

Learn
German
with
Paul Noble
REVIEW BOOKLET



Collins

This booklet provides you with a quick and easy way to review and reinforce what you have learned during your audio course.

The booklet should be used after you have begun working through the audio course, as it is not designed to teach you German by itself.

Collins Learn German with Paul Noble

HarperCollins Publishers
Westerhill Road
Bishopbriggs
Glasgow
G64 2QT

www.collinsdictionary.com

First published 2012
Reprint 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
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ISBN 978-0-00-748626-7

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Typeset by Davidson Publishing Solutions

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The Paul Noble Method

Over the years, I have taught many, many people. Curiously, they have each had much the same story to tell regarding their previous experiences of language learning. As a result, these days, when I first start a teaching session, I ask my students to raise their hands if they have had any of the following experiences.

Raise your hand, I say:

- **If you studied a language for several years at school but came out unable to really say anything.**
- **If you have ever bought a language course and given up around page thirty, somewhere around chapter two.**
- **If you have ever felt more confused by a teacher's explanation of the language than by the language itself.**
- **If you have ever been amazed by just how closely grammar books resemble furniture assembly instructions.**
- **If you have ever felt that you may in fact be more or less incapable of learning a foreign language.**

Invariably, all the students soon have at least one hand in the air – and they laugh. They laugh because for some reason our language-learning experiences tend to be very similar and, sadly, these similar experiences tend not to be very good ones.

My own initial experiences of language learning were also uncannily similar to those described above. In fact, when I ask my students these questions, my own hand is the first to go up – and it stays up until we have gone through them all.

However, these less than positive experiences have had an upside both for myself and for those individuals I have taught because they, along with a number of other factors, have helped inform and shape the method that will be used during this course.

Using this method, you will learn how to communicate in German and how to formulate your own ideas and thoughts using German.

As you learn with it, you will quickly discover that I do not use complicated grammatical explanations *at all*, and I will not ask you to memorize long lists of vocabulary – the way the course is structured will by itself ensure that you remember what you are taught. Instead, through your interaction with the audio, I will lead you through the German language, enabling you to build up complex sentences by yourself, step by step, so that you are actually speaking independently in German by the end of the course. And this is regardless of how little, or how much, you know when you begin.

You will also discover that the language I teach is designed to be adaptable, so that you will be able to use it just as easily for holidaying in a German-speaking country as for living or working there; it will be just as easy to use it to order a coffee as to hold a conversation with the waiter who brings it to you. And, again, all of this regardless of how little, or how much, you know when you begin.

At the time of writing, this method has already proved extremely successful with a very great many students, including hundreds of so-called “no-hoppers”. Interestingly, not one of these students failed to learn using this method. It is these many success cases, letters of thanks – and even the occasional hug – that have made teaching languages so very worthwhile for me and it is this which has persuaded me to publish my courses with Collins.

I anticipate and hope that this course will be as effective for you as it has been for so many of my other students.

Paul Noble

Paul Noble
Head of the Paul Noble Language Institute

How to use this booklet

This booklet has been designed to provide you with a quick and easy way to review and reinforce the key vocabulary, structures and contents of your Paul Noble Method German course.

Although the core part of your learning will take place via your use of the accompanying course audio, we have also included this booklet in order to provide you with a quick reference guide to the language, as well as a way to begin to get to grips with both reading and writing German, should you wish to do so.

It is worth noting that this booklet should be used *after* you have begun working through the accompanying audio. It will serve as excellent reinforcement, guidance and review material but is not designed to teach you German by itself. This is what the audio will do – and very rapidly too. After you have begun working through the audio, you will find this booklet to be an extremely useful review and reference resource but you must start by listening to the audio first.

So, if you haven't done so already, go and start playing the audio. You're about to find out just how good a course this is!

Creating German words

Use these conversion techniques to create hundreds of German words out of English.

Many words ending in... in English	become... in German	Examples
ion	<i>stay the same</i>	Information Situation Portion
ant	<i>stay the same</i>	arrogant tolerant Restaurant
ent	<i>stay the same</i>	intelligent prominent Experiment
al	<i>stay the same</i>	formal normal ideal
or	<i>stay the same</i>	Professor Pastor Motor
ist	<i>stay the same</i>	Tourist Realist Optimist
um	<i>stay the same</i>	Maximum Minimum Museum
ade	<i>stay the same</i>	Blockade Parade Serenade

Many words ending in... in English	become... in German	Examples
ic/ical	isch	political = politisch typical = typisch romantic = romantisch
ive	iv	negative = negativ intensive = intensiv impulsive = impulsiv
ty	tät	reality = Realität identity = Identität mentality = Mentalität
am	amm	gram = Gramm anagram = Anagramm diagram = Diagramm
ure	ur	cure = Kur nature = Natur sculpture = Skulptur
sm	smus	enthusiasm = Enthusiasmus optimism = Optimismus pessimism = Pessimismus
ance	anz	ignorance = Ignoranz tolerance = Toleranz elegance = Eleganz
ence	enz	intelligence = Intelligenz turbulence = Turbulenz conference = Konferenz
at / ate	at	private = privat duplicate = Duplikat diplomat = Diplomat

Use these consonant swapping techniques to transform Anglo-Saxon English words into German.

An English letter...	is often a... in German	Examples
d	t	hard = hart cold = kalt to drink = trinken
th	d	thing = Ding thorn = Dorn to thank = danken
k	ch	book = Buch to make = machen to break = brechen
y	g	to say = sagen to lay = legen to fly = fliegen
ght	cht	sight = Sicht light = Licht daughter = Tochter
p (at or near the beginning of a word)	pf	plaster = Pflaster pan = Pfanne pepper = Pfeffer
p (in the middle or at the end of a word)	f	sharp = scharf ship = Schiff help = helfen
v (in the middle or at the end of a word)	b	to have = haben to live = leben to give = geben
t (in the middle or at the end of a word)	s	what? = was? water = Wasser better = besser

Core course review

The best way to use this part of your booklet is to start by reading through a page, looking at both the English and German. Then go back to the beginning of that same page and, while covering the German side of the text, translate the English into German - just as you did when you listened to the course audio.

Once you can get 90% of a page's content correct, move on to the next page and follow the process again. By doing this, you will quickly recall and reinforce what you learnt with the audio tracks.

The present

Using “it is”

Many words ending in -ic and -ical in English end in -isch in German.

fantastic

romantic

typical

It is

It is fantastic.

It is romantic.

It is typical.

dramatic

It is dramatic.

exotic

It is exotic.

democratic

It is democratic.

problematic

It is problematic.

It is not / It isn't

It isn't problematic.

It isn't democratic.

It isn't romantic.

but

It is exotic but it isn't romantic.

practical

It's practical.

It isn't practical.

fantastisch

romantisch

typisch

Es ist

Es ist fantastisch.

Es ist romantisch.

Es ist typisch.

dramatisch

Es ist dramatisch.

exotisch

Es ist exotisch.

demokratisch

Es ist demokratisch.

problematisch

Es ist problematisch.

Es ist nicht

Es ist nicht problematisch.

Es ist nicht demokratisch.

Es ist nicht romantisch.

aber

Es ist exotisch, aber es ist nicht romantisch.

praktisch

Es ist praktisch.

Es ist nicht praktisch.

Talking about what you can, would like to and must do

can

I can

to begin

I can begin.

I can not

I cannot begin.

She can

to camp

She can camp.

She cannot camp.

to park

She cannot park.

She can park.

He can

He can park.

to come

He can come.

today

He can come today.

You can (*informal*)

You can come today. (*informal*)

You cannot come today. (*informal*)

Can you? (*informal*)

Can you come today? (*informal*)

You can (*formal*)

Can you? (*formal*)

tonight

Can you come tonight? (*formal*)

to go

Can you go tonight? (*formal*)

Ich kann

beginnen

Ich kann beginnen.

Ich kann nicht

Ich kann nicht beginnen.

Sie kann

campen

Sie kann campen.

Sie kann nicht campen.

parken

Sie kann nicht parken.

Sie kann parken.

Er kann

Er kann parken.

kommen

Er kann kommen.

heute

Er kann heute kommen.

Du kannst

Du kannst heute kommen.

Du kannst nicht heute kommen.

Kannst du?

Kannst du heute kommen?

Sie können

Können Sie?

heute Nacht

Können Sie heute Nacht

kommen?

gehen

Können Sie heute Nacht gehen?

NOTE! As you may have noticed above, there is more than one word for “you” in German.

“Sie” is the *formal* word for “you” in German. It can be used when talking to one or more persons and is what you will use when you first meet someone.

“Du” is the *informal* word for “you” and is used with family members, close friends and for talking to children. English speakers often do not know when it is appropriate to start using “du” with German speakers. The rule-of-thumb is: don’t use it first! Wait until a native speaker initiates it with you and then it should be alright to use it back.

They can
Can they?
Can they go tonight?
They cannot go tonight.

No.
No, they cannot go tonight.

We can
We cannot go tonight.

this evening
We cannot go this evening.

Can we?
Can we go this evening?

would like

I would like
to dance
I would like to dance.
to dance here
I would like to dance here.
to drink

Sie können
Können sie?
Können sie heute Nacht gehen?
Sie können nicht heute Nacht gehen.
Nein.
Nein, sie können nicht heute Nacht gehen.
Wir können
Wir können nicht heute Nacht gehen.
heute Abend
Wir können nicht heute Abend gehen.
Können wir?
Können wir heute Abend gehen?

Ich möchte
tanzen
Ich möchte tanzen.
hier tanzen
Ich möchte hier tanzen.
trinken

to drink here
I would like to drink here.
She would like
She would like to drink here.
to drink it
She would like to drink it.
She wouldn't like to drink it.
He would like
to do
to do it
He would like to do it.
to bring
to bring it
He would like to bring it.
He would like to bring it but he can't
do it today.
You would like (*informal*)
Would you like? (*informal*)
Would you like to bring it? (*informal*)
Would you like to do it? (*informal*)
this morning
Would you like to do it this morning?
(*informal*)
You would like (*formal*)
Would you like? (*formal*)
Would you like to do it this morning?
(*formal*)
to see
Would you like to see it this morning?
(*formal*)
tomorrow
Would you like to see it tomorrow? (*formal*)
They would like
They would like to see it tomorrow.
They would like to see it tomorrow but it isn't
practical.
Would they like?

hier trinken
Ich möchte hier trinken.
Sie möchte
Sie möchte hier trinken.
es trinken
Sie möchte es trinken.
Sie möchte es nicht trinken.
Er möchte
tun
es tun
Er möchte es tun.
bringen
es bringen
Er möchte es bringen.
Er möchte es bringen, aber er
kann es nicht heute tun.
Du möchtest
Möchtest du?
Möchtest du es bringen?
Möchtest du es tun?
heute Vormittag
Möchtest du es heute
Vormittag tun?
Sie möchten
Möchten Sie?
Möchten Sie es heute Vormittag
tun?
sehen
Möchten Sie es heute Vormittag
sehen?
morgen
Möchten Sie es morgen sehen?
Sie möchten
Sie möchten es morgen sehen.
Sie möchten es morgen sehen,
aber es ist nicht praktisch.
Möchten sie?

The present

Would they like to see it tomorrow?
tomorrow morning
Would they like to see it tomorrow morning?

We would like
a room
We would like a room.
a double room
We would like a double room.
tomorrow night
for
for tomorrow night
We would like a double room for
tomorrow night.

**Möchten sie es morgen sehen?
morgen Vormittag
Möchten sie es morgen
Vormittag sehen?
Wir möchten
ein Zimmer
Wir möchten ein Zimmer.
ein Doppelzimmer
Wir möchten ein Doppelzimmer.
morgen Nacht
für
für morgen Nacht
Wir möchten ein Doppelzimmer
für morgen Nacht.**

must

I must
reserve / to reserve
I must reserve
I must reserve a room.
I must reserve a room for tomorrow night.

to reserve a table
I must reserve a table.
tomorrow evening
for tomorrow evening
I must reserve a table for tomorrow evening.

She must
She must reserve a table for tomorrow
evening.
to go

**Ich muss
reservieren
Ich muss reservieren
Ich muss ein Zimmer reservieren.
Ich muss ein Zimmer für morgen
Nacht reservieren.
einen Tisch reservieren
Ich muss einen Tisch reservieren.
morgen Abend
für morgen Abend
Ich muss einen Tisch für morgen
Abend reservieren.
Sie muss
Sie muss einen Tisch für morgen
Abend reservieren.
fahren**

NOTE! German has two different words that mean “to go”.

“Gehen” means “to go” in a very general sense and will be used most of the time.

“Fahren” will be used when you are going to go somewhere that will require you to take a vehicle to get there. So, if you are going to drive, take a train or a plane to go somewhere, use “fahren”, otherwise, stick with “gehen”.

He must

He must go.

to Berlin

He must go to Berlin.

to Hamburg

He must go to Hamburg.

You must (*informal*)

You must go to Hamburg. (*informal*)

Must you? / Do you have to?

Must you go to Hamburg? / Do you have to go to Hamburg? (*informal*)

Do you have to go to Hamburg tomorrow evening? (*informal*)

Er muss

Er muss fahren.

nach Berlin

Er muss nach Berlin fahren.

nach Hamburg

Er muss nach Hamburg fahren.

Du musst

Du musst nach Hamburg fahren.

Musst du?

Musst du nach Hamburg fahren?

Musst du morgen Abend nach Hamburg fahren?

NOTE! A useful **T.I.P.**

Do you remember the useful **T.I.P.** you were taught during the course? The **T.I.P.** was that, in German, you should always put the **T**ime **I**n-front-of-the **P**lace. So, if you have a sentence, like the one above, with both a **T**ime and **P**lace in it, you should keep this **T.I.P.** in mind: **T**ime **I**n-front-of **P**lace.

You must (*formal*)

Must you? / Do you have to? (*formal*)

Do you have to go to Hamburg tomorrow evening? (*formal*)

Do you have to go to Hamburg tomorrow night? (*formal*)

They must

Sie müssen

Müssen Sie?

Müssen Sie morgen Abend nach Hamburg fahren?

Müssen Sie morgen Nacht nach Hamburg fahren?

Sie müssen

The present

Must they? / Do they have to?

England

Do they have to go to England tomorrow night?

We must

We must go to England tomorrow night.

Müssen sie?

England

Müssen sie morgen Nacht nach England fahren?

Wir müssen

Wir müssen morgen Nacht nach England fahren.

The present tense without “can”, “must” etc

We will now take a look at the more general present tense in German – the present tense without “can”, “must” etc. By the end of this quick run-through, you will be able to use the vast majority of verbs in German, in the present tense, with almost no difficulty whatsoever.



JARGON BUSTER

What is a verb? An easy way to identify a verb is to see if you can put “I”, “he” or “we” directly in front of it. If you can, it is a verb. For example, I go, he eats, we fly, I buy, he thinks, we leave. All the underlined words are verbs; you know this because you can put “I”, “he” or “we” **directly in front of them**.

The present tense for “you” (*formal*), “we”, and “they”

The present tense for “you” (*formal*), “we” and “they” in German is incredibly easy. Simply, take a German verb, such as “to camp”:

to camp

campen

Now, simply add either “you” (*formal*), “we” or “they” in front of it:

You (*formal*)

Sie

You camp / You are camping (*formal*)

Sie campen

They

Sie

They camp / They are camping

Sie campen

We

We camp / We are camping

to drink

You drink / You are drinking (*formal*)

They drink / They are drinking

We drink / We are drinking

We drink beer / We are drinking beer.

We drink wine / We are drinking wine.

to park

You park / You are parking (*formal*)

They park / They are parking

We park / We are parking

Wir**Wir campen****trinken****Sie trinken****Sie trinken****Wir trinken****Wir trinken Bier.****Wir trinken Wein.****parken****Sie parken****Sie parken****Wir parken**

NOTE! You may wonder why there are always two English translations for each of the German sentences above.

For instance, “wir parken” is translated as both “we park” and “we are parking”.

The simple answer to this is that German speakers have fewer ways of expressing the present tense than we do in English. So, when an English speaker says “we park” a German speaker will say “wir parken”. But, when an English speaker says “we are parking” a German speaker will still say “wir parken”. So, effectively, you get two tenses for the price of one!

Look at the translation of all the examples here and you will begin to get a feel for how this works. You will soon discover that in German “we drink beer” and “we are drinking beer” are both “wir trinken Bier”, making your trips to the bar even simpler!

The present tense for “I”

Once you know the present tense for “you” (*formal*), “we” and “they”, using “I” in the present tense also becomes easy. Again, simply take a German verb, such as “to camp”:

to camp

campen

But this time chop off the “n” from the end, so that “campen” becomes “campe”.

Let's try another example:

He parks

She parks

Again, simply swap the “s” at the end of each of these words for a “t” and, having done so, now say “he parks” and “she parks” in German:

He parks

She parks

Er parkt

Sie parkt

Try some further examples:

He drinks / He is drinking

He drinks beer. / He is drinking beer.

She drinks / She is drinking

She drinks wine. / She is drinking wine.

Er trinkt

Er trinkt Bier.

Sie trinkt

Sie trinkt Wein.

The present tense for “you” (*informal*)

Once you know how to use “he” and “she” in the present tense, using “you” (*informal*) also becomes easy, because:

If you know how to say “he camps”:

He camps

Er campt

Then all you now need to do is swap that “t” at the end of “campt” for an “st”:

campst

Now add the informal word for “you” in front of this and you will get “you camp” (*informal*):

You camp / You are camping (*informal*)

Du campst

The present

Try some further examples:

You park / You are parking

Du parkst

You drink / You are drinking

Du trinkst

You drink beer. / You are drinking beer.

Du trinkst Bier.

You drink wine. / You are drinking wine.

Du trinkst Wein.

Do you drink wine? / Are you drinking wine?

Trinkst du Wein?

The future

Using “will” to talk about the future

If you know the German word for “will” then you can use the future tense in German without any difficulty!

I will

I will begin.

I will not begin.

I will reserve a room.

I will reserve a room for tomorrow night.

I will reserve a table for tomorrow evening.

You will (*formal*)

You will reserve a table for tomorrow evening. (*formal*)

You will come. (*formal*)

You will do it. (*formal*)

You will do it this morning. (*formal*)

Will you? (*formal*)

Will you do it this morning? (*formal*)

Will you come tonight?

Will you go tonight?

They will

Will they?

Will they go tonight?

We will

Will we?

Will we go tonight?

Will we go this evening?

Ich werde

Ich werde beginnen.

Ich werde nicht beginnen.

Ich werde ein Zimmer reservieren.

Ich werde ein Zimmer für morgen Nacht reservieren.

Ich werde einen Tisch für morgen Abend reservieren.

Sie werden

Sie werden einen Tisch für morgen Abend reservieren.

Sie werden kommen.

Sie werden es tun.

Sie werden es heute Vormittag tun.

Werden Sie?

Werden Sie es heute Vormittag tun?

Werden Sie heute Nacht kommen?

Werden Sie heute Nacht gehen?

Sie werden

Werden sie?

Werden sie heute Nacht gehen?

Wir werden

Werden wir?

Werden wir heute Nacht gehen?

Werden wir heute Abend gehen?

Using the present tense to talk about the future

Interestingly, in German, there is an alternative to using “werden” to talk about the future. This commonly used alternative is to simply use the present tense, plus a future time reference. I’ll show you what I mean and how this works.

First, we’ll begin by saying something in the present tense:

We camp / We are camping

Wir campen

Now, to make this into a future tense sentence in German, you just need to add a future time reference:

tomorrow

morgen

We will camp tomorrow.

Wir campen morgen.

So, simply by adding a future time reference (tomorrow), we have found an alternative way to talk about the future in German. “Wir campen morgen”, which literally translates as “we camp tomorrow”, shows how we can use the present tense, plus a future time reference, to talk about the future in German. It can seem a little strange to English speakers but it is quite normal to do this in German. Let’s practise this alternative method for expressing the future by trying some further examples:

We go / We are going

Wir gehen

We’ll go tomorrow.

Wir gehen morgen.

tomorrow afternoon

morgen Nachmittag

We’ll go tomorrow afternoon.

Wir gehen morgen Nachmittag.

I drink / I am drinking

Ich trinke

I drink beer / I am drinking beer.

Ich trinke Bier.

I will drink beer tomorrow afternoon.

Ich trinke Bier morgen

Nachmittag.

He comes / He is coming

Er kommt

He will come tomorrow afternoon.

Er kommt morgen Nachmittag.

this afternoon

heute Nachmittag

He will come this afternoon.

Er kommt heute Nachmittag.

She comes / She is coming

She will come this afternoon.

They come / They are coming

They will come this afternoon.

You come / You are coming (*formal*)

You will come this afternoon. (*formal*)

Will you come this afternoon? (*formal*)

You come / You are coming (*informal*)

You will come this afternoon. (*informal*)

Will you come this afternoon? (*informal*)

Sie kommt

Sie kommt heute Nachmittag.

Sie kommen

Sie kommen heute Nachmittag.

Sie kommen

Sie kommen heute Nachmittag.

Kommen Sie heute Nachmittag?

Du kommst

Du kommst heute Nachmittag.

Kommst du heute Nachmittag?

The past (using “have”)

I have

Ich habe

NOTE! Past tense words ending in a “d” sound in English.

In English, the past tense generally ends with a “d” sound. For example: “I have camped”, “I have parked”, “I have danced”, “I have said”. All of these have a “d” sound at the end.

To make the past tense in German is therefore easy because, as you learnt during your course, a “d” sound in English typically becomes a “t” sound in German. So, for words like “camped”, “parked” and “danced”, you simply change the “d” sound at the end of these words into a “t” sound and then add the letters “ge” onto the front of the word. You then have the past tense in German. Practise this below:

camped

I have camped

I camped

I did camp

here

I have camped here.

I camped here.

I did camp here.

gecampt

Ich habe gecampt

Ich habe gecampt

Ich habe gecampt

hier

Ich habe hier gecampt.

Ich habe hier gecampt.

Ich habe hier gecampt.

NOTE! One of the best things about German, and one way in which it is easier than English, is that in order to talk about the past, you don’t need to use as many different tenses as you would in English.

For instance, take the following sentences in English: “I have camped here”, “I camped here”, “I did camp here”. In German, these are all expressed in the same way, simply as: “I have camped here”, which in German is: “Ich habe hier gecampt”. The above three sentences can therefore be served by the same single tense in German – that’s three past tenses for the price of one!

there

I have camped there. / I camped there. /

I did camp there.

said

I have said / I said / I did say

Have I said? / Did I say?

What?

What have I said? / What did I say?

Yesterday

What did I say yesterday?

parked

I have parked / I parked / I did park

Have I parked? / Did I park?

Where?

Where have I parked? / Where did I park?

Where did I park yesterday?

We have

We have parked / We parked / We did park

Have we parked? / Did we park?

Where did we park yesterday?

last night

Where did we park last night?

They have

Where did they park last night?

danced

Where did they dance last night?

yesterday evening

Where did they dance yesterday evening?

You have (*formal*)

Where did you dance yesterday evening?

dort

Ich habe dort gecampt.

gesagt

Ich habe gesagt

Habe ich gesagt?

Was?

Was habe ich gesagt?

gestern

Was habe ich gestern gesagt?

geparkt

Ich habe geparkt

Habe ich geparkt?

Wo?

Wo habe ich geparkt?

Wo habe ich gestern geparkt?

Wir haben

Wir haben geparkt

Haben wir geparkt?

Wo haben wir gestern geparkt?

gestern Nacht

Wo haben wir gestern Nacht

geparkt?

Sie haben

Wo haben sie gestern Nacht

geparkt?

getanzt

Wo haben sie gestern Nacht

getanzt?

gestern Abend

Wo haben sie gestern Abend

getanzt?

Sie haben

Wo haben Sie gestern Abend

getanzt?

The past

Have you? (*formal*)

the baby

kidnapped

Have you kidnapped the baby? / Did you

kidnap the baby? (*formal*)

kissed

Have you kissed the baby? / Did you kiss

the baby?

yesterday afternoon

Did you kiss the baby yesterday afternoon?

yesterday morning

Did you kiss the baby yesterday morning?

Yes, I kissed the baby yesterday morning.

Haben Sie?

Das Baby

gekidnappt

Haben Sie das Baby gekidnappt?

geküsst

Haben Sie das Baby geküsst?

gestern Nachmittag

Haben Sie das Baby gestern

Nachmittag geküsst?

gestern Vormittag

Haben Sie das Baby gestern

Vormittag geküsst?

Ja, ich habe das Baby gestern

Vormittag geküsst.

“The” and “A”

As you learnt during the course, there is more than one word for “the” in German, as well as more than one word for “a”.

This is usually one of the biggest stumbling blocks for English speakers wanting to become proficient in German but here you will be learn how to use these different words for “the” and “a” with great ease and simplicity.

“The”

There are three basic words for “the” in German; let’s use them now:

Die

The mother

The mother is here.

The mother is there.

The mother cannot come.

Die Mutter

Die Mutter ist hier.

Die Mutter ist dort.

Die Mutter kann nicht kommen.

So, “the mother” is “**die Mutter**”, with “**die**” being the basic, feminine word for “the”.

You may wish to ask: “but which words are feminine?” Well, although some obviously feminine / female words, such as “mother”, “daughter”, “woman” are feminine, feminine words in general have nothing to do with being female or feminine.

“Feminine” is just a category that words have been put into in German; there is not much more logic to it than that.

Das

The baby

The baby is here.

The baby is there.

The baby cannot come.

Das Baby

Das Baby ist hier.

Das Baby ist dort.

Das Baby kann nicht kommen.

So, “the baby” is “**das Baby**”, with “**das**” being the basic, neuter (neither masculine nor feminine) word for “the”.

“The” and “A”

You may wish to ask: “but which words are neuter?” Well, again, “neuter” is just a category that words have been put into in German; there is nothing especially neuter / neutral about them.

Der

The man

The man is here.

The man is there.

The man cannot come.

Der Mann

Der Mann ist hier.

Der Mann ist dort.

Der Mann kann nicht kommen.

So, “the man” is “**der Mann**”, with “**der**” being the basic, masculine word for “the”.

You may wish to ask: “but which words are masculine?” Well, although some obviously masculine / male words, such as “man”, “brother”, “father” are masculine, masculine words in general have nothing to do with being male or masculine. “Masculine” is just a category that words have been put into in German; there is not much more logic to it than that.

Summary			
Genders	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine
Basic words for “the”	die	das	der

Die, das, der transformed

So, “die”, “das” and “der” are the basic words for “the” in German. However, they are not the *only* words for “the” in German. This is because the words for “the” can transform and these transformations can be caused by trigger words!

For

The word meaning “for” in German, “für”, is a trigger word. Let’s see how – and if – it affects these different words for “the” when it is placed in front of them.

Die

The mother
For the mother
It is for the mother.

Die Mutter
Für die Mutter
Es ist für die Mutter.

“Die Mutter” has stayed exactly the same, even though “für” has been placed in front of it, so, clearly, “die” is not affected by the trigger word “für”.

Das

The baby
For the baby
It is for the baby.

Das Baby
Für das Baby
Es ist für das Baby.

“Das Baby” has also stayed exactly the same, even though “für” has been placed in front of it, so, clearly, “das” is not affected by the trigger word “für”.

Der

The man
For the man
It is for the man.

Der Mann
Für den Mann
Es ist für den Mann.

Now, in this case, “für” has triggered a change. “Der Mann” has changed into “**den** Mann”. So, we can say that the trigger word “für” will transform “der” into “**den**”.

Summary			
Genders	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine
The “für” transformation	die	das	den

With

“With” in German, “mit”, is another trigger word. Let’s see if it transforms the words for “the” in a different way:

“The” and “A”

Die

The mother

With the mother

I will go with the mother.

Die Mutter

Mit der Mutter

Ich werde mit der Mutter gehen.

“Mit” has clearly triggered a change here. “Die Mutter” has changed into “**der** Mutter”. So, we can say that the trigger word “mit” will transform “die” into “**der**”.

Das

The baby

With the baby

I will go with the baby.

Das Baby

Mit dem Baby

Ich werde mit dem Baby gehen.

“Mit” has clearly triggered a change here as well. “Das Baby” has changed into “**dem** Baby”. So, we can say that the trigger word “mit” will transform “das” into “**dem**”.

Der

The man

With the man

I will go with the man.

Der Mann

Mit dem Mann

Ich werde mit dem Mann gehen.

“Mit” has again triggered a change. “Der Mann” has changed into “**dem** Mann”. So, we can say that the trigger word “mit” will transform “der” into “**dem**”.

Summary			
Genders	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine
The “mit” transformation	der	dem	dem

Die, das, der transformed without trigger words

So, as we have seen, the basic German words for “the” can be transformed by certain trigger words, changing the words for “the” into what I have above called the “für” transformation and the “mit” transformation. However, both the “für” and “mit” transformations can also be triggered in other ways.

On the receiving end / playing the victim

Curiously, in German when someone is on the receiving end of a situation, when they are the victim in a situation, this also triggers “für” transformation. I’ll show you what I mean.

Before we begin though, do remember that the only word for “the” which changes in the “für” transformation is the masculine “der”. First though, let’s try the “die” and the “das”, just to see what does or doesn’t happen with them:

Die

The mother

to kiss

kissed

I have kissed the mother.

to kidnap

kidnapped

I have kidnapped the mother.

Die Mutter

küssen

geküsst

Ich habe die Mutter geküsst.

kidnappen

gekidnappt

Ich habe die Mutter gekidnappt.

“The mother” is on the receiving end of the action in both of these situations. She is the one *being* kissed and kidnapped. We could call her the “victim” in the situation – even a victim of *being* kissed. Notice that “die Mutter” does not change, however; it is unaffected by its status as the “victim” in the sentence.

Das

The baby

to kiss

kissed

I have kissed the baby.

to kidnap

kidnapped

I have kidnapped the baby.

Das Baby

küssen

geküsst

Ich habe das Baby geküsst.

kidnappen

gekidnappt

Ich habe das Baby gekidnappt.

This time, “the baby” is on the receiving end of the action in both of these situations. He /she is the one *being* kissed and kidnapped. He / she is the “victim” in this situation – even in the positive sense of being kissed. Notice that “das Baby” does not change, however; it is unaffected by its status as the “victim” in the sentence.

“The” and “A”

Der

The man

to kiss

kissed

I have kissed the man.

to kidnap

kidnapped

I have kidnapped the man.

Der Mann

küssen

geküsst

Ich habe den Mann geküsst.

kidnapen

gekidnappt

Ich habe den Mann gekidnappt.

This time, “the man” is on the receiving end of the action in both of these situations. He is the one *being* kissed and kidnapped. He is the “victim” in this situation – even in the positive sense of being kissed. And curiously, he *is* affected by his status as the “victim” in the sentence. Because, when he becomes the victim and is the person having the thing done to him – when he is being kidnapped, kissed etc – the “für” transformation is triggered (even though there is no “für” present) and “der Mann” becomes “**den** Mann”.

This means we can therefore say that, when a masculine word, a “der” word, is on the receiving end of the action, when it is on the receiving end of the verb, when it is the one *being* kissed, kidnapped etc, when it is the victim of the situation, it will transform into the same version of the word for “the” that is triggered by the word “für”.

So, “der” will become “**den**”.

Just to make this clear, let’s have a look at a few examples of when “der” does (and does not) transform into “den”:

The man

The man would like

The man would like to kiss the baby.

Der Mann

Der Mann möchte

**Der Mann möchte das Baby
küssen.**

Here, you’ll notice that the man is not the victim; he is not the one who is going to be kissed, so he remains “der Mann”. He is not on the receiving end of the action, so there is no change. It is the baby who is going to be kissed, not the man in this situation, so “der Mann” does not change. Let’s look at some similar examples to make this clearer:

The man would like to kiss the mother.

Der Mann möchte die Mutter küssen.

The man would like to kidnap the mother.

Der Mann möchte die Mutter kidnappen.

The man would like to kidnap the baby.

Der Mann möchte das Baby kidnappen.

So, in these sentences the man continues not to be the victim. Rather, he’s the one planning to do the kissing, kidnapping etc. He is going to be the one doing the action; he is not going to be the one on the receiving end of the action, the one being kissed, kidnapped etc. So, he will remain “der Mann” – until, that is, that he himself becomes the victim in the situation:

The man would like to kidnap the man.

Der Mann möchte den Mann kidnappen.

Here, you have two different men. The first man in the sentence is not the victim; he is going to be the person doing the action; he is not the person on the receiving end of it. He remains “der Mann”. The second man, however, is the victim, the one who is going to be kidnapped, the one on the receiving end in the situation. He therefore becomes “den Mann”.

So, when something masculine becomes the victim, when it becomes the thing on the receiving end of a situation, “der” will transform into “den”.

Summary			
Genders	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine
Victim / “fur” transformation	die	das	den

Implying “to the”

Curiously, when a sentence in German implies “to the”, this also triggers “mit” transformation. Let’s see how this works!

“The” and “A”

Die

The mother
to bring
I will bring it **to the** mother.

**Die Mutter
bringen
Ich werde es der Mutter bringen.**

So, when a sentence implies “to the”, rather than simply adding a word meaning “to” in front of the “the”, in German you instead alter the word for “the”, using the “mit” transformation. So, for feminine words, “die” becomes “**der**”. This is exactly the same as the “mit” transformation but this time it has a different cause.

Das

The baby
to bring
I will bring it **to the** baby.

**Das Baby
bringen
Ich werde es dem Baby bringen.**

So, when a sentence implies “to the”, rather than simply adding a word meaning “to” in front of the “the”, in German you instead alter the word for “the”, using the “mit” transformation. So, for neuter words, “das” becomes “**dem**”. This is exactly the same as the “mit” transformation but this time it has a different cause.

Der

The man
to bring
I will bring it **to the** man.

**Der Mann
bringen
Ich werde es dem Mann bringen.**

So, when a sentence implies “to the”, rather than simply adding a word meaning “to” in front of the “the”, in German you instead alter the word for “the”, using the “mit” transformation. So, for masculine words, “der” becomes “**dem**”. This is exactly the same as the “mit” transformation but this time it has a different cause.

Summary			
Genders	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine
To the / “mit” transformation	der	dem	dem

Summary of die, das and der by gender

Summary - die	
Gender	Feminine
The basic feminine word for “the”	die
Victim / “für” transformation	die
To the / “mit” transformation	der

Summary - das	
Gender	Neuter
The basic neuter word for “the”	das
Victim / “für” transformation	das
To the / “mit” transformation	dem

Summary - der	
Gender	Masculine
The basic masculine word for “the”	der
Victim / “für” transformation	den
To the / “mit” transformation	dem

“A”

“A” works in more or less exactly the same way as “the”. There are still three genders and there is more than one word for “a”:

Eine

A mother

A mother is here.

Eine Mutter

Eine Mutter ist hier.

“The” and “A”

A mother is there.

Eine Mutter ist dort.

A mother cannot come.

Eine Mutter kann nicht kommen.

So, “a mother” is “**eine Mutter**”, with “**eine**” being the basic, feminine word for “a”.

Ein

A baby

Ein Baby

A baby is here.

Ein Baby ist hier.

A baby is there.

Ein Baby ist dort.

A baby cannot come.

Ein Baby kann nicht kommen.

So, “a baby” is “**ein Baby**”, with “**ein**” being the basic, neuter word for “a”.

Ein

A man

Ein Mann

A man is here.

Ein Mann ist hier.

A man is there.

Ein Mann ist dort.

A man cannot come.

Ein Mann kann nicht kommen.

So, “a man” is “**ein Mann**”, with “**ein**” being the basic, masculine word for “a”.

Genders	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine
Basic words for “a”	eine	ein	ein

Eine, ein, ein transformed

So, “eine”, “ein” and “ein” are the basic words for “a” in German. However, they are not the *only* words for “a” in German. Just as with the words for “the”, the words for “a” can transform and these transformations are caused by the same trigger words!

For

As we have already learnt, “for” in German, “für”, is a trigger word. Let’s see how – and if – it affects these different words for “a” when it is placed in front of them:

Eine

A mother
For a mother
It is for a mother.

Eine Mutter
Für eine Mutter
Es ist für eine Mutter.

“Eine Mutter” has stayed exactly the same, even though “für” has been placed in front of it, so, clearly, “eine” is not affected by the trigger word “für”.

Ein

A baby
For a baby
It is for a baby.

Ein Baby
Für ein Baby
Es ist für ein Baby.

“Ein Baby” has stayed exactly the same, even though “für” has been placed in front of it, so, clearly, the neuter “ein” is not affected by the trigger word “für”.

Ein

A man
For a man
It is for a man.

Ein Mann
Für einen Mann
Es ist für einen Mann.

Now, in this case, “für” has triggered a change. “Ein Mann” has changed into “einen Mann”. So, we can say that the trigger word “für” will transform the masculine “ein” into “einen”.

Genders	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine
The “für” transformation	eine	ein	einen

With

As we have already learnt, “with” in German, “mit”, is also a trigger word. Let’s see how it affects these different words for “a” when it is placed in front of them.

“The” and “A”

Eine

A mother
With a mother
I will go with a mother.

Eine Mutter
Mit einer Mutter
Ich werde mit einer Mutter gehen.

Here, “mit” has clearly triggered a change. “Eine Mutter” has changed into “**einer Mutter**”. So, we can say that the trigger word “mit” will transform “eine” into “**einer**”.

Ein

A baby
With a baby
I will go with a baby.

Ein Baby
Mit einem Baby
Ich werde mit einem Baby gehen.

Here, “mit” has also clearly triggered a change. “Ein Baby” has changed into “**einem Baby**”. So, we can say that the trigger word “mit” will transform “ein” into “**einem**”.

Ein

A man
With a man
I will go with a man.

Ein Mann
Mit einem Mann
Ich werde mit einem Mann gehen.

Here, “mit” has also clearly triggered a change. “Ein Mann” has changed into “**einem Mann**”. So, we can say that the trigger word “mit” will transform “ein” into “**einem**”.

Genders	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine
The “mit” transformation	einer	einem	einem

Eine, ein, ein transformed without trigger words

So, as we have seen, the basic German words for “a” can be transformed by certain trigger words, changing the words for “a” into what I have above called the “für” transformation and the “mit” transformation. However, as we already know, both the “für” and “mit” transformations can also be triggered in other ways.

On the receiving end / playing the victim

As with before, when someone is on the receiving end of a situation, when they are the victim in a situation, this also triggers the “für” transformation.

Do remember that the only word for “a” which changes in “für” transformation is the masculine “ein”. First though, let’s try the feminine “eine” and the neuter “ein”, just to see what does or doesn’t happen with them:

Eine

A mother

to kiss

kissed

I have kissed a mother.

to kidnap

kidnapped

I have kidnapped a mother.

Eine Mutter

küssen

geküsst

Ich habe eine Mutter geküsst.

kidnapen

gekidnappt

Ich habe eine Mutter

gekidnappt.

The mother is on the receiving end of the action in both of these situations. She is the one *being* kissed and kidnapped. She is the victim of those actions. Yet “eine Mutter” does not change.

Ein

A baby

to kiss

kissed

I have kissed a baby.

to kidnap

kidnapped

I have kidnapped a baby.

Ein Baby

küssen

geküsst

Ich habe ein Baby geküsst.

kidnapen

gekidnappt

Ich habe ein Baby gekidnappt.

The baby is on the receiving end of the action in both of these situations. He /she is the one *being* kissed and kidnapped. He / she is the victim of those actions. Yet “ein Baby” does not change.

“The” and “A”

Ein

A man

to kiss

kissed

I have kissed a man.

to kidnap

kidnapped

I have kidnapped a man.

Ein Mann

küssen

geküsst

Ich habe einen Mann geküsst.

kidnapen

gekidnappt

Ich habe einen Mann

gekidnappt.

This time, “the man” is on the receiving end of the action in both of these situations. He is the one *being* kissed and kidnapped. He is the “victim” in this situation – even in the positive sense of being kissed. And he *is* affected by his status as the “victim” in the sentence. Because, when he becomes the victim and is the person having the thing done to him – when he is being kidnapped, kissed etc – the “für” transformation is triggered (even though there is no “für” present) and “ein Mann” becomes “**einen** Mann”.

This means we can therefore say that, when a masculine “ein” word is on the receiving end of the action, when it is on the receiving end of the verb, when it is the one being kissed, kidnapped etc, when it is the victim of the situation, it will transform into the same version of the word for “a” that is triggered by the word “für”.

So, “ein” will become “**einen**”.

Summary			
Genders	Feminine	Neuter	Masculine
Victim / “für” transformation	eine	ein	einen

Implying “to a”

When a sentence in German implies “to a” this will trigger the “mit” transformation.

Eine

A mother

to bring

I will bring it **to a** mother.

Eine Mutter

bringen

**Ich werde es einer Mutter
bringen.**

So, when a sentence implies “to a”, rather than simply adding a word for “to”, in German you instead alter the word for “a”, using the “mit” transformation. So, for feminine words, “eine” becomes “**einer**”. Again, this is exactly the same as with the “mit” transformation but this time it has a different cause.

Ein

A baby

to bring

I will bring it **to a** baby.

Ein Baby

bringen

**Ich werde es einem Baby
bringen.**

So, when a sentence implies “to a”, rather than simply adding a word for “to”, in German you instead alter the word for “a”, using the “mit” transformation. So, for neuter words, “das” becomes “**dem**”. Again, this is exactly the same as with the “mit” transformation but this time it has a different cause.

Ein

A man

to bring

I will bring it **to a** man.

Ein Mann

bringen

**Ich werde es einem Mann
bringen.**

So, when a sentence implies “to a”, rather than simply adding a word for “to”, in German you instead alter the word for “a”, using the “mit” transformation. So, for masculine words, “ein” becomes “**einem**”. Again, this is exactly the same as with the “mit” transformation but this time it has a different cause.

“The” and “A”

Summary of eine, ein and ein by gender

Summary - eine	
Gender	Feminine
The basic feminine word for “a”	eine
Victim / “für” transformation	eine
To the / “mit” transformation	einer

Summary - ein	
Gender	Neuter
The basic neuter word for “a”	ein
Victim / “für” transformation	ein
To the / “mit” transformation	einem

Summary - ein	
Gender	Masculine
The basic masculine word for “a”	ein
Victim / “für” transformation	einem
To the / “mit” transformation	einem

Travelling in German-speaking countries

You now have a chance to use what you have learnt, to deal with those everyday situations you are likely to come across when travelling in a German-speaking country.

You will be familiar with the scenarios in this section from their use on the audio. The best way to use them here is in the same way as the core course review above: first read through a scenario, looking at both the English and German, and then go back to the beginning of that same scenario and, while covering the German side of the text, translate the English into German – just as you did when you listened to the audio tracks.

At the hotel

<i>Traveller</i>	I would like a room for tonight.	Ich möchte ein Zimmer für heute Nacht.
<i>Receptionist</i>	I have a double room with bath.	Ich habe ein Doppelzimmer mit Bad.
<i>Traveller</i>	How much is it?	Was kostet es?
<i>Receptionist</i>	For tonight, one hundred euros.	Für heute Nacht, einhundert Euro.
<i>Traveller</i>	Can I see the room?	Kann ich das Zimmer sehen?
<i>Receptionist</i>	Yes.	Ja.

You are taken up to see the room; it's not bad.

<i>Traveller</i>	Ah yes, it's fantastic!	Ah ja, es ist fantastisch.
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You go back downstairs to the reception.

<i>Receptionist</i>	Your name, please?	Ihr Name, bitte?
<i>Traveller</i>	Moon, M-O-O-N.	Moon, M-O-O-N.

After giving your name, you realize you've forgotten to ask if they accept credit cards.

<i>Traveller</i>	Do you accept credit cards?	Akzeptieren Sie Kreditkarten?
<i>Receptionist</i>	Yes, of course / naturally.	Ja, natürlich.

You hand the receptionist your card.

<i>Traveller</i>	Here you go.	Bitte.
<i>Receptionist</i>	Thank you.	Danke.

Finding a campsite

<i>Traveller</i>	Where is the campsite?	Wo ist der Campingplatz?
<i>Person at the road-side</i>	The campsite is there.	Der Campingplatz ist dort.
<i>Traveller</i>	Thanks.	Danke.

You drive over to where you have been told but can't work out exactly where to park. You ask someone:

<i>Traveller</i>	Where is the car park?	Wo ist der Parkplatz?
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The person gestures at the grass verge next to him and says:

<i>Farmer</i>	The car park's here.	Der Parkplatz ist hier.
<i>Traveller</i>	The car park's here? Can I park here?	Der Parkplatz ist hier? Kann ich hier parken?
<i>Farmer</i>	Yes, of course /naturally.	Ja, natürlich.
<i>Traveller</i>	Where can we camp?	Wo können wir campen?
<i>Farmer</i>	Here and there.	Hier und dort.
<i>Traveller</i>	How much is it?	Was kostet es?
<i>Farmer</i>	Six euros per person per night.	Sechs Euro pro Person pro Nacht.
<i>Traveller</i>	Here you go.	Bitte.
<i>Farmer</i>	Thank you.	Danke.

At the café

<i>Waiter</i>	What would you like?	Was möchten Sie?
<i>Traveller</i>	I would like a coffee, please.	Ich möchte einen Kaffee, bitte.
<i>Traveller 2</i>	A white wine and a sandwich, please.	Einen Weißwein und ein Sandwich, bitte.
<i>Traveller</i>	How much is that?	Was kostet das?
<i>Waiter</i>	Ten euros.	Zehn Euro.

The restaurant (booking ahead)

On the telephone.

<i>Traveller</i>	I would like to reserve a table for two.	Ich möchte einen Tisch für zwei reservieren.
<i>Restaurant</i>	For this evening?	Für heute Abend?
<i>Traveller</i>	Yes, for eight o'clock.	Ja, für zwanzig Uhr.
<i>Restaurant</i>	Your name, please?	Ihr Name, bitte?
<i>Traveller</i>	Moon, M-O-O-N.	Moon, M-O-O-N.
<i>Restaurant</i>	Thank you.	Danke.
<i>Traveller</i>	Thank you.	Danke.

At the restaurant

You enter the restaurant.

<i>Traveller 1</i>	I have reserved a table.	Ich habe einen Tisch reserviert.
<i>Waiter</i>	Your name, please?	Ihr Name, bitte ?

You give the waiter your name and are seated.

<i>Waiter</i>	What would you like?	Was möchten Sie?
<i>Traveller 1</i>	A steak with salad.	Ein Steak mit Salat.
<i>Waiter</i>	And for you?	Und für Sie?
<i>Traveller 2</i>	I would like the fish with salad.	Ich möchte den Fisch mit Salat.
<i>Waiter</i>	And what would you like to drink?	Und was möchten Sie trinken?
<i>Traveller 2</i>	A white wine, please.	Einen Weißwein, bitte.
<i>Traveller 1</i>	A beer, please.	Ein Bier, bitte.

You finish your meal but have clearly drunk too much. You ask:

<i>Traveller 1</i>	Where is the toilet?	Wo ist die Toilette?
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The waiter gestures in its direction and says:

<i>Waiter</i>	There.	Dort.
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Later, after you come back, the waiter also returns.

<i>Waiter</i>	Would you like coffee?	Möchten Sie Kaffee?
<i>Traveller 1</i>	Yes, two coffees and the bill please.	Ja, zwei Kaffee und die Rechnung, bitte.

The tourist office / Asking directions

In the street.

<i>Traveller</i>	Excuse me please, where is the Tourist Information?	Entschuldigen Sie, bitte, wo ist die Touristeninformation?
<i>Passerby</i>	The Tourist Information is over there, the first street on the left, after the cathedral.	Die Touristeninformation ist dort drüben, die erste Straße links, nach der Kathedrale.

In the tourist office.

<i>Traveller</i>	Do you have a map / plan of Berlin?	Haben Sie einen Plan von Berlin?
<i>Tourist officer</i>	Yes, of course / naturally. Six euros please.	Ja, natürlich. Sechs Euro, bitte.

You hand the tourist officer the money.

<i>Traveller</i>	Here you are.	Bitte.
<i>Tourist officer</i>	Thank you.	Danke.

Back outside.

<i>Traveller</i>	Excuse me, where's the station?	Entschuldigen Sie, bitte, wo ist der Bahnhof?
<i>Passerby</i>	The station is over there, the first street on the right, after the car park.	Der Bahnhof ist dort drüben, die erste Straße rechts, nach dem Parkplatz.
<i>Traveller</i>	Thank you.	Danke.
<i>Passerby</i>	You're welcome.	Bitte.

Taking a train

At the train station ticket office.

<i>Traveller</i>	I would like a ticket to Berlin, please.	Ich möchte eine Fahrkarte nach Berlin, bitte.
<i>Ticket office</i>	First or second class?	Erste oder zweite Klasse?
<i>Traveller</i>	First class, please.	Erste Klasse, bitte.
<i>Ticket office</i>	Would you like to reserve a seat?	Möchten Sie einen Platz reservieren?
<i>Traveller</i>	No, thanks.	Nein, danke.
<i>Ticket office</i>	Twenty euros, please.	Zwanzig Euro, bitte.
<i>Traveller</i>	Do you accept credit cards?	Akzeptieren Sie Kreditkarten?
<i>Ticket office</i>	Yes, of course !	Ja, natürlich!

You pay and she hands you your ticket.

<i>Ticket office</i>	Your ticket.	Ihre Fahrkarte.
<i>Traveller</i>	Thanks.	Danke.
<i>Ticket office</i>	You're welcome.	Bitte.

On the platform.

<i>Traveller</i>	Is that the train to Berlin?	Ist das der Zug nach Berlin?
<i>Station Guard</i>	No, the train to Berlin is over there.	Nein, der Zug nach Berlin ist dort drüben.

Travelling in a German-speaking country: Taking a train

Sometime later, on a train headed for Berlin, you search for a free seat.

<i>Traveller</i>	Is this seat / place free?	Ist dieser Platz frei?
<i>First Passenger</i>	No, this seat / place is reserved.	Nein, dieser Platz ist reserviert.

You move down the train, before asking another passenger:

<i>Traveller</i>	Is this seat / place free?	Ist dieser Platz frei?
<i>Second passenger</i>	No, that's my mother's seat / place.	Nein, das ist der Platz von meiner Mutter.
<i>Traveller</i>	And this seat / place?	Und dieser Platz?
<i>Second passenger</i>	No, that is my father's seat / place.	Nein, das ist der Platz von meinem Vater.

You move further down the train and find another empty seat, next to an elderly passenger.

<i>Traveller</i>	Is this seat / place free?	Ist dieser Platz frei?
<i>Elderly passenger</i>	Yes, this seat / place is free.	Ja, dieser Platz ist frei.

You sit down and a little while later a conductor enters your carriage.

<i>Conductor</i>	Your ticket, please.	Ihre Fahrkarte, bitte.
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You hand him your ticket and he says:

<i>Conductor</i>	Thank you.	Danke.
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A brief encounter

Outside, looking for the market.

<i>Traveller</i>	Excuse me, please. Where is the marketplace?	Entschuldigen Sie, bitte. Wo ist der Marktplatz?
------------------	--	---

The gentleman you ask replies but you do not understand.

<i>Traveller</i>	Sorry. What did you say?	Tut mir leid. Was haben Sie gesagt?
------------------	--------------------------	--

He tries again; this time you are able to catch what he says.

<i>Man in the street</i>	The market place is over there, the first street on the right, after the cathedral.	Der Marktplatz ist dort drüben, die erste Straße rechts, nach der Kathedrale.
<i>Traveller</i>	Ah, thank you.	Ah, danke.

You are about to leave but he continues talking to you.

<i>Man in the street</i>	Where do you come from?	Woher kommen Sie?
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You answer according to where you are from.

<i>Traveller</i>	From.... And you?	Aus.... Und Sie?
<i>Man in the street</i>	From Frankfurt. My name's Hans.	Aus Frankfurt. Mein Name ist Hans.

You tell him your own name.

<i>Traveller</i>	My name's	Mein Name ist
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Hans can see you are in a hurry to go to the market and so lets you go, saying:

<i>Hans</i>	Goodbye.	Auf Wiedersehen.
<i>Traveller</i>	Thank you, goodbye.	Danke, auf Wiedersehen!

Bonus scenarios

Below are three additional bonus scenarios. These are not included on the recording but are included here to help you further expand your knowledge of German.

At the bakery

Outside, looking for a bakery.

<i>Traveller</i>	Excuse me, please. Where is the bakery?	Entschuldigen Sie, bitte. Wo ist die Bäckerei?
<i>Passerby</i>	It's the first street on the left.	Die erste Straße links.

In the bakery.

<i>Baker</i>	Hello, what would you like?	Guten Tag, was möchten Sie?
<i>Traveller</i>	A white loaf (literally: "a white bread"), please.	Ein Weißbrot, bitte.
<i>Baker</i>	Is that everything / all?	Ist das alles?

You point at a delicious-looking apple pie and say:

<i>Traveller</i>	No, I would like the apple pie (literally: "apple cake") here, please.	Nein, ich möchte den Apfelkuchen hier, bitte.
<i>Baker</i>	Is that everything / all?	Ist das alles?
<i>Traveller</i>	Yes, that's everything / all, thank you.	Ja, das ist alles, danke.
<i>Baker</i>	Eight euros, please.	Acht Euro, bitte.

At the pharmacy

Outside, looking for a pharmacy.

<i>Traveller</i>	Excuse me, where's the pharmacy? (literally: "apothecary")	Entschuldigen Sie, bitte, wo ist die Apotheke?
<i>Passerby</i>	Over there.	Dort drüben.

Inside the pharmacy.

<i>Traveller</i>	Hello, I have a cold.	Hallo, ich habe eine Erkältung.
<i>Pharmacist</i>	Do you have a fever?	Haben Sie Fieber?
<i>Traveller</i>	Yes, I have a fever.	Ja, ich habe Fieber.
<i>Pharmacist</i>	You should take these tablets. They are (literally: "that is") paracetamol.	Sie sollten diese Tabletten nehmen. Das ist Paracetamol.

Seeing a doctor

Feeling unwell, you go to see a doctor.

<i>Doctor</i>	Please take a seat. (Literally: "Please, take you seat /place.") How can I help you? (Literally: "How can I to you help?")	Bitte, nehmen Sie Platz. Wie kann ich Ihnen helfen?
<i>Traveller</i>	My arm hurts. (Literally: "My arm does me pain")	Mein Arm tut mir weh.
<i>Doctor</i>	Why?	Warum?
<i>Receptionist</i>	I don't know. (Literally: "I know not")	Ich weiß nicht.

The doctor prods your arm.

<i>Doctor</i>	Does that hurt? (Literally: "Does to you that pain?")	Tut Ihnen das weh?
<i>Traveller</i>	Yes.	Ja.
<i>Doctor</i>	Mmh, your arm is not broken.	Mmh, Ihr Arm ist nicht gebrochen.
<i>Traveller</i>	My arm isn't broken? That's good.	Mein Arm ist nicht gebrochen? Das ist gut.
<i>Doctor</i>	But you must buy a sling!	Aber Sie müssen eine Schlinge kaufen!

Essential verbs: A snapshot

I will	ich werde
he will	er wird
she will	sie wird
you will (<i>informal</i>)	du wirst
you will (<i>formal</i>)	Sie werden
they will	sie werden
we will	wir werden
Root verb (will)	werden

I have	ich habe
he has	er hat
she has	sie hat
you have (<i>informal</i>)	du hast
you have (<i>formal</i>)	Sie haben
they have	sie haben
we have	wir haben
Root verb (to have)	haben

Essential verbs: A snapshot

I must	ich muss
he must	er muss
she must	sie muss
you must (<i>informal</i>)	du musst
you must (<i>formal</i>)	Sie müssen
they must	sie müssen
we must	wir müssen
Root verb (must/have to)	müssen

I would like	ich möchte
he would like	er möchte
she would like	sie möchte
you would like (<i>informal</i>)	du möchtest
you would like (<i>formal</i>)	Sie möchten
they would like	sie möchten
we would like	wir möchten
Root verb (would like)	möchten

I can	ich kann
he can	er kann
she can	sie kann
you can (<i>informal</i>)	du kannst
you can (<i>formal</i>)	Sie können
they can	sie können
we can	wir können
Root verb (can/to be able to)	können

Numbers

You can listen to all of these numbers in chapter 33 of the audio for correct pronunciation.

0	null	29	neunundzwanzig
1	eins	30	dreiig
2	zwei	31	einunddreiig
3	drei	32	zweiunddreiig
4	vier	33	dreiunddreiig
5	fnf	34	vierunddreiig
6	sechs	35	ffunddreiig
7	sieben	36	sechsenddreiig
8	acht	37	siebenunddreiig
9	neun	38	achtunddreiig
10	zehn	39	neununddreiig
11	elf	40	vierzig
12	zolf	41	einundvierzig
13	dreizehn	42	zweiundvierzig
14	vierzehn	43	dreiundvierzig
15	fnfzehn	44	vierundvierzig
16	sechzehn	45	ffundvierzig
17	siebzehn	46	sechsendvierzig
18	achtzehn	47	siebenundvierzig
19	neunzehn	48	achtundvierzig
20	zwanzig	49	neunundvierzig
21	einundzwanzig	50	fnfzig
22	zweiundzwanzig	51	einundfnfzig
23	dreiundzwanzig	52	zweiundfnfzig
24	vierundzwanzig	53	dreiundfnfzig
25	ffundzwanzig	54	vierundfnfzig
26	sechsendzwanzig	55	ffundfnfzig
27	siebenundzwanzig	56	sechsendfnfzig
28	achtundzwanzig	57	siebenundfnfzig

58	achtundfünfzig	92	zweiundneunzig
59	neunundfünfzig	93	dreiundneunzig
60	sechzig	94	vierundneunzig
61	einundsechzig	95	fünfundneunzig
62	zweiundsechzig	96	sechsendneunzig
63	dreiundsechzig	97	siebenundneunzig
64	vierundsechzig	98	achtundneunzig
65	fünfundsechzig	99	neunundneunzig
66	sechsendsechzig	100	ehundred
67	siebenundsechzig	101	ehundredteins
68	achtundsechzig	102	ehundredtzwei
69	neunundsechzig	103	ehundredtdrei
70	siebzig	104	ehundertvier
71	ehundsiebzig	105	ehundertfünf
72	zweihundsiebzig	106	ehundertsechs
73	dreihundsiebzig	107	ehundertsieben
74	vierhundsiebzig	108	ehundertacht
75	fünfundsiebzig	109	ehundertneun
76	sechshundsiebzig	110	ehundertzehn
77	siebenhundsiebzig	111	ehundertelf
78	achthundsiebzig	112	ehundertzwölf
79	neunhundsiebzig	113	ehundertdreizehn
80	achtzig	114	ehundertvierzehn
81	ehundachtzig	115	ehundertfünfzehn
82	zweihundachtzig	116	ehundertsechzehn
83	dreihundachtzig	117	ehundertsiebzehn
84	vierhundachtzig	118	ehundertachtzehn
85	fünfundachtzig	119	ehundertneunzehn
86	sechshundachtzig	120	ehundertzwanzig
87	siebenhundachtzig	121	ehunderteinundzwanzig
88	achthundachtzig	122	ehundertzweiundzwanzig
89	neunhundachtzig		
90	neunzig		
91	ehundneunzig		

and so on...

Numbers

130	ehnhundertdreißig
140	ehnhundertvierzig
200	zweihundert
201	zweihunderteins
202	zweihundertzwei
300	dreihundert
1000	eintausend
1001	eintausendeins
1100	eintausendeinhundert
1101	eintausendeinhunderteins
1102	eintausendeinhundertzwei
1200	zwölfhundert
1300	dreizehnhundert
2000	zweitausend
2100	zweitausendeinhundert
2101	zweitausendeinhunderteins
10,000	zehntausend
50,000	fünfzigtausend
1,000,000	eine Million

The alphabet

You can listen to the entire German alphabet in chapter 34 of the audio for correct pronunciation.

Letter	Pronounced in German as:
A	ah
B	bay
C	tsay
D	day
E	ay
F	ef
G	gay
H	har
I	ee
J	yot
K	kah
L	el
M	em
N	en
O	oh
P	pay
Q	koo
R	err
S	ess
T	tay
U	oo
V	fow
W	vay
X	iks
Y	ipsilon
Z	tset

Audio track order

Part 1

Topic	Key elements
Introduction	The Paul Noble Method
Ground rules	Relax and don't worry if you forget
Language links 1	The similarities between German and English
I can begin	<i>I can / can't</i> plus <i>she</i> ; forming words by adding <i>-en</i> ; <i>not</i>
I can come	Plus <i>but</i>
I would like	Plus <i>here</i>
Can I?	Asking questions
Creating German words	Consonant swapping: d becomes t
I would like it not, Sir	Word order with the negative; plus <i>it</i>
A little practice 1	<i>-en</i> words, <i>can</i> , <i>it</i> , the negative, <i>would like</i>
to do	<i>tun</i>

Topic	Key elements
-ic words	Plus <i>it is</i>
-ical words	Plus <i>because</i>
-en words to the end 1	Plus <i>today</i>
-en words to the end 2	With questions
Language links 2	Words from French ending in <i>-ieren</i> , including <i>reservieren</i> and <i>akzeptieren</i>
What is a verb?	Recognizing verbs
2nd verb to the end of the sentence	Even when other elements are added, e.g. negatives, <i>here</i> , <i>today</i>
He can	With <i>-ieren</i> verbs
Go at your own pace	

Topic	Key elements
You can	With questions
We can 1	Plus <i>to see</i>
We can 2	Plus <i>tonight</i>
They can	<i>können</i>
To have	<i>Haben</i> ; consonant swapping: v becomes b
At the hotel 1	Plus <i>for</i>
A little practice 2	<i>They can</i> ; plus <i>with me</i>
You and you	Formal (<i>Sie</i>) and informal (<i>du</i>) and knowing which to use
A little practice 3	<i>Haben</i> , <i>-ic</i> and <i>-ical</i> words; plus <i>your father</i>
Numbers 1–10	
At the hotel 2	<i>A double room</i>
Go at your own pace	

Part 2

Topic	Key elements
At the hotel 3	Consonant swapping: t becomes s: <i>what</i> ; plus <i>how much is it?</i> and <i>euros</i>
At the hotel 4	Consonant swapping: th becomes d; <i>with bath</i> ; plus <i>I have</i>
At the hotel 5	Plus <i>no, yes, your name, please</i> and <i>thank you</i>
At the hotel 6	Paying, plus <i>of course, here you go</i>
Using what you know 1	At the hotel
Different words for <i>the</i> 1	<i>Der</i> (masculine) and <i>das</i> (neuter); plus <i>where</i> and <i>there</i>
The campsite	Plus <i>and</i>
Using what you know 2	Finding a campsite
Different words for <i>the</i> 2	<i>Die</i> (feminine)
Different words for <i>a</i> : masculine, neuter and feminine	<i>Ein</i> (masculine), <i>ein</i> (neuter), <i>eine</i> (feminine)
Different words for <i>the</i> : being on the receiving end	Masculine <i>der</i> becomes <i>den</i>
A little practice 4	<i>Den</i>

Topic	Key elements
Recap of different words for <i>the</i> : kidnapped!	Playing the victim
Different words for <i>a</i> : being on the receiving end	Masculine <i>ein</i> becomes <i>einen</i>
Recap of being on the receiving end	Plus <i>you would like</i>
A little practice 5	A reminder of different words for <i>a</i>
Different ways of being on the receiving end 1	Ordering drinks
Different ways of being on the receiving end 2	Masculine and neuter words in the same sentence
Using what you know 3	At the café
A little practice 6	Questions with <i>können</i> , plus <i>this evening</i>
Numbers 11–20	
Reserving a table 1	<i>A table for two</i>
Go at your own pace	

Topic	Key elements
Reserving a table 2	Talking about time
At the restaurant 1	Ordering food
At the restaurant 2	Ordering drinks, looking for the toilet and asking for the bill
A little practice 7	Reserving a table
Using what you know 4	The restaurant (booking ahead)
A little practice 8	Ordering food and drink
Using what you know 5	At the restaurant
A little practice 9	<i>Können, -en verbs, -ic and -ical words, but and because</i>
A little practice 10	At the hotel
A little practice 11	The campsite
A little practice 12	At the café
At the tourist office	<i>Do you have a map? Plus of</i>
A little practice 13	A reminder of the different words for <i>the</i>

Topic	Key elements
Doing one's duty 1	<i>I / he / she must</i> ; plus <i>to go (gehen)</i>
Different words for <i>the</i> triggered by <i>mit</i>	<i>Dem</i> (neuter and masculine)
Doing one's duty 2	<i>You</i> (informal) <i>must</i> ; plus different words for <i>the</i> triggered by <i>mit</i> (feminine)
Doing one's duty 3	<i>We / they must</i> and <i>you</i> (formal) <i>must</i> ; plus different words for <i>the</i> triggered by <i>nach</i> (after)
Asking the way 1	<i>Excuse me, over there</i>
Asking the way 2	<i>On the left</i> ; plus <i>street</i>
Asking the way 3	<i>On the right</i> ; plus consonant swapping: ght becomes cht
A little practice 14	<i>Mit</i> and <i>nach</i>
Asking the way 4	The train station
Using what you know 6	The tourist office / Asking directions

Part 3

Topic	Key elements
A little practice 15	<i>Können</i> and <i>möchten</i>
A little practice 16	At the hotel
A little practice 17	At the campsite
A little practice 18	Ordering drinks
A little practice 19	At the restaurant
A little practice 20	A reminder of different words for <i>the</i> with <i>mit</i> and <i>nach</i>
A little practice 21	Asking the way
The future tense using <i>will</i>	<i>I / we / they / you (formal) will</i> ; plus <i>tomorrow</i>
Two words for <i>go</i>	<i>Fahren</i> ; plus <i>nach</i> meaning <i>to</i> , and <i>or</i>
Different words for <i>a</i> triggered by <i>mit</i>	<i>Einem</i> (neuter), <i>einem</i> (masculine), <i>einer</i> (feminine)

Topic	Key elements
My, my!	Words for <i>my</i> with <i>mit</i>
Possession	Using <i>von</i> to indicate possession; plus <i>der Platz</i> meaning <i>seat</i>
Taking a train 1	Buying a ticket; <i>first or second class</i>
Taking a train 2	Reserving a seat; <i>the train; is this seat free?</i>
Taking a train 3	Finding a seat
Using what you know 7	Taking a train
A little practice 22	<i>Können</i> and <i>möchten</i>
A little practice 23	<i>Müssen</i> ; plus <i>gehen</i> and <i>fahren</i>
A useful T.I.P.	The “Time In-front-of Place” rule
Afternoon!	<i>Nachmittag</i> ; plus consonant swapping: <i>y</i> becomes <i>g</i>

Topic	Key elements
A little practice 24	Review of <i>-en</i> verbs, plus new <i>-ieren</i> verbs including <i>studieren</i>
A little practice 25	Time phrases, reserving a room
A little practice 26	On the receiving end: <i>the</i> and <i>a</i>
A little practice 27	Masculine, feminine and neuter words; plus directions
To study	<i>Studieren</i> ; plus <i>German</i> and <i>English</i>
Sorry!	<i>Es tut mir leid</i>
3 tenses for the price of 1	The past tense using <i>have</i>
Yesterday	<i>Gestern</i> ; plus practising the past tense
Sorry, what did you say?	<i>Sagen</i>
A little practice 28	Directions

Topic	Key elements
Where do you come from?	Plus <i>my name is, goodbye</i>
Using what you know 8	A brief encounter
A little practice 29	<i>Können, möchten, müssen</i> and <i>werden</i>
A little practice 30	-en and -ieren verbs
A little practice 31	The past tense
A little practice 32	Time phrases, plus <i>morning</i>
Different words for <i>the</i> triggered by <i>für</i>	<i>Der</i> becomes <i>den</i>
A little practice 33	The “mit” transformation
Different words for <i>a</i> and <i>the</i> : indicating <i>to the</i>	<i>Dem, dem, der, einem, einem, einer</i>
A little practice 34	<i>My father’s / my mother’s seat</i> ; plus <i>where do you come from?</i>
Numbers in German	
The alphabet in German	
Goodbye	

Review

Topic

Introduction

Kann and *möchte*; *-ic* and *-ical* words

Können, *möchten*, *müssen* and *werden*

-en and *-ieren* verbs; time phrases

The past tense

At the hotel

At the campsite

Ordering drinks

At the restaurant

Asking the way

Taking the train

A brief encounter

The “für” transformation

The “mit” transformation

Bring it to the baby