GERMAN · GRADE 2 · AGES 7–8

Grade 2 German

Parent guides. A step-by-step script for every lesson, with materials, what to read aloud and a checklist.

First edition **5 units** **10 lessons · one quarter** **A song or video for every lesson** **Quick reference**

FIRST EDITION

Course guide

Grade 2 German is a short course of 10 lessons (5 units of 2), one lesson a week for a quarter, with three sessions of 15–20 minutes a week. It does not depend on earlier German, though a child who did Kindergarten or Grade 1 will hear old friends: colors, numbers, Guten Morgen and danke.

The child learns to spell in German and say ä, ö, ü and ß, to name school things and say Ich habe..., to say the months and his or her birthday, to name Christmas words and sing Stille Nacht, to name the animals of the forest and describe them, and to pray the Lord's Prayer in German. The pictures are Gutenberg's printed Bible, Albert Anker's writing lesson, the Silent Night Chapel at Oberndorf, Franz Marc's deer in the forest and Caspar David Friedrich's two friends gazing at the moon.

Reading and writing grow a little: the child copies German words into a German notebook, with a parent writing them first. The quarter ends with an evening prayer show in which the child leads the family in the Vaterunser.

> Every embedded video comes from a channel approved for School Launch: Sing mit mir – Kinderlieder (traditional German children's songs with the words on screen, sung clearly), lingoni GERMAN (friendly teachers from Germany with short beginner lessons) and GermanPod101 (short vocabulary videos). Most songs are two or three minutes long, so play them twice: once to listen and once to sing along. The videos play in YouTube's privacy-enhanced player. Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel from channels approved for School Launch, and YouTube may show its own

> suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Start with Lesson 1.1 →

Who it is for

Written for students in grade 2 (about ages 7–8), with a parent or teacher reading the lessons aloud and joining in. No German is needed by the child or the parent: every word comes with its sounds spelled out, and the songs do the rest. Reading and writing are light: copying words and short phrases, and reading labels aloud. Sessions are short, 15 to 20 minutes. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, crayons, paper plates and household things.

How to use this course

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 15–20 minutes. Session 1 is the warm-up, the story, the song or video and the picture study (in the first lesson of each unit). Session 2 is the activity and the picture dictionary. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice questions (asked out loud), the game and a little show for the family. In the second week of each unit, use part of Session 3 for the unit review and the unit challenge.
2. **Say it every day.** Little children learn a language by hearing it and saying it, over and over, cheerfully. Say Guten Morgen at breakfast and Gute Nacht at bedtime, count the stairs in German, and name colors in the car. Two minutes of German every day does more than an hour once a week.
3. **Move while you learn.** Every lesson has a part called *Say it and move*. The motions are not extras: young children remember words they act out. Do the motions every time you say the words.
4. **Story, sounds, motion.** The core ideas are written to be read aloud. *The story* tells a true story or a Bible story; *How German sounds* gives one or two sounds to listen for; *Say it and move* puts the words in the child's body. After the story, ask your child to tell it back.
5. **The picture dictionary.** Keep one notebook for the quarter. Each lesson the child draws pictures and a parent writes the German word for the child to trace or copy.

By the end of the quarter it is a little book of everything learned.

6. **Little words in front.** German nouns come with a little word in front, der, die or das (der Hund, die Katze, das Haus), and every noun begins with a capital letter. Grammar is not taught at this age, but always say the little word with the noun, so the ear learns it early.
7. **The word list.** The quarter teaches 60 words and phrases. Unit 1: das Alphabet, der Buchstabe, das Buch, die Bibel, lesen, schreiben, der Vokal, der Umlaut, das Mädchen, schön, groß, klein. Unit 2: die Schule, der Lehrer, die Lehrerin, der Schüler, die Schülerin, lernen, das Heft, der Bleistift, der Kuli, die Schere, das Lineal, ich habe. Unit 3: der Monat, das Jahr, der Januar, der Mai, der Dezember, der Geburtstag, Weihnachten, das Christkind, der Stern, der Tannenbaum, die Kerze, das Geschenk. Unit 4: der Wald, der Baum, das Reh, der Hirsch, der Kuckuck, das Blatt, der Fuchs, die Eule, das Eichhörnchen, die Gans, schnell, klug. Unit 5: der Himmel, die Sonne, der Mond, die Sterne, die Wolke, die Erde, das Vaterunser, beten, der Name, das Reich, der Wille, Amen.
8. **Heritage families.** If your child already speaks German at home, use the same lessons and the *At home in German* note in each lesson, which suggests reading, writing and family conversation for children who already understand the words.
9. **Printables.** Each lesson has a one-page worksheet, and the answers are in a separate key for the parent. Each unit review also has a printable key.
10. **The German Bible.** German verses are quoted from the Luther Bible in its 1912 revision, the public-domain text of the translation Martin Luther made in the 1520s and 1530s, the German counterpart of the King James. It keeps the older spelling of 1912 (daß for dass, for example). Where the King James prints the LORD in capitals, Luther prints der HERR. The English verse is always the King James Version, quoted exactly.

Scope and sequence

UNIT 1 · WEEKS 1–2

Das Alphabet

The German alphabet sung and spelled, with Johannes Gutenberg, who printed the first great book with movable type, the Bible, then the vowels, the three Umlaute ä, ö and ü and the special letter ß, and the Lord who is das A und das O.

1.1 Das ABC

1.2 Ä, Ö, Ü und ß

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

In der Schule

School in German: the first school day with its Schultüte, die Lehrerin and die Schüler, then the things in a school bag, das Buch, das Heft, der Stift and die Schere, with Albert Anker's brother and sister doing a writing lesson at the kitchen table.

2.1 Der erste Schultag

2.2 Buch, Heft und Stift

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

Die Monate und Weihnachten

The twelve months from Januar to Dezember and the birthday question Wann hast du Geburtstag?, then Christmas in German, Weihnachten, with the little chapel at Oberndorf where Stille Nacht was first sung on Christmas Eve 1818, and the angel's news: euch ist heute der Heiland geboren.

3.1 Januar bis Dezember

3.2 Stille Nacht

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

Tiere im Wald

The animals of the German forest: das Reh, der Hirsch, der Fuchs, der Hase, die Eule and der Kuckuck, with Franz Marc's deer resting in a forest of color, the psalm of the deer that longs for water, and the old songs of the cuckoo and the fox who stole the goose.

4.1 Im Wald

4.2 Der Fuchs

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

Der Himmel und das Vaterunser

The sky in German, der Himmel, die Sonne, der Mond and die Sterne, with Caspar David Friedrich's two friends gazing at the crescent moon and the old song that asks how many little stars there are, then the Lord's Prayer in German, das Vaterunser, prayed by German families for five hundred years.

5.1 Sonne, Mond und Sterne

5.2 Vater unser

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 Das ABC: warm-up, story, song and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 activity (potato letter stamps) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and a little show for the family *Three sessions a week: one to learn, one to make, one to play. On the other days, use the week's words at home: at breakfast, at the door, at bedtime.*
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 Ä, Ö, Ü und ß: warm-up, story, song and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 activity (umlaut faces) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and a little show for the family • End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (the spelling show)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 Der erste Schultag: warm-up, story, song and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 activity (my schultüte) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and a little show for the family
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 Buch, Heft und Stift: warm-up, story, song and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 activity (my pencil box) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and a little show for the family • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (the school bag show)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 Januar bis Dezember: warm-up, story, song and picture study

WEEK	PLAN
	• Session 2: Lesson 3.1 activity (birthday calendar) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and a little show for the family
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 Stille Nacht: warm-up, story, song and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 activity (paper star for the window) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and a little show for the family • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (the christmas carol show)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Im Wald: warm-up, story, song and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 activity (stained-glass forest) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and a little show for the family
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 Der Fuchs: warm-up, story, song and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 activity (paper plate fox) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and a little show for the family • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (the forest walk)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 Sonne, Mond und Sterne: warm-up, story, song and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 activity (night sky painting) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and a little show for the family
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Vater unser: warm-up, story, song and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 activity (my vaterunser card) and picture dictionary • Session 3: Worked examples, practice out loud, the game and a little show for the family • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (the evening prayer show)

Materials

A notebook for the picture dictionary

One for the quarter, for drawings with German labels.

Crayons or markers, paper, paper plates, scissors, glue and tape

For the activities. A parent helps with cutting.

Index cards

For counting cards and word games.

A device to play the songs and videos

Each lesson has one short song or video. Preview each one first.

Grading

Grades at this age come from cheerful participation: saying the words, singing, doing the motions and joining the games. A child who says German out loud every day and joins every song and game earns full credit.

PART	%
Saying and singing (daily greetings, songs, motions, games)	**40**
Picture dictionary and activities	**30**
Unit reviews (out loud)	**15**
Unit challenges	**15**

Scale: Most families simply mark each review Got it, Getting there or Not yet. If you prefer letters: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79. Below that, sing the songs and play the games again, then try once more.

- Every review is done out loud. The parent asks, the child answers or points, and the parent marks the answer key.
- A word counts when the child can say it so a German speaker would understand. Small accents are fine.
- The German ch and ü come with time. Praise every try.

A note to parents

You do not need to know German to teach this course. Every German word has its sounds spelled out (danke is DAHN-kuh), every answer is in the answer key, and every lesson has a short song or video with a native speaker. Learn right alongside your child.

Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel from channels approved for School Launch, and

YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Keep it short and happy. If your child is tired, sing the song and stop. Fifteen joyful minutes are better than thirty unhappy ones.

The stories in this course are true stories of painters, places and people from Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and stories from the Bible. Each lesson ends with a verse in English (King James Version) and the same verse in Martin Luther's German Bible, so your child can hear that God's Word speaks in every language.

PRINTABLE WORD LIST

Vocabulary for the course

Standard German. Standard German (Hochdeutsch), as taught in schools in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. German is spelled almost exactly as it sounds, so once the letters are learned, any word can be read aloud. Most words lean on the first syllable, shown here in capitals. In the respellings, kh is the breathy ch of Bach (after a, o, u) or the softer ch of ich (after e and i, like a loud whispered h at the front of the mouth); ü is said like ee with rounded lips, ö like ay with rounded lips, uh is the soft e at the end of words like bitte, and r is a soft growl in the back of the throat, often fading to ah at the end of a word. The letter ß (Eszett) is a double s.

Every week's list is printed again inside that lesson. Say the capital letters loudest.

1.1 DAS ABC

das Alphabet
dahs ahl-fah-BAYT

das · school

alphabet

der Buchstabe
dehr BOOKH-shtah-buh

der · school

letter

das Buch
dahs BOOKH

das · school

book

die Bibel
dee BEE-bul

die · church

Bible

lesen

LAY-zun

verb

to read

schreiben

SHRY-bun

verb

to write

1.2 Ä, Ö, Ü und ß

der Vokal

dehr voh-KAHL

der · school

vowel

der Umlaut

dehr OOM-lowt

der · school

umlaut

das Mädchen

dahs MAYT-khun

das · person

girl

schön

SHÖN

describing word

beautiful; nice

groß

GROHS

describing word

big; tall

klein

KLINE

describing word

small; little

2.1 Der erste Schultag

die Schule

dee SHOO-luh

die · school

school

der Lehrer

dehr LAY-rer

der · school

teacher (man)

die Lehrerin

dee LAY-ruh-rin

die · school

teacher (woman)

der Schüler

dehr SHÜ-ler

der · school

student (boy)

die Schülerin

dee SHÜ-luh-rin

die · school

student (girl)

lernen

LEHR-nun

verb

to learn

2.2 BUCH, HEFT UND STIFT

das Heft

dahs HEFT

das · school

notebook

der Bleistift

dehr BLY-shtift

der · school

pencil

der Kuli

dehr KOO-lee

der · school

pen

die Schere

dee SHAY-ruh

die · school

scissors

das Lineal

dahs lee-nay-AHL

das · school

ruler

ich habe

ikh HAH-buh

phrase

I have

3.1 JANUAR BIS DEZEMBER

der Monat

dehr MOH-naht

der · time

month

das Jahr

dahs YAHR

das · time

year

der Januar

dehr YAH-noo-ahr

der · month

January

der Mai

dehr MY

der · month

May

der Dezember

dehr day-TSEM-ber

der · month

December

der Geburtstag

dehr guh-BOORTS-tahk

der · time

birthday

3.2 STILLE NACHT

Weihnachten

VY-nahkh-tun

holiday

Christmas

das Christkind

dahs KRIST-kint

das · Christmas

Christ Child

der Stern

dehr SHTERN

der · Christmas

star

der Tannenbaum

dehr TAHN-nun-bowm

der · Christmas

Christmas tree

die Kerze

dee KEHR-tsuh

die · Christmas

candle

das Geschenk

dahs guh-SHENK

das · Christmas

present; gift

4.1 IM WALD

der Wald

dehr VAHLT

der · nature

forest

der Baum

dehr BOWM

der · nature

tree

das Reh

dahs RAY

das · animal

deer

der Hirsch

dehr HEERSH

der · animal

stag

der Kuckuck
dehr KOOK-ook

der · animal

cuckoo

das Blatt
dahs BLAHT

das · nature

leaf

4.2 DER FUCHS

der Fuchs
dehr FOOKS

der · animal

fox

die Eule
dee OY-luh

die · animal

owl

das Eichhörnchen
dahs IKE-hörn-khun

das · animal

squirrel

die Gans
dee GAHNS

die · animal

goose

schnell
SHNEL

describing word

fast

klug
KLOOK

describing word

clever; wise

5.1 SONNE, MOND UND STERNE

der Himmel
dehr HIM-mel

der · sky

sky; heaven

die Sonne
dee ZON-nuh

die · sky

sun

der Mond
dehr MOHNT

der · sky

moon

die Sterne
dee SHTEHR-nuh

plural

stars

die Wolke
dee VOL-kuh
die · sky
cloud

die Erde
dee EHR-duh
die · sky
earth

5.2 VATER UNSER

das Vaterunser
dahs FAH-ter-oon-zer
das · church
the Lord's Prayer

beten
BAY-tun
verb
to pray

der Name
dehr NAH-muh
der · word
name

das Reich
dahs RIKE
das · church
kingdom

der Wille
dehr VIL-luh
der · word
will

Amen
AH-men
church word
amen

UNIT 1

Das Alphabet

In Lesson 1.1 your child sings the German ABC, learns how the German letter names sound, spells his or her own name in German, and looks at a photograph of one of Johannes Gutenberg's Bibles, printed in Mainz more than five hundred and fifty years ago.

In Lesson 1.2 your child practices the five vowels, a, e, i, o, u, meets the three Umlaute, ä, ö and ü, and the Eszett, ß, and learns that Jesus calls Himself das A und das O, the first and the last. The unit ends with a spelling show.

PREREQUISITES

- None. Earlier German is helpful but not required.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can sing the German ABC.
- ☐ I can spell my name with German letter names.
- ☐ I can say the vowels and the three Umlaute.
- ☐ I can tell who Gutenberg was.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **WordReference German–English dictionary**: Free online, for the parent. Look up any word, see its der, die or das, and press the speaker button to hear it said by a German speaker.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1	**Das ABC**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
1.2	**Ä, Ö, Ü und ß**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 1 review

Ask each question out loud. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Sing or say the German ABC from A to J.
2. **5 pts**
   Spell your first name with German letter names.
3. **5 pts**
   Say the three Umlaute.

4. 5 pts

What great book did Gutenberg print?

ANSWER KEY

1. Ah, bay, tsay, day, ay, eff, gay, hah, ee, yot.
2. Any correct spelling, for example Anna: ah, enn, enn, ah.
3. Ä (like e in bed), ö (ay with round lips), ü (ee with round lips).
4. The Bible.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE SPELLING SHOW

Make a big name card for each person in your family. Hold up each card and spell the name out loud with German letter names, then say the name. End by spelling a hard German word: G-U-T-E-N-B-E-R-G!

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Letters	Says the German letter names correctly.
Spelling	Spells at least four names.
Umlaute	Says ä, ö and ü correctly.
Cheer	Speaks clearly and confidently.

UNIT 1 · DAS ALPHABET · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

1.1 Das ABC

OBJECTIVES

- Sing the German ABC.
- Say the German names of the letters.
- Spell your name in German.

> **Warm-up.** Sing the ABC song in English. Do you know that German uses almost the same letters, but says some of them differently? Today you sing the ABC in German.

WATCH

Das ABC-Lied (ABC Song) - Kinderlieder zum Mitsingen | Sing Kinderlieder

Sing mit mir - Kinderlieder · 2:27

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hgx0RTx0aFg

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the story. Sing along with the German letters. Point to each letter on an alphabet chart as you sing.

Note: Das ABC-Lied, the German ABC song with the letters on screen, a few minutes long.

KEY TERMS

das Alphabet (dahs ahl-fah-BAYT)
The alphabet; also called das ABC (dahs ah-bay-TSAY).

der Buchstabe (dehr BOOKH-shtah-buh)
The letter (of the alphabet).

buchstabieren (bookh-shtah-BEER-un)
To spell.

das Buch (dahs BOOKH)
The book.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Standard German sounds: every letter is said, w sounds like v, z like ts, ei like eye and ie like ee, ch is breathed in the throat, and the capitals show where to lean: usually the first syllable.

das Alphabet
dahs ahl-fah-BAYT
das · school
alphabet

der Buchstabe
dehr BOOKH-shtah-buh
der · school
letter

das Buch

dahs BOOKH

das · school

book

die Bibel

dee BEE-bul

die · church

Bible

lesen

LAY-zun

verb

to read

schreiben

SHRY-bun

verb

to write

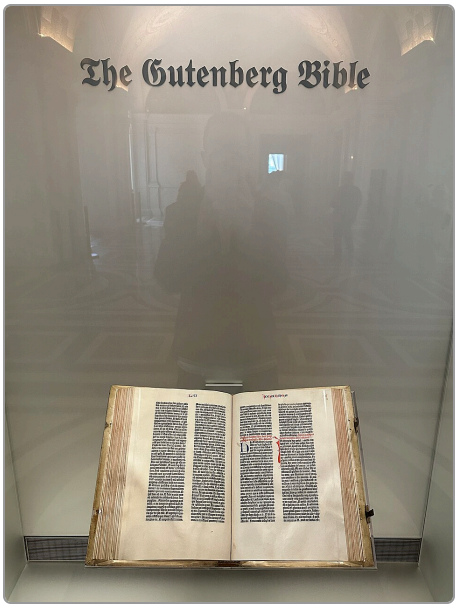
CORE IDEAS

The story. More than five hundred and fifty years ago, in the city of Mainz in Germany, there lived a goldsmith named Johannes Gutenberg. In those days every book had to be copied by hand, letter by letter, and it took a scribe many months to copy one Bible. Gutenberg had an idea: he made each letter as a little block of metal. He could put the letters together into words and lines, ink them and press them onto paper, again and again, then take them apart and use them for the next page. The first great book he printed was the Bible! Today one of his Bibles lies under glass in the Library of Congress in Washington, and people come from everywhere to see it.

How German sounds. Some German letter names sound different from English: A is ah, E is ay, I is ee, J is yot, R is air, V is fow, W is vay, Y is ÜP-see-lon and Z is tset. So the ABC is ah, bay, tsay! And many other letters you know already: bay, day, eff, gay, hah.

Say it and move. Make each letter with your body: stand straight for **I (ee)**, arms up in a V for **Y**, hands on hips for **A (ah)**. Then spell your name and jump for each letter!

PICTURE STUDY



The Gutenberg Bible, Johannes Gutenberg (printer); photograph by APK, printed about 1454–1455; photographed 2026 · Printed book on paper, with hand-painted red letters · Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Image: Wikimedia Commons, photograph by APK, CC BY 4.0

Gutenberg wanted his printed Bible to look as beautiful as the best hand-copied books, so he made letters in the old style that scribes used. After the pages were printed, artists added red headings and colored capital letters by hand. Look at how straight and even the columns are: every line ends at the same place.

Look closely

- How many columns of print are on each page?
- Find the red letters. Were they printed or painted?
- Find the big capital letter.
- Read the sign above the book.

Talk about it

1. Why do you think Gutenberg chose the Bible as his first great book?
2. How long do you think it would take to copy a whole Bible by hand?

ACTIVITY

Potato letter stamps

Make letter stamps like Gutenberg's and print your name.

You will need

- A potato cut in half (a parent cuts)
- A knife for a parent to carve, or foam letter stamps
- Paint or an ink pad and paper

Steps

1. A parent carves the first letter of your name into a potato half, backwards (a stamp prints the mirror image!).
2. Dip it in paint and press it onto the paper.
3. Print it several times in a row.
4. Say the German name of the letter each time you print it.
5. If you have foam letters, print your whole name and spell it in German.

Tips

- Print your initials with a fancy border.
- Notice why the letter must be carved backwards.

Check your work

☐ My stamp prints a letter of my name.

☐ I can spell my name in German.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your German notebook, write the alphabet in a parent's neat letters. Beside the letters that sound different, write how to say them: E (ay), I (ee), J (yot), V (fow), W (vay), Z (tset).

> **From history.** Gutenberg printed about 180 copies of his Bible. About fifty still exist, and the Library of Congress copy is one of only a few perfect copies printed on vellum, a fine material made from calfskin.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, practice spelling on the phone the German way, and let your child spell grocery items for you as you write the list.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Spell the name Max in German.

▼ **Show solution**

1. M is emm.
2. A is ah.
3. X is iks.

Answer: Emm, ah, iks.

Example 2. What letter is called yot in German?

▼ **Show solution**

1. German letter names: J is yot.

Answer: J.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say A, B, C in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ah, bay, tsay.

2. Easy What is the German name of the letter W?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Vay.

3. Easy What did Gutenberg invent?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Printing with movable metal letters.

4. Medium Spell Oma in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Oh, emm, ah.

5. Medium Spell Buch in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Bay, oo, tsay, hah.

6. Hard Spell your whole name in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Any correct spelling with German letter names.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying E as ee. In German, E is ay and I is ee.
- Saying J as jay. In German it is yot.

> **Make it a game · Letter hunt.** A parent says a German letter name: tset! Find a Z somewhere on a book, a box or a sign and point to it. Take turns calling letters.

> **Scripture.** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1, KJV)
>
> In the German Bible of Martin Luther (1912 revision), this verse reads: *Im Anfang war das Wort* John calls Jesus the Word of God. God speaks to us in words, and He gave us the Bible so we can read His words. That is why Gutenberg printed the Bible first.

UNIT 1 · DAS ALPHABET · LESSON 1.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

1.2 Ä, Ö, Ü und ss

OBJECTIVES

- Say the five vowels the German way.
- Say the three Umlaute, ä, ö and ü.
- Read and write the letter ß.

> **Warm-up.** Say the English vowels: a, e, i, o, u. German has the same five, but it says them differently, and it has three extra vowels with two little dots on top! Today you meet them.

WATCH

Das Lied der Klangbuchstaben (AEIOU) - Kinderlieder zum Mitsingen | Lernlieder | Sing Kinderlieder

Sing mit mir - Kinderlieder · 2:11

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbzRkTGSacs

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the story. Sing along and make each vowel sound with a big mouth.

Note: A German children's song about the sound letters A, E, I, O, U, with the words on screen.

KEY TERMS

der Vokal (dehr voh-KAHL)
The vowel: a, e, i, o, u.

der Umlaut (dehr OOM-lowt)
A vowel with two dots: ä, ö, ü.

das Eszett (dahs es-TSET)
The letter ß, a sharp s.

groß (GROHS)
Big; tall.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Standard German sounds: every letter is said, w sounds like v, z like ts, ei like eye and ie like ee, ch is breathed in the throat, and the capitals show where to lean: usually the first syllable.

der Vokal
dehr voh-KAHL
der · school
vowel

der Umlaut
dehr OOM-lowt
der · school
umlaut

das Mädchen

dahs MAYT-khun

das · person

girl

schön

SHÖN

describing word

beautiful; nice

groß

GROHS

describing word

big; tall

klein

KLINE

describing word

small; little

CORE IDEAS

The story. At the end of the Bible, Jesus says: I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. When Martin Luther put the Bible into German, he wrote: Ich bin das A und das O, I am the A and the O. Even today, when Germans want to say that something is the most important thing of all, they say: Das ist das A und O! Jesus is the first and the last and the most important of all.

How German sounds. German vowels are pure and clear: a is ah, e is ay, i is ee, o is oh, u is oo. The Umlaute change the sound: ä sounds like the e in bed; for ö, say ay and round your lips; for ü, say ee and round your lips. The ß sounds like a sharp s, as in groß (GROHS) and Fuß (FOOS). If you cannot type the dots, Germans write ae, oe and ue instead, and ss for ß.

Say it and move. Open your mouth wide: **ah!** Smile: **ee!** Make a round O with your lips: **oh!** Now smile and push your lips into a whistle at the same time: **ü!** Stretch up tall: **groß!**

ACTIVITY

Umlaut faces

Make funny faces with two dots for eyes to remember the Umlaute.

You will need

- Paper
- Crayons or markers

Steps

1. Write a big a, o and u on the paper.
2. Add two dots on top of each: ä, ö, ü.
3. Turn each letter into a face: the two dots are the eyes!
4. Draw the mouth shape for each sound: round for ö and ü.
5. Say each sound as you point to its face.

Tips

- Write a word with each Umlaut under its face: Mädchen, schön, grün.
- Draw a big ß and turn it into a tall snake.

Check your work

- ☐ My faces show ä, ö and ü.
- ☐ I can say each sound.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your German notebook, write ä, ö, ü and ß big and clear. Beside each, write one word: Mädchen (girl), schön (beautiful), grün (green), groß (big).

> **From history.** The two dots of the Umlaut began as a tiny e written above the vowel by scribes long ago. Over time the little e shrank into two dots.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, write pairs on cards and read them together: Mutter and Mütter, schon and schön. Let your child explain the difference.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. How do you make the ü sound?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Say ee.
2. Keep saying ee and round your lips like a whistle.

Answer: Ü: ee with round lips.

Example 2. What does ß sound like in groß?

▼ **Show solution**

1. ß is a sharp s.

Answer: Like s: GROHS.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say the five German vowels.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ah, ay, ee, oh, oo.

2. Easy What are the dots on ä, ö, ü called?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   An Umlaut.

3. Easy What does groß mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Big; tall.

4. Medium How can you write ü if you have no dots?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ue.

5. Medium What sound does ä make?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Like the e in bed.

6. Hard What does Jesus call Himself in Luther's Bible?

▼ **Show answer**

Das A und das O, the first and the last.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Leaving the dots off. Mutter (mother) and Mütter (mothers) are different words!
- Writing ß as B. It is a sharp s, not a b.

> **Make it a game · Vowel freeze.** A parent says a German word slowly: Hund, schön, Mädchen, grün. Freeze with your mouth in the shape of the vowel you hear, and say the vowel.

> **Scripture.** "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." (Revelation 22:13, KJV)
>
> In the German Bible of Martin Luther (1912 revision), this verse reads: *Ich bin das A und das O* Jesus is the first letter and the last letter, the beginning and the end. Everything begins and ends with Him.

UNIT 2

In der Schule

In Lesson 2.1 your child learns words for school, hears about the first day of school in Germany with its big paper cone of treats, sings a first-day song, and studies Albert Anker's painting of a little boy writing with a pen while his sister watches.

In Lesson 2.2 your child names the things in a school bag and on a desk in German, learns Ich habe… (I have…) and hears that the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. The unit ends with a school bag show.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name teacher, student and school in German.
- ☐ I can name six school things in German.
- ☐ I can say Ich habe ein Buch.
- ☐ I can tell what a Schultüte is.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **WordReference German–English dictionary**: Free online, for the parent. Look up any word, see its der, die or das, and press the speaker button to hear it said by a German speaker.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

2.1	**Der erste Schultag**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
2.2	**Buch, Heft und Stift**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 2 review

Ask each question out loud. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Say school, teacher and student in German.
2. **5 pts**
   Name a book, a notebook and a pencil in German.
3. **5 pts**
   Hold up a book and say I have a book.

4. 5 pts

What is a Schultüte?

ANSWER KEY

1. Die Schule, der Lehrer or die Lehrerin, der Schüler or die Schülerin.
2. Das Buch, das Heft, der Bleistift.
3. Ich habe ein Buch.
4. A big paper cone of sweets and school things for the first day of school.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE SCHOOL BAG SHOW

Pack a school bag with real things: a book, a notebook, a pencil, a pen, scissors, glue and a ruler. Take them out one by one and say Ich habe ein Buch. Ich habe einen Bleistift. Then put them back while the family names them in German.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
School words	Names at least six school things.
Sentences	Uses Ich habe… correctly.
Sounds	Says sch and st clearly.
Cheer	Speaks clearly and happily.

UNIT 2 · IN DER SCHULE · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

2.1 Der erste Schultag

OBJECTIVES

- Name school, teacher and student in German.
- Tell about the first day of school in Germany.
- Look closely at a painting of a writing lesson.

> **Warm-up.** Do you remember starting school or your first lesson at home? What did you bring? What did you learn first? Today you learn German words for school and see how German children start school.

WATCH

Das Lied vom ersten Schultag - Kinderlieder zum Mitsingen | Einschulungslied | Sing Kinderlieder

Sing mit mir - Kinderlieder · 3:15

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mq-jTmhIEhU

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the story. Listen to the song about the first school day. Clap when you hear Schule.

Note: Das Lied vom ersten Schultag, a German song about the first day of school, with the words on screen, about three minutes.

KEY TERMS

die Schule (dee SHOO-luh)
The school.

der Lehrer / die Lehrerin (dehr LAY-rer / dee LAY-ruh-rin)
The teacher (a man / a woman).

der Schüler / die Schülerin (dehr SHÜ-ler / dee SHÜ-luh-rin)
The student (a boy / a girl).

die Schultüte (dee SHOOL-tü-tuh)
The school cone, filled with treats for the first day.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Standard German sounds: every letter is said, w sounds like v, z like ts, ei like eye and ie like ee, ch is breathed in the throat, and the capitals show where to lean: usually the first syllable.

die Schule
dee SHOO-luh
die · school
school

der Lehrer
dehr LAY-rer
der · school
teacher (man)

die Lehrerin

dee LAY-ruh-rin

die · school

teacher (woman)

der Schüler

dehr SHÜ-ler

der · school

student (boy)

die Schülerin

dee SHÜ-luh-rin

die · school

student (girl)

lernen

LEHR-nun

verb

to learn

CORE IDEAS

The story. About a hundred and sixty years ago in Switzerland, where many people speak German, there lived a painter named Albert Anker. As a young man he studied to become a pastor, but he loved painting so much that he became a painter instead. He painted the children of his village again and again: children reading, knitting, praying and learning. In this picture a little boy bends over a sheet of paper, writing carefully with a dip pen and an inkwell. His big sister leans her head on her hand and watches him with a kind smile. She may be his first teacher! On the table lies a toy doll, waiting until the lesson is done.

How German sounds. Schule starts with sch, the German sh: SHOO-luh. In Schüler, the ü is round. When a word is about a woman or girl, German often adds -in: der Lehrer, die Lehrerin; der Schüler, die Schülerin. The first day of school is der erste Schultag.

Say it and move. Put on a pretend backpack: **die Schule!** Stand up straight and point to the board like a teacher: **der Lehrer!** Raise your hand: **der Schüler!** Hug a big pretend cone: **die Schultüte!**

PICTURE STUDY



The Writing Lesson, Albert Anker, 1865 · Oil on canvas · Private collection

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Anker painted children with great love and respect. The light falls on the children's faces, hands and the white paper, and the background is dark, so we look right at the lesson. Notice how hard the little boy is concentrating, and how patient his sister is.

Look closely

- What is the boy writing with?
- Find the inkwell.
- What is the sister doing with her hand?
- Find the toy on the box. What is it?

Talk about it

1. Who taught you to write your first letters?
2. Why do you think the doll is lying on the box?

ACTIVITY

My Schultüte

Make a German school cone and fill it with small treats and school things.

You will need

- A large sheet of poster board or heavy paper
- Tape or glue, tissue paper
- Crayons, stickers
- Small treats, a pencil, an eraser

Steps

1. Roll the poster board into a big cone and tape it closed (a parent helps).
2. Decorate the outside with stickers and drawings.
3. A parent writes Mein erster Schultag (my first school day) on it.
4. Fill it with treats and school things, and stuff tissue paper in the top.
5. Open it and name each school thing in German.

Tips

- Make a small one for a younger brother or sister.
- Take a picture with your Schultüte, the way German children do.

Check your work

☐ My Schultüte is decorated and filled.

☐ I can tell what a Schultüte is for.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your German notebook, draw yourself at school. Write die Schule, der Lehrer or die Lehrerin, and der Schüler or die Schülerin.

> **From history.** German children start school at about six. On the first day, called Einschulung, the family comes along, there is often a church service, and every child gets a Schultüte. Many families keep the photo of that day for life.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, play school in German, and let your child be the teacher for a German lesson to a younger sibling or a stuffed animal.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Your teacher is a woman. What do you call her in German?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Teacher is Lehrer.
2. For a woman add -in.

Answer: Die Lehrerin.

Example 2. What do German children get on the first day of school?

▼ **Show solution**

1. It is a big paper cone.
2. It is full of treats.

Answer: A Schultüte.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say school in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Die Schule.

2. Easy Say teacher (a man) in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Der Lehrer.

3. Easy Say student (a girl) in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Die Schülerin.

4. Medium How do you make Lehrer into a word for a woman?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Add -in: die Lehrerin.

5. Medium What was Albert Anker going to be before he became a painter?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A pastor.

6. Hard Say I am a student in German. (Use Schüler or Schülerin.)

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ich bin Schüler. / Ich bin Schülerin.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Schule with sk. Sch is sh: SHOO-luh.
- Forgetting -in for a woman teacher: die Lehrerin.

> **Make it a game · Teacher says.** Take turns being die Lehrerin or der Lehrer. The teacher gives commands in German: Steht auf! (Stand up!), Setzt euch! (Sit down!), Hände hoch! (Hands up!). The students obey quickly.

> **Scripture.** "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." (Luke 2:52, KJV)
>
> In the German Bible of Martin Luther (1912 revision), this verse reads: *Und Jesus nahm zu an Weisheit, Alter und Gnade bei Gott und den Menschen.* When Jesus was a boy, He grew in wisdom and in body, and God and people loved Him. Learning is part of growing up the way God wants.

UNIT 2 · IN DER SCHULE · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

2.2 Buch, Heft und Stift

OBJECTIVES

- Name six school things in German.
- Say Ich habe… (I have…).
- Learn where wisdom begins.

> **Warm-up.** Empty your school bag or pencil box onto the table. What do you have? Name each thing in English. Today you learn them in German.

WATCH

Learn German Vocabulary Matrix #5: School Words

Learn German with GermanPod101.com · 2:38

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWZBc7SbPaQ

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the story. Watch and say each word back. Hold up the real thing when you hear it.

Note: A short GermanPod101 vocabulary lesson, under three minutes, with words for school.

KEY TERMS

das Heft (dahs HEFT)
The notebook.

der Bleistift (dehr BLY-shtift)
The pencil.

der Kuli (dehr KOO-lee)
The pen.

die Schere (dee SHAY-ruh)
The scissors.

Ich habe… (ikh HAH-buh)
I have...

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Standard German sounds: every letter is said, w sounds like v, z like ts, ei like eye and ie like ee, ch is breathed in the throat, and the capitals show where to lean: usually the first syllable.

das Heft
dahs HEFT
das · school
notebook

der Bleistift
dehr BLY-shtift
der · school
pencil

der Kuli

dehr KOO-lee

der · school

pen

die Schere

dee SHAY-ruh

die · school

scissors

das Lineal

dahs lee-nay-AHL

das · school

ruler

ich habe

ikh HAH-buh

phrase

I have

CORE IDEAS

The story. King Solomon was the wisest king who ever lived. When God asked him what gift he wanted, Solomon did not ask for gold or for a long life. He asked for wisdom to rule God's people well, and God gave it to him. The Bible says: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Books, notebooks and pencils help us learn many things, but the most important learning starts with loving and honoring God.

How German sounds. Bleistift has ei (eye) and st said sht: BLY-shtift. Schere starts with sh: SHAY-ruh. Heft is just like it looks: HEFT. To say I have, use Ich habe, and for der words say einen: Ich habe einen Bleistift. For das words say ein: Ich habe ein Heft. For die words say eine: Ich habe eine Schere.

Say it and move. Open a pretend book: **das Buch!** Write in the air: **der Bleistift!** Snip with two fingers: **die Schere!** Hold up something and say: **Ich habe ein Heft!**

ACTIVITY

My pencil box

Decorate a pencil box and label every school thing inside in German.

You will need

- A small box or a pencil case
- Paper labels, tape, markers
- Your school things

Steps

1. Decorate the box with your name and Meine Sachen (my things).
2. Make a small label for each thing: der Bleistift, der Kuli, die Schere, der Radiergummi (eraser), das Lineal (ruler).
3. Tape each label to its thing.
4. Take each one out and say Ich habe...

Tips

- Color the labels blue for der, red for die and green for das.
- Add das Buch and das Heft to your school bag with labels.

Check your work

☐ My school things are labeled in German.

☐ I can say Ich habe... with each one.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your German notebook, draw a book, a notebook, a pencil, a pen and scissors. Label each with der, die or das.

> **From history.** German school children carry a stiff backpack called a Ranzen or Schulranzen. Many German students write with a fountain pen, called a Füller, from about the third grade.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, ask your child to fetch things for you in German: Bring mir bitte die Schere! Let your child make a German shopping list of school things.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Hold up a pencil. Say I have a pencil.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Pencil is der Bleistift, a der word.
2. With der words say einen.

Answer: Ich habe einen Bleistift.

Example 2. Hold up a notebook. Say I have a notebook.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Notebook is das Heft, a das word.
2. With das words say ein.

Answer: Ich habe ein Heft.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say book in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Das Buch.

2. Easy Say pencil in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Der Bleistift.

3. Easy Say scissors in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Die Schere.

4. Medium What does Ich habe mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   I have.

5. Medium Say I have a book.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ich habe ein Buch.

6. Hard Where does wisdom begin, according to the Bible?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   With the fear of the LORD (loving and honoring God).

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Bleistift with st. Say sht: BLY-shtift.
- Saying Ich habe ein Bleistift. Bleistift is a der word: einen Bleistift.

> **Make it a game · What is missing?.** Put five school things on the table and name them in German. Close your eyes while a parent hides one. Open your eyes and say what is missing: der Kuli!

> **Scripture.** "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." (Psalm 111:10, KJV)
>
> In the German Bible of Martin Luther (1912 revision), this verse reads: *Die Furcht des HERRN ist der Weisheit Anfang.* Wisdom begins with honoring God. We learn reading and writing and numbers, but the most important lesson is to love and obey the Lord.

UNIT 3

Die Monate und Weihnachten

In Lesson 3.1 your child learns the twelve months in German, says when his or her birthday is, and looks at a photograph of the Silent Night Chapel in Oberndorf, Austria, which stands where Stille Nacht was first sung.

In Lesson 3.2 your child learns Christmas words, Weihnachten, das Christkind, der Stern, der Tannenbaum, hears the Christmas story from Luke and sings Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht in German. The unit ends with a Christmas carol show.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–2.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can say the twelve months in German.
- ☐ I can say when my birthday is.
- ☐ I can name five Christmas words in German.
- ☐ I can sing the first verse of Stille Nacht.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **WordReference German–English dictionary**: Free online, for the parent. Look up any word, see its der, die or das, and press the speaker button to hear it said by a German speaker.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

3.1	**Januar bis Dezember**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
3.2	**Stille Nacht**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 3 review

Ask each question out loud. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Say the months from January to June in German.

2. **5 pts**

   Say the months from July to December in German.

3. **5 pts**

   In which month is your birthday? Answer in German.

4. **5 pts**

   Sing the first two lines of Stille Nacht.

ANSWER KEY

1. Januar, Februar, März, April, Mai, Juni.
2. Juli, August, September, Oktober, November, Dezember.
3. Mein Geburtstag ist im ___ (the right month).
4. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht…

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE CHRISTMAS CAROL SHOW

Make a little Christmas program for the family. Tell in German which month it is: Es ist Dezember. Name the Christmas things you have made or set out: der Stern, der Tannenbaum, die Kerze. Then sing Stille Nacht in German, and tell in English the story of how it was first sung with a guitar in Oberndorf.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Months	Says all twelve months.
Christmas words	Names at least five Christmas words.
Song	Sings the first verse of Stille Nacht.
Cheer	Performs joyfully and reverently.

3.1 Januar bis Dezember

OBJECTIVES

- Say the twelve months in German.
- Say when your birthday is: Mein Geburtstag ist im…
- Tell the story of the Silent Night chapel.

> **Warm-up.** Say the months of the year in English. Which month is your birthday? Which month is Christmas? Today you learn all twelve months in German. Many of them sound almost like English!

WATCH

Learn the Months in German - A1

lingoni GERMAN · 4:18

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noKOXELXrOM

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the story. Watch with your parent and say each month back to the screen.

Note: A short lingoni lesson, about four minutes, on the months in German.

KEY TERMS

der Monat (dehr MOH-naht)
The month.

das Jahr (dahs YAHR)
The year.

der Geburtstag (dehr guh-BOORTS-tahk)
The birthday.

im Dezember (im day-TSEM-ber)
In December.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Standard German sounds: every letter is said, w sounds like v, z like ts, ei like eye and ie like ee, ch is breathed in the throat, and the capitals show where to lean: usually the first syllable.

der Monat
dehr MOH-naht
der · time
month

das Jahr
dahs YAHR
das · time
year

der Januar
dehr YAH-noo-ahr
der · month
January

der Mai
dehr MY
der · month
May

der Dezember
dehr day-TSEM-ber
der · month
December

der Geburtstag
dehr guh-BOORTS-tahk
der · time
birthday

CORE IDEAS

The story. In December of the year 1818, in a little village called Oberndorf in Austria, the young assistant pastor, Joseph Mohr, had a Christmas poem he had written two years before. On the day before Christmas he walked to the schoolteacher, Franz Xaver Gruber, and asked him to write a tune for it, a tune for two voices and a guitar. That very night, on Christmas Eve, the two men stood in the church of St. Nicholas and sang the new song for the first time: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Silent night, holy night! The old church is gone now, but in its place stands a small white chapel, the Silent Night Chapel. Every Christmas Eve people gather there in the snow to sing the song that is now sung all over the world.

How German sounds. Many months sound like English: April, August, September, November. Watch these: Januar (YAH-noo-ahr), Juni (YOO-nee) and Juli (YOO-lee), because the j says y; März (MERTS) has an Umlaut; Mai (MY) sounds like the word my; and Dezember starts with day-TSEM. To say in a month, use im: im Mai, im Dezember.

Say it and move. Shiver for **Januar** and **Februar**; pick flowers for **April** and **Mai**; swim for **Juli** and **August**; rake leaves for **Oktober**; and make a star over your head for **Dezember!**

PICTURE STUDY



The Silent Night Chapel, Oberndorf, Photograph by High Contrast, chapel built 1924–1937; photographed 2012 · Photograph · Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria

Image: Wikimedia Commons, photograph by High Contrast, CC BY 3.0 de

The chapel is small, only big enough for a few people inside. It was built on the spot where St. Nicholas Church stood, the church where Stille Nacht was first sung. Flooding from the nearby river damaged the old church, so it was torn down, and the town built this memorial chapel in its place.

Look closely

- What shape is the chapel? Count its sides if you can.
- Find the little bell tower on top.
- What kind of trees grow around it?
- Find the porch at the door.

Talk about it

1. Why do you think people built a chapel to remember a song?
2. What would it be like to sing Stille Nacht here on Christmas Eve?

ACTIVITY

Birthday calendar

Make a calendar of birthdays in your family with the German months.

You will need

- A large sheet of paper divided into twelve boxes
- Markers or crayons
- A list of family birthdays

Steps

1. A parent writes one German month in each box: Januar to Dezember.
2. Write or draw each family member in the month of his or her birthday.
3. Draw a cake for each birthday.
4. Mark Christmas in Dezember with a star.
5. Tell when each person's birthday is: Papas Geburtstag ist im Mai.

Tips

- Add your grandparents and cousins.
- Count how many birthdays are in each month.

Check your work

☐ My calendar has twelve months in German.

☐ I can say when my birthday is.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your German notebook, write the twelve months in a column. Circle your birthday month and Dezember.

> **From history.** Germans often sing Zum Geburtstag viel Glück on birthdays, to the same tune as Happy Birthday, and the birthday child may get a cake with candles and a wooden birthday ring.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, sing Zum Geburtstag viel Glück at the next family birthday, and write the date in German together each day.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Your birthday is in May. Say it in German.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Birthday is Geburtstag.
2. In May is im Mai.

Answer: Mein Geburtstag ist im Mai.

Example 2. Which month comes after November?

▼ **Show solution**

1. November, then…

Answer: Dezember.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say January in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Januar.

2. Easy Say December in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Dezember.

3. Easy What does Monat mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Month.

4. Medium How do you say the j in Juni?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Like y: YOO-nee.

5. Medium Say all twelve months.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Januar, Februar, März, April, Mai, Juni, Juli, August, September, Oktober, November, Dezember.

6. Hard Who wrote the words and who wrote the music of Stille Nacht?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Joseph Mohr wrote the words; Franz Xaver Gruber wrote the music.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Juni and Juli with a j. German j says y.
- Mixing up Juni and Juli. Germans often say Juno and Julei so they don't get confused!

> **Make it a game · Month line-up.** Write the twelve months on cards and mix them up. Put them in order as fast as you can, saying each month. Then a parent takes one away: which month is missing?

> **Scripture.** "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, KJV)
>
> In the German Bible of Martin Luther (1912 revision), this verse reads: *Ein jegliches hat seine Zeit* God made the months and the seasons. Every time of the year has its own work and joy, all under His care.

UNIT 3 · DIE MONATE UND WEIHNACHTEN · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

3.2 Stille Nacht

OBJECTIVES

- Name five Christmas words in German.
- Hear the Christmas story from Luke.
- Sing the first verse of Stille Nacht.

Warm-up. What do you see in your house at Christmas? A tree, a star, candles, a manger scene? Name them in English. Today you learn them in German and sing the most famous German Christmas song of all.

WATCH

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht - Weihnachtslieder zum Mitsingen | Sing Kinderlieder

Sing mit mir - Kinderlieder · 3:22

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKz1eOyIfz8

WHEN TO WATCH
After the story. Listen quietly, then sing the first verse along. Light a candle with a parent if you like.

Note: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht, the German carol with the words on screen.

KEY TERMS

Weihnachten (VY-nahkh-tun)
Christmas.

der Stern (dehr SHTERN)
The star.

die Kerze (dee KEHR-tsuh)
The candle.

das Christkind (dahs KRIST-kint)
The Christ Child.

der Tannenbaum (dehr TAHN-nun-bowm)
The fir tree; the Christmas tree.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Standard German sounds: every letter is said, w sounds like v, z like ts, ei like eye and ie like ee, ch is breathed in the throat, and the capitals show where to lean: usually the first syllable.

Weihnachten
VY-nahkh-tun
holiday
Christmas

das Christkind
dahs KRIST-kint
das · Christmas
Christ Child

der Stern
dehr SHTERN
der · Christmas
star

der Tannenbaum
dehr TAHN-nun-bowm
der · Christmas
Christmas tree

die Kerze
dee KEHR-tsuh
die · Christmas
candle

das Geschenk
dahs guh-SHENK
das · Christmas
present; gift

CORE IDEAS

The story. Long ago in Bethlehem, Mary laid her newborn baby in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Out in the fields, shepherds were watching their sheep at night. Suddenly an angel stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. The angel said: Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. The shepherds hurried and found the baby lying in the manger. That is what Stille Nacht sings about: the holy night, the holy Child, and the shepherds who first heard the news.

How German sounds. Weihnachten means holy nights: ei says eye, and ch is throaty: VY-nahkh-tun. In Christkind, ch at the start sounds like k: KRIST-kint. Stern has st said sht: SHTERN. In Kerze, the z says ts: KEHR-tsuh. Wish someone a merry Christmas: Frohe Weihnachten! (FROH-uh VY-nahkh-tun).

Say it and move. Rock the baby in your arms: **das Christkind!** Point up high: **der Stern!** Make a tree shape with your arms: **der Tannenbaum!** Hold up one finger like a candle: **die Kerze!** Open your arms wide: **Frohe Weihnachten!**

ACTIVITY

Paper star for the window

Make a German paper star, a Weihnachtsstern, for your window.

You will need

- Yellow or white paper
- Scissors (a parent helps), glue, a string

Steps

1. Cut two squares of paper the same size.
2. Fold each square in half and in half again, then cut a zigzag edge.
3. Unfold and glue the two shapes together, turned a little, to make a star with many points.
4. A parent writes Frohe Weihnachten in the middle.
5. Hang it in the window and say der Stern.

Tips

- Make stars for every window.
- Sing Stille Nacht while you work.

Check your work

☐ My star hangs in the window.

☐ I can say five Christmas words in German.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your German notebook, draw a manger, a star, a fir tree and a candle. Label them das Christkind, der Stern, der Tannenbaum and die Kerze. Write Frohe Weihnachten! across the top.

> **From history.** The Christmas tree comes from Germany. German families decorate it on Christmas Eve, Heiligabend, and open their presents that evening. In many homes the children wait outside the room until a little bell rings to tell them the tree is ready.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, read Luke 2 together in a German Bible on Christmas Eve, and sing all three verses of Stille Nacht.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. How do you say Merry Christmas in German?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Merry is froh.
2. Christmas is Weihnachten.

Answer: Frohe Weihnachten!

Example 2. What did the angel tell the shepherds?

▼ **Show solution**

1. He brought good news.
2. A Savior was born.

Answer: Unto you is born this day a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say Christmas in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Weihnachten.

2. Easy Say star in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Der Stern.

3. Easy Say candle in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Die Kerze.

4. Medium What is a Tannenbaum?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A fir tree; a Christmas tree.

5. Medium How does the ch in Christkind sound?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Like k: KRIST-kint.

6. Hard Sing the first two lines of Stille Nacht.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht…

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Christkind with a soft ch. At the start of Christ, ch says k.
- Saying Stern with st. Say sht: SHTERN.

> **Make it a game · Christmas memory.** Draw two cards each of a star, a tree, a candle, a manger, a bell and a present. Mix them face down. Turn over two at a time and name them in German: der Stern, die Glocke (bell), das Geschenk (present). Keep the pairs you find.

> **Scripture.** “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11, KJV)
>
> In the German Bible of Martin Luther (1912 revision), this verse reads: *denn euch ist heute der Heiland geboren, welcher ist Christus, der HERR* The angel brought the best news ever told: the Savior was born! That is why we celebrate Christmas.

UNIT 4

Tiere im Wald

In Lesson 4.1 your child names the deer and the trees of the forest, der Wald, der Baum, das Reh and der Hirsch, sings the cuckoo song, and studies Franz Marc’s painting of deer resting among green, blue and red shapes of the forest.

In Lesson 4.2 your child names more forest animals, der Fuchs, der Hase, die Eule, das Eichhörnchen, learns to say what an animal is like (Der Fuchs ist rot), and sings Fuchs, du hast die Gans gestohlen. The unit ends with a forest walk in German.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–3.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name six forest animals in German.
- ☐ I can name forest and tree in German.
- ☐ I can say Der Fuchs ist rot.
- ☐ I can say the psalm of the deer in English.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **WordReference German–English dictionary**: Free online, for the parent. Look up any word, see its der, die or das, and press the speaker button to hear it said by a German speaker.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

4.1	**Im Wald**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
4.2	**Der Fuchs**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 4 review

Ask each question out loud. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Say forest and tree in German.

2. 5 pts

   Name a deer, a fox and a hare in German.

3. 5 pts

   Say The fox is red in German.

4. 5 pts

   What does the deer long for in Psalm 42?

ANSWER KEY

1. Der Wald, der Baum.
2. Das Reh (or der Hirsch), der Fuchs, der Hase.
3. Der Fuchs ist rot.
4. Water brooks (fresh water), as the soul longs for God.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE FOREST WALK

Take a walk in a park or woods, or set up a pretend forest at home with stuffed animals hidden behind chairs and plants. Lead the family on a walk and name everything in German: Das ist ein Baum. Das ist der Fuchs. Der Fuchs ist rot. Sing the cuckoo song on the way.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Animals	Names at least six forest animals.
Sentences	Uses Das ist… and ist + a color or size.
Song	Sings part of a forest song.
Cheer	Leads the walk clearly and happily.

4.1 Im Wald

OBJECTIVES

- Name forest, tree, deer and stag in German.
- Look closely at a painting of deer in a forest.
- Learn the psalm of the deer.

> **Warm-up.** Close your eyes and imagine a deep, green forest. What do you hear? What animals might be hiding there? Today you visit a German forest in words and pictures.

WATCH

Kuckuck, Kuckuck, rufts aus dem Wald - Kinderlieder zum Mitsingen | Sing Kinderlieder

Sing mit mir - Kinderlieder · 2:32

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhY8fkLGGIg

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the story. Sing along and call Kuckuck! with the song, cupping your hands around your mouth.

Note: Kuckuck, Kuckuck, ruft's aus dem Wald, an old German spring song about the cuckoo calling from the forest, with the words on screen.

KEY TERMS

der Wald (dehr VAHLT)
The forest; the woods.

das Reh (dahs RAY)
The deer (roe deer).

der Kuckuck (dehr KOOK-ook)
The cuckoo.

der Baum (dehr BOWM)
The tree.

der Hirsch (dehr HEERSH)
The stag; the big deer.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Standard German sounds: every letter is said, w sounds like v, z like ts, ei like eye and ie like ee, ch is breathed in the throat, and the capitals show where to lean: usually the first syllable.

der Wald
dehr VAHLT
der · nature
forest

der Baum
dehr BOWM
der · nature
tree

das Reh
dahs RAY
das · animal
deer

der Hirsch
dehr HEERSH
der · animal
stag

der Kuckuck
dehr KOOK-ook
der · animal
cuckoo

das Blatt
dahs BLAHT
das · nature
leaf

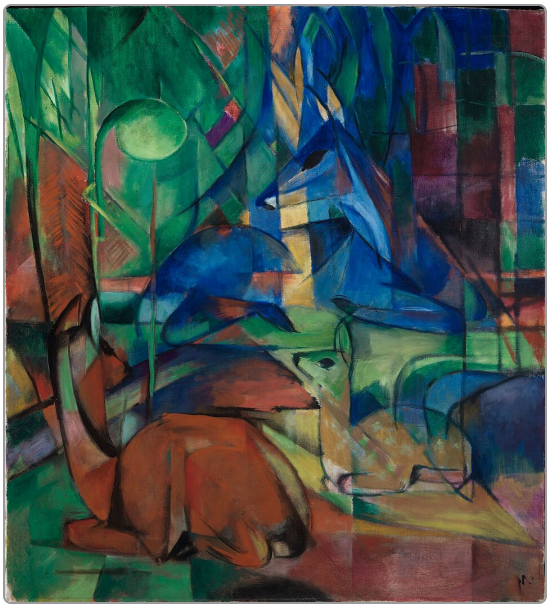
CORE IDEAS

The story. Do you remember Franz Marc, who painted the blue horse? He also loved the deer that lived in the forests near his home in Bavaria. He kept two pet deer in his garden! In this painting, deer rest quietly in the forest. A red-brown deer lies in front with its head turned. A blue deer lies above it, and a little fawn rests in the middle. All around them the forest is broken into shapes of green, blue, red and gold, like pieces of colored glass. Marc wanted to show the forest the way the deer might feel it: peaceful and full of light. A psalm in the Bible says: As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

How German sounds. In Wald, the w is v and the d at the end is t: VAHLT. Baum has au, said ow: BOWM. Reh is short and easy: RAY. Hirsch ends with sch: HEERSH. Kuckuck is said just like the bird calls: KOOK-ook.

Say it and move. Stand tall with arms out like branches: **der Baum!** Spread your arms wide: **der Wald!** Put fingers on your head like antlers: **der Hirsch!** Tiptoe quietly: **das Reh!** Cup your hands: **Kuckuck!**

PICTURE STUDY



Deer in the Forest II, Franz Marc, 1914 · Oil on canvas · Staatliche Kunsthalle, Karlsruhe

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

This is one of Franz Marc's last paintings before he went to war in 1914. Instead of painting each tree and leaf, he broke the forest into sharp shapes and bright colors. The deer are curled up safe and still in the middle of it all. Look for the round green shape at the top left: it might be the top of a small tree, or a patch of sunlight.

Look closely

- Find the red-brown deer. Is it standing or lying down?
- Find the blue deer.
- Find the little fawn.
- What colors do you see in the forest?

Talk about it

1. Does this forest feel noisy or quiet? Why?
2. Why do you think Marc painted the deer in blue and red?

ACTIVITY

Stained-glass forest

Make a forest window with colored tissue paper, like the shapes in Marc's painting.

You will need

- Black construction paper with shapes cut out (a parent helps), or clear contact paper
- Colored tissue paper in green, blue, red and yellow
- Glue

Steps

1. Cut a frame from black paper, or use a sheet of clear contact paper.
2. Tear tissue paper into pointed shapes.
3. Glue the pieces to fill the frame, overlapping the colors.
4. Cut out a deer shape from brown paper and glue it in the middle.
5. Hang it in the window and say der Wald, der Baum, das Reh.

Tips

- Add a fox or a bird.
- Label the colors in German.

Check your work

☐ My forest window has many colors and a deer.

☐ I can name the forest and the deer in German.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your German notebook, draw a forest with a deer and a stag. Label der Wald, der Baum, das Reh and der Hirsch.

> **From history.** Germany is about one-third forest. The most famous is the Black Forest, der Schwarzwald, in the southwest, where cuckoo clocks are made. Germans love to go walking in the forest on Sundays.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, take a forest walk and name everything you see in German. Collect leaves and label them at home.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. What animal has big antlers? Say it in German.

▼ **Show solution**

1. The big deer with antlers is the stag.
2. Stag is der Hirsch.

Answer: Der Hirsch! (dehr HEERSH)

Example 2. Many trees together make a… what, in German?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Many trees make a forest.
2. Forest is der Wald.

Answer: Der Wald! (dehr VAHLT)

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say tree in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Der Baum.

2. Easy Say forest in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Der Wald.

3. Easy Say deer in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Das Reh.

4. Medium What does the cuckoo call?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Kuckuck!

5. Medium What colors are the deer in Marc's painting?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Red-brown, blue, and a yellow-green fawn.

6. Hard What does the deer long for in Psalm 42, and what does the soul long for?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The deer longs for water; the soul longs for God.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Wald with a w. German w says v: VAHLT.
- Saying Baum like bomb. The au says ow: BOWM.

> **Make it a game · Kuckuck hide and seek.** One person hides and calls Kuckuck! every few seconds. The others follow the sound to find the cuckoo. Whoever finds the cuckoo hides next.

> **Scripture.** "To the chief Musician, Maschil, for the sons of Korah. As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." (Psalm 42:1, KJV)
>
> In the German Bible of Martin Luther (1912 revision), this verse reads: *Wie der Hirsch schreit nach frischem Wasser, so schreit meine Seele, Gott, zu dir.* A thirsty deer longs for fresh water. The psalm writer says his soul longs for God just as much. We need God more than anything.

UNIT 4 · TIERE IM WALD · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

4.2 Der Fuchs

OBJECTIVES

- Name fox, hare, owl and squirrel in German.
- Describe animals: Der Fuchs ist rot.
- Sing part of Fuchs, du hast die Gans gestohlen.

> **Warm-up.** Name the forest words from last week: der Wald, der Baum, das Reh, der Hirsch. Who else lives in the forest? Who is sly and red with a bushy tail? Today you meet him.

WATCH

Fuchs, du hast die Gans gestohlen - Kinderlieder zum Mitsingen | Sing Kinderlieder

Sing mit mir - Kinderlieder · 1:57

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oz--4Jmnr1w

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the story. Sing along and wag your finger at the fox: Fuchs, du hast die Gans gestohlen!

Note: Fuchs, du hast die Gans gestohlen (Fox, you have stolen the goose), an old German children's song with the words on screen.

KEY TERMS

der Fuchs (dehr FOOKS)
The fox.

das Eichhörnchen (dahs IKE-hörn-khun)
The squirrel.

ist (IST)
Is. Der Fuchs ist rot: the fox is red.

die Eule (dee OY-luh)
The owl.

die Gans (dee GAHNS)
The goose.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Standard German sounds: every letter is said, w sounds like v, z like ts, ei like eye and ie like ee, ch is breathed in the throat, and the capitals show where to lean: usually the first syllable.

der Fuchs
dehr FOOKS
der · animal
fox

die Eule
dee OY-luh
die · animal
owl

das Eichhörnchen
dahs IKE-hörn-khun
das · animal
squirrel

die Gans
dee GAHNS
die · animal
goose

schnell
SHNEL
describing word
fast

klug
KLOOK
describing word
clever; wise

CORE IDEAS

The story. One night a sly red fox crept out of the forest and stole a fat gray goose from a farmer's yard! The children saw him and sang: Fox, you have stolen the goose, give it back! Or the hunter will come after you! Then they gave the fox some good advice: Little fox, don't be a thief, be happy with a mouse for your supper. German children have sung this song for nearly two hundred years. It teaches a lesson too: stealing is wrong, and we should be content with what God gives us. Jesus said that foxes have holes and birds have nests, but He had nowhere to lay His head. He gave up everything for us.

How German sounds. In Fuchs, the chs sounds like ks: FOOKS. Eule has eu, said oy: OY-luh. Eichhörnchen is a long word: IKE-hörn-khun. To describe an animal, use ist: Der Fuchs ist rot. Die Eule ist klug (the owl is wise). Der Hase ist schnell (the hare is fast).

Say it and move. Creep on tiptoe: **der Fuchs!** Blink big eyes and turn your head: **die Eule!** Nibble a nut: **das Eichhörnchen!** Waddle and honk: **die Gans!** Run fast: **Der Hase ist schnell!**

ACTIVITY

Paper plate fox

Make a fox face from a paper plate and describe it in German.

You will need

- A paper plate
- Orange, white and black paint or crayons
- Scissors (a parent helps), glue

Steps

1. Fold the plate in half, then fold the sides in to make a pointed fox face.
2. Color it orange with a white chin and a black nose.
3. Cut two pointed ears from the leftover paper and glue them on.
4. Hold up your fox and say: Das ist der Fuchs. Der Fuchs ist rot.

Tips

- Make an owl from another plate.
- Act out the song with your fox and a paper goose.

Check your work

- ☐ My fox has ears, a nose and a white chin.
- ☐ I can describe it in German.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your German notebook, draw a fox, an owl, a squirrel and a goose. Label each, and write one sentence: Der Fuchs ist rot.

> **From history.** Fuchs, du hast die Gans gestohlen was written in 1824 by a teacher named Ernst Anschütz, who also wrote the words of O Tannenbaum that German children sing today.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, read a German animal picture book together and describe each animal: Der Bär ist groß. Die Maus ist klein.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Describe the fox's color in German.

▼ **Show solution**

1. The fox is red-orange.
2. Use ist: Der Fuchs ist…

Answer: Der Fuchs ist rot.

Example 2. What did the fox steal in the song?

▼ **Show solution**

1. He took a bird from the farm.
2. Goose is die Gans.

Answer: Die Gans (the goose).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say fox in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Der Fuchs.

2. Easy Say owl in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Die Eule.

3. Easy Say goose in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Die Gans.

4. Medium Say The hare is fast.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Der Hase ist schnell.

5. Medium What lesson does the fox song teach?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Stealing is wrong; be content with what you have.

6. Hard What did Jesus say foxes and birds have?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Fuchs with ch as in church. Chs says ks: FOOKS.
- Saying Eule like you-lay. The eu says oy: OY-luh.

> **Make it a game · Fox and goose.** Play tag: one person is der Fuchs and the others are die Gänse (the geese). The geese honk and run; when the fox tags a goose, the goose says Ich bin der Fuchs! and becomes the next fox.

> **Scripture.** "And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." (Matthew 8:20, KJV)
>
> In the German Bible of Martin Luther (1912 revision), this verse reads: *Die Füchse haben Gruben, und die Vögel unter dem Himmel haben Nester* Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but Jesus had no home of His own when He traveled and preached. He gave up the comforts of heaven to come and save us.

UNIT 5

Der Himmel und das Vaterunser

In Lesson 5.1 your child names the things in the sky, sings Weißt du, wie viel Sternlein stehen? (Do you know how many little stars there are?) and studies Caspar David Friedrich's painting of two friends looking at the moon from a rocky forest path.

In Lesson 5.2 your child learns the Lord's Prayer in German, das Vaterunser, line by line, with what each line means, and sings the gentle bedtime song Guten Abend, gut' Nacht. The quarter ends with an evening prayer show.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name sky, sun, moon and stars in German.
- ☐ I can sing part of Weißt du, wie viel Sternlein stehen.
- ☐ I can pray the first lines of the Vaterunser in German.
- ☐ I can tell what Vater unser im Himmel means.

OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

- **WordReference German–English dictionary**: Free online, for the parent. Look up any word, see its der, die or das, and press the speaker button to hear it said by a German speaker.

Not required. Every activity in this unit works with paper, pencil, scissors and the free links below. School Launch is independent and free.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

5.1	**Sonne, Mond und Sterne**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes
5.2	**Vater unser**	3 sessions of 15–20 minutes

Unit 5 review

Ask each question out loud. The review is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Say sky, sun, moon and stars in German.

2. **5 pts**
   Who counts the stars, in the song Weißt du, wie viel Sternlein stehen?

3. **5 pts**
   Pray the first two lines of the Vaterunser in German.

4. **5 pts**
   What does Vater unser im Himmel mean?

ANSWER KEY

1. Der Himmel, die Sonne, der Mond, die Sterne.
2. God (der liebe Gott).
3. Vater unser im Himmel, geheiligt werde dein Name.
4. Our Father in heaven.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE EVENING PRAYER SHOW

At bedtime, gather the family. Point out the window (or to a picture of the night sky) and name what you see in German: der Mond, die Sterne. Sing Weißt du, wie viel Sternlein stehen or Guten Abend, gut' Nacht. Then lead the family in praying the Vaterunser in German, as far as you know it, and finish with Amen.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Sky words	Names sky, sun, moon and stars.
Song	Sings part of a German evening song.
Prayer	Prays at least four lines of the Vaterunser.
Reverence	Leads the prayer quietly and respectfully.

UNIT 5 · DER HIMMEL UND DAS VATERUNSER · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

5.1 Sonne, Mond und Sterne

OBJECTIVES

- Name sky, sun, moon and stars in German.

- Sing part of Weißt du, wie viel Sternlein stehen.
- Look closely at a painting of the moon.

> **Warm-up.** Go to the window or outside. What do you see in the sky right now? In the daytime? At night? Today you learn the sky in German.

WATCH

Weißt du, wie viel Sternlein stehen - Schlaflieder zum Mitsingen | Sing Kinderlieder

Sing mit mir - Kinderlieder · 2:51

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScKFDZm49gU

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the story. Listen quietly and sing along. Hold up your fingers as if counting stars.

Note: Weißt du, wie viel Sternlein stehen? (Do you know how many little stars there are?), an old German evening song about God who counts the stars and knows every child, with the words on screen.

KEY TERMS

der Himmel (dehr HIM-mel)
The sky; also heaven.

der Mond (dehr MOHNT)
The moon.

die Wolke (dee VOL-kuh)
The cloud.

die Sonne (dee ZON-nuh)
The sun.

der Stern / die Sterne (dehr SHTERN / dee SHTEHR-nuh)
The star / the stars.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Standard German sounds: every letter is said, w sounds like v, z like ts, ei like eye and ie like ee, ch is breathed in the throat, and the capitals show where to lean: usually the first syllable.

der Himmel
dehr HIM-mel
der · sky
sky; heaven

die Sonne
dee ZON-nuh
die · sky
sun

der Mond
dehr MOHNT
der · sky
moon

die Sterne
dee SHTEHR-nuh
plural
stars

die Wolke
dee VOL-kuh
die · sky
cloud

die Erde
dee EHR-duh
die · sky
earth

CORE IDEAS

The story. About two hundred years ago, a painter named Caspar David Friedrich lived in the city of Dresden in Germany. He was a quiet man who loved God and loved to walk alone in the mountains and forests, especially at dawn and at dusk. In this painting, two friends have stopped on a rocky path in the forest at evening. One leans on the other's shoulder. They stand very still and look at the thin new moon and a bright evening star shining in the golden sky. An old oak tree with twisting roots and branches reaches over them. Friedrich wanted people to feel how great and beautiful God's creation is, and how small we are. King David felt that too: When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars...

How German sounds. Himmel means both sky and heaven: HIM-mel. In Sterne, the st says sht, and the e at the end is soft: SHTEHR-nuh. Wolke starts with a v sound: VOL-kuh. Sternlein means little stars; -lein makes things small, like the -let in booklet.

Say it and move. Sweep your arm across the sky: **der Himmel!** Make a big circle: **die Sonne!** Make a C shape with your hand: **der Mond!** Twinkle your fingers: **die Sterne!** Puff out your cheeks: **die Wolke!**

PICTURE STUDY



Two Men Contemplating the Moon, Caspar David Friedrich, 1819–1820 · Oil on canvas · Galerie Neue Meister, Dresden

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Friedrich often painted people from behind, so that we stand with them and look at what they see. The two friends are silent, filled with wonder. The old tree is half uprooted, but still standing. The moon is tiny, but it is the brightest thing in the picture, and everything leads our eyes to it.

Look closely

- Find the moon. What shape is it?
- Find the bright star near the moon.
- What is one man holding?
- Find the old tree. What do its branches look like?

Talk about it

1. What do you think the two friends are thinking about?
2. Have you ever stopped to look at the moon? How did it make you feel?

ACTIVITY

Night sky painting

Paint a night sky with a crescent moon and stars, and label it in German.

You will need

- Dark blue or black paper
- White and yellow paint or crayons, glitter (optional)
- A white crayon or chalk

Steps

1. Paint a thin crescent moon in the sky.
2. Add stars with dots of yellow paint or glitter.
3. Draw the dark shapes of trees or hills at the bottom.
4. With the white crayon, label der Himmel, der Mond and die Sterne.
5. Count your stars in German.

Tips

- Add two small people looking up, like Friedrich's friends.
- Write Weißt du, wie viel Sternlein stehen? across the top.

Check your work

☐ My painting has a moon, stars and the night sky.

☐ I can label them in German.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your German notebook, draw the sky by day and by night. Label die Sonne, die Wolke, der Mond, die Sterne and der Himmel.

> **From history.** Weißt du, wie viel Sternlein stehen was written about two hundred years ago by Wilhelm Hey, a pastor. In the song, God counts the stars, the clouds, the fish and the little birds, and He knows and loves every child too.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, look at the stars together on a clear night and sing all the verses of Weißt du, wie viel Sternlein stehen.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. It is night. What do you see in the sky? Say two things in German.

▼ **Show solution**

1. At night we see the moon and the stars.

Answer: Der Mond und die Sterne.

Example 2. Himmel has two meanings. What are they?

▼ **Show solution**

1. It is above us.
2. It is also where God is.

Answer: Sky and heaven.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say sun in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Die Sonne.

2. Easy Say moon in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Der Mond.

3. Easy Say stars in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Die Sterne.

4. Medium What does -lein do to a word like Stern?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   It makes it small: Sternlein means little star.

5. Medium What two meanings does Himmel have?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Sky and heaven.

6. Hard Who knows how many stars there are, in the song?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   God (der liebe Gott) has counted them all.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Sterne with st. Say sht: SHTEHR-nuh.
- Saying Wolke with a w. Say v: VOL-kuh.

> **Make it a game · Day or night.** A parent calls a sky word in German. If it belongs to the day (die Sonne, die Wolke), stand up and stretch. If it belongs to the night (der Mond, die Sterne), crouch and close your eyes. Go faster and faster!

> **Scripture.** "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;" (Psalm 8:3, KJV)
>
> In the German Bible of Martin Luther (1912 revision), this verse reads: *Wenn ich sehe die Himmel, deiner Finger Werk, den Mond und die Sterne* King David looked at the moon and stars and was amazed that the God who made them cares about people. God made the heavens with His fingers, and He cares for you.

UNIT 5 · DER HIMMEL UND DAS VATERUNSER · LESSON 5.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 15–20 MINUTES

5.2 Vater unser

OBJECTIVES

- Pray the Lord's Prayer in German, line by line.
- Tell what each line means.
- Sing part of Guten Abend, gut' Nacht.

> **Warm-up.** Pray the Lord's Prayer in English with your parent. Jesus taught this prayer to His disciples. German Christians have prayed it in German for five hundred years. Today you learn it too.

WATCH

Guten Abend, gute Nacht - Schlaflieder zum Mitsingen | Sing Kinderlieder

Sing mit mir - Kinderlieder · 2:20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6xCa4EiNcU

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the story and the prayer. Listen to this bedtime song as a quiet ending. It asks that you wake up tomorrow morning, if God wills.

Note: Guten Abend, gut' Nacht, the famous German lullaby with Brahms's tune, with the words on screen. There is no German Lord's Prayer video on our approved channels, so the parent reads the prayer from the lesson.

KEY TERMS

das Vaterunser (dahs FAH-ter-oon-zer)
The Lord's Prayer (the Our Father).

beten (BAY-tun)
To pray.

der Name (dehr NAH-muh)
The name.

das Reich (dahs RIKE)
The kingdom.

Amen (AH-men)
Amen: so be it.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Standard German sounds: every letter is said, w sounds like v, z like ts, ei like eye and ie like ee, ch is breathed in the throat, and the capitals show where to lean: usually the first syllable.

das Vaterunser

dahs FAH-ter-oon-zer

das · church

the Lord's Prayer

beten

BAY-tun

verb

to pray

der Name

dehr NAH-muh

der · word

name

das Reich

dahs RIKE

das · church

kingdom

der Wille

dehr VIL-luh

der · word

will

Amen

AH-men

church word

amen

CORE IDEAS

The story. One day the disciples saw Jesus praying, and they asked Him: Lord, teach us to pray. Jesus said: After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther taught German children to pray this prayer every morning and every evening, and German Christians still pray it in church every Sunday. Here it is, the way German churches pray it today: **Vater unser im Himmel, geheiligt werde dein Name. Dein Reich komme. Dein Wille geschehe, wie im Himmel, so auf Erden. Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute. Und vergib uns unsere Schuld, wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern. Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung, sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen. Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen.**

How German sounds. Go one line at a time. Vater unser im Himmel (FAH-ter OON-zer im HIM-mel): Our Father in heaven. Geheiligt werde dein Name (guh-HY-likht VEHR-duh dine NAH-muh): hallowed be Your name. Dein Reich komme (dine RIKE KOM-muh): Your kingdom come. Dein Wille geschehe (dine VIL-luh guh-SHAY-uh): Your will be done. You already know Brot (bread) and Himmel (heaven)!

Say it and pray. Fold your hands. A parent says one line in German, and you say it back. Do the first four lines today, and add a line or two each day. By the end of the week you can pray the whole Vaterunser in German.

ACTIVITY

My Vaterunser card

Make a beautiful card with the German Lord's Prayer to keep by your bed.

You will need

- Stiff paper or card stock
- Markers, colored pencils, gold crayon
- Clear tape or contact paper (optional)

Steps

1. A parent writes the Vaterunser on the card in neat letters, or prints it.
2. Decorate the first letter V in gold, like the painted capitals in Gutenberg's Bible.
3. Draw a border of stars and a moon.
4. Keep it by your bed and pray it each night.

Tips

- Make a second card in English to compare.
- Underline the words you know: Vater, Himmel, Name, Brot.

Check your work

☐ My card has the whole Vaterunser and a decorated capital.

☐ I can pray the first lines from memory.

PICTURE DICTIONARY

1. In your German notebook, copy the first two lines of the Vaterunser: Vater unser im Himmel, geheiligt werde dein Name. Draw folded hands beside them.

> **From history.** Martin Luther wrote a little book for families in 1529, the Small Catechism. It teaches the Ten Commandments, the Creed and the Lord's Prayer, line by line, with the question: Was ist das? (What does this mean?). German children have learned from it for almost five hundred years.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, pray the Vaterunser together in German every evening this week, and read Luther's explanation of the first line from the Small Catechism.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. What does Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Brot is bread.
2. Heute is today.
3. Gib uns is give us.

Answer: Give us this day our daily bread.

Example 2. What does Dein Reich komme mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Reich is kingdom.
2. Komme is come.

Answer: Thy kingdom come.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Say to pray in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Beten.

2. Easy What is the German name for the Lord's Prayer?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Das Vaterunser.

3. Easy What does Amen mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   So be it.

4. Medium Pray the first line in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Vater unser im Himmel.

5. Medium Which word in the prayer means bread?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Brot.

6. Hard Pray the first four lines in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Vater unser im Himmel, geheiligt werde dein Name. Dein Reich komme. Dein Wille geschehe, wie im Himmel, so auf Erden.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Vater with a v sound. Say FAH-ter.
- Saying Reich like rich. The ei says eye: RIKE.

> **Make it a game · Prayer chain.** Sit in a circle. The first person says the first line of the Vaterunser in German, the next says the second line, and so on around the circle. If someone forgets, everyone helps. End together with Amen.

> **Scripture.** “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.” (Matthew 6:9, KJV)
>
> In the German Bible of Martin Luther (1912 revision), this verse reads: *Unser Vater in dem Himmel! Dein Name werde geheiligt.* Jesus taught us to call God our Father and to honor His name. In Luther’s Bible the prayer begins Unser Vater in dem Himmel; churches today pray Vater unser im Himmel.