schnelldirekt AG. Wie kann ich Ihnen helfen?

Hello, Schnelldirekt PLC. How can I help you?

Ich möchte bitte Herrn Huber sprechen.

I would like to speak to Mr Huber.

Tut mir leid ... er ist im Moment nicht da. Kann ich helfen?

Sorry ... he is not here at the moment. Can I help?

Ich möchte eine Verabredung treffen.

I would like to arrange a meeting.

Herr Huber ... er hat am Dienstag Vormittag frei. Wie heissen Sie?

Herr Huber ... is free on Tuesday morning. What is your name?

Mein Name ist Smith.

My name is Smith.

Also, Frau Smith, Dienstag Vormittag.

So, Mrs Smith, Tuesday morning.

Um wie viel Uhr?

At what time?

Um ... ich weiss nicht genau ...

I'm not sure ...

Kann er mich zurückrufen?

Can he call me back?

Ja, er ruft Sie zurück ... oder er schickt eine SMS. Wie ist ihre Handynummer?

Yes, he'll call you back ... or he'll send a text. What is your mobile number?

0 7 9 8 2 5 3 6 1

Gut, er schickt Ihnen eine SMS.

Good, he'll send you a text.

Vielen Dank. Auf Wiederhören!

Many thanks. Goodbye.

Auf Wiederhören!

Goodbye!

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Noch einmal!

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67 Key phrases

71 Key phrases

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72 Dialogue

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