Grade 5 German

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

FIRST EDITION

Course guide

Grade 5 German is a short course of 10 lessons (5 units of 2), one lesson a week for a quarter, with three sessions of 30–40 minutes a week. It does not depend on earlier German.

This grade turns from vocabulary toward how German works: the family tie between English and German and the sound patterns that link them, the three genders and the endings that reveal them, present-tense verb endings and the rule that the verb comes second, the irregular verb sein with describing words, and questions. The paintings are Hans Holbein's The Ambassadors, Georg Friedrich Kersting's Caspar David Friedrich in His Studio, Adolph Menzel's Flute Concert of Frederick the Great, Albrecht Dürer's Self-Portrait at Twenty-Six and Friedrich's Chalk Cliffs on Rügen.

The child keeps a German notebook, and each lesson has a worksheet with a separate answer key. The quarter ends with an interview of a family member written up as a German newspaper article.

> Every embedded video comes from a channel approved for School Launch: lingoni GERMAN (friendly teachers from Germany whose short A1 lessons are the workhorse of the older grades), GermanPod101 (clear vocabulary, verb and conversation videos) and Sing mit mir – Kinderlieder (traditional German songs with the words on screen). The videos play in YouTube's privacy-enhanced player. Some channels close with an invitation to subscribe or to visit their website; you can stop the video when the lesson's part ends. You will hear small differences between speakers from Germany, Austria and Switzerland; all are good German. 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 5 (about ages 10–11) who read independently. No earlier German is needed: the course begins with the sounds and builds from there, though a student who has done earlier grades of German will feel at home. A parent or teacher reads along, joins the speaking practice and checks the practice sentences. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, index cards, pencil, crayons and household things. Families who speak German at home use the same lessons with the *At home in German* notes.

How to use this course

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 30–40 minutes. Session 1 is the warm-up, the video, the teaching and the picture study (in the first lesson of each unit). Session 2 is the activity and the German notebook. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice sentences and a recitation: the student says the week's German out loud to 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.** German is learned out loud, a few minutes a day. Open every session by saying the chants learned so far (ich bin, du bist, er ist…). Five minutes of cheerful chanting beats an hour of silent staring.
3. **Story, then how German works, then doing.** The core ideas are written to be read aloud or read by the student. *The story* tells what happened; *How German works* explains the pattern; *Say it out loud* gives the sounds; *Try it* explains the activity. After each paragraph, ask the student to tell it back.
4. **Flashcards.** Every lesson adds new German words. Make a flashcard for each one (German on the front, English on the back) and write every noun with its der, die or das and a capital letter: the little word is part of the word. Many families color-code them: blue for der, red for die, green for das.

5. **The word list.** The quarter teaches 60 words and phrases, in this order. Unit 1: die Sprache, verwandt, der Vetter, das Wasser, der Apfel, danken, das Geschenk, das Gift, bekommen, also, auch, bald. Unit 2: der Artikel, das Nomen, die Staffelei, die Palette, der Pinsel, das Fenster, das Mädchen, die Zeitung, die Freiheit, die Freundschaft, das Brötchen, die Mehrzahl. Unit 3: spielen, singen, hören, lernen, wohnen, die Flöte, die Stelle, heute, jetzt, dann, morgen, der Abend. Unit 4: sein, ich bin, du bist, er ist, wir sind, ihr seid, jung, fröhlich, traurig, schnell, langsam, ziemlich. Unit 5: die Frage, wer, was, wo, wann, warum, woher, wohin, wie viel, wie viele, welcher, doch.
6. **The German notebook.** Use any notebook for the whole quarter: vocabulary, sound rules, charts, translations and copywork. Date every page.
7. **Write it the German way.** Every German noun begins with a capital letter, and the umlauts (ä, ö, ü) and the ß are part of the spelling. If you must type without them, write ae, oe, ue and ss.
8. **Unit review and unit challenge.** Each unit ends with a short review (25 points), which may be done orally, and a unit challenge. Keep the challenge work in a folder.
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

Vettern: Englisch und Deutsch

Why English and German are cousins: the shared family words (Vater, Mutter, Haus, Hand), the sound shifts that turn English t into German z and English p into German pf, the false friends that trick learners, and Hans Holbein, the German painter who worked at the English court, with his double portrait The Ambassadors and its open German hymnbook.

1.1 Wasser und Water

1.2 Falsche Freunde

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

Der, die, das

The three genders of German nouns, der, die and das, and the tricks that help you guess them (endings like -ung, -heit, -chen and -lein), ein and eine, the plural die, and the capital letter on every noun, with Georg Friedrich Kersting's bare, quiet painting of his friend Caspar David Friedrich at work in his studio.

2.1 Der, die, das

2.2 Das Mädchen

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

Verben

Regular German verbs in the present tense, spielen, singen, hören, lernen, with their endings -e, -st, -t, -en, -t, -en, and the golden rule of German word order, the verb in second place, with Adolph Menzel's candlelit flute concert of Frederick the Great and the call to be doers of the Word.

3.1 Ich spiele, du spielst

3.2 Das Verb an zweiter Stelle

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

sein und Adjektive

The irregular verb sein (to be), ich bin, du bist, er ist, wir sind, ihr seid, sie sind, and describing words with sehr, nicht, ziemlich and zu, with Albrecht Dürer's proud self-portrait at twenty-six, God's name I AM, and the Lord who looks on the heart rather than the outward appearance.

4.1 Ich bin, du bist

4.2 Alt und Jung

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

Fragen

Asking questions in German: the W-words wer, was, wo, wann, wie, warum, woher, wohin and wie viel, yes-or-no questions with the verb first, and answering in full sentences, with Caspar David Friedrich's chalk cliffs of Rügen, three travelers at the edge of the sea, and the great questions of Psalm 8 and of Jesus: Whom say ye that I am?

5.1 Wer? Was? Wo?

5.2 Woher? Wohin? Wie viel?

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 Wasser und Water: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 activity (sound-pattern detective chart) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet *Three sessions a week of 30–40 minutes. On the other days, use the week's words at home and review the flashcards.*
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 Falsche Freunde: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 activity (false-friend cartoons) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (my cousin-word dictionary)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 Der, die, das: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 activity (color-coded room) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 Das Mädchen: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 activity (shrink machine) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (the gender word wall)

WEEK	PLAN
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 Ich spiele, du spielst: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 activity (verb ending wheel) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 Das Verb an zweiter Stelle: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 activity (sentence trains) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (the family concert)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Ich bin, du bist: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 activity (sein mobile) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 Alt und Jung: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 activity (opposites flip book) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (a portrait in words)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 Wer? Was? Wo?: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 activity (question-word dice) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Woher? Wohin? Wie viel?: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 activity (german newspaper interview) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (the family interview)

Materials

German notebook (any notebook)

One for the quarter: vocabulary, sound rules, charts, translations and copywork.

Index cards and a box, bag or ring to keep them

For the flashcard deck that grows every lesson.

Pencil, colored pencils (blue, red and green for der, die and das) and a fine-tip marker

For charts, maps, posters and lettering.

Scissors, glue, tape and some poster board or taped printer paper
For the unit challenges.

Grading

Grades come mostly from the daily work: the recitations, the flashcard reviews, the notebook and the practice sentences, because a language is learned by steady, honest repetition. A student who speaks German out loud faithfully, keeps a neat notebook and corrects his or her own practice earns full credit.

PART	%
Recitation and flashcards (daily speaking, vocabulary reviews, reading aloud)	**30**
German notebook (dated pages, charts, translations)	**25**
Practice sentences (corrected with the answer key)	**15**
Unit reviews	**15**
Unit challenges	**15**

Scale: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79, D 60–69. Below 60: repeat the chants and practice with help.

- A practice sentence is right when the der, die or das is right, the noun has its capital letter and the verb ending agrees. Let the student use the notebook charts freely.
- Unit reviews may be done orally for a student who writes slowly; the parent writes down the answers.
- Pronunciation is graded on courage and consistency, not perfection. The ch, the ü and the German r arrive with practice.

A note to parents

You do not need to know German to teach this course. Every chart has its sounds written out, every German sentence has its translation in the answer, and the videos do the explaining a specialist would. Learn alongside your child, quiz each other with the flashcards, and let your child catch your mistakes.

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.

Why German? Because it is English's closest large cousin (Haus and house, Wasser and water, Vater and father), so it opens the oldest layer of English words; because it is the language of Bach and Handel's homeland, of Luther's Bible and of the printing press of Gutenberg; and because about a hundred million people speak it in the heart of Europe.

The stories are true stories of people and places from Germany, Austria and Switzerland, told cheerfully and honestly, with the focus on courage, faith and good work.

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 WASSER UND WATER

die Sprache
dee SHPRAH-khuh

die · language

language

verwandt
fehr-VAHNT

describing word

related

der Vetter
dehr FET-ter

der · family

cousin (old word)

das Wasser
dahs VAHS-ser

das · cousin word

water

der Apfel
dehr AHP-fel

der · cousin word

apple

danken
DAHN-ken

verb · cousin word

to thank

das Haus
dahs HOWS

das · cousin word

house

die Hand
dee HAHNT

die · cousin word

hand

der Vater
dehr FAH-ter

der · cousin word

father

die Mutter
dee MOOT-ter

die · cousin word

mother

1.2 FALSCHE FREUNDE

das Geschenk
dahs guh-SHENK

das · cousin trap

present; gift

das Gift
dahs GIFT

das · false friend

poison

bekommen
buh-KOM-men
verb · false friend
to get; to receive

also
AHL-zoh
false friend
so; therefore

auch
OWKH
little word
also; too

bald
BAHLT
false friend
soon

das Handy
dahs HEN-dee
das · false friend
cell phone

der Chef
dehr SHEF
der · false friend
boss

wer
VAIR
false friend
who

wo
VOH
false friend
where

2.1 DER, DIE, DAS

der Artikel
dehr ar-TEE-kel
der · grammar
article

das Nomen
dahs NOH-men
das · grammar
noun

die Staffelei
dee shtahf-fuh-LYE
die · art
easel

die Palette
dee pah-LET-tuh
die · art
palette

der Pinsel

dehr PIN-zel

der · art

paintbrush

das Fenster

dahs FEN-ster

das · house

window

männlich

MEN-likh

describing word

masculine

weiblich

VIBE-likh

describing word

feminine

sächlich

ZEKH-likh

describing word

neuter

die Tür

dee TÜR

die · house

door

2.2 DAS MÄDCHEN

das Mädchen

dahs MAYT-khen

das · people

girl

die Zeitung

dee TSY-toong

die · things

newspaper

die Freiheit

dee FRY-hite

die · ideas

freedom

die Freundschaft

dee FROYNT-shahft

die · ideas

friendship

das Brötchen

dahs BRÖT-khen

das · food

bread roll

die Mehrzahl

dee MARE-tsahl

die · grammar

plural

die Einzahl

dee INE-tsahl

die · grammar

singular

der Umlaut

dehr OOM-lowt

der · grammar

umlaut

die Haustür

dee HOWS-tür

die · compound

front door

der Handschuh

dehr HAHNT-shoo

der · compound

glove

3.1 ICH SPIELE, DU SPIELST

spielen

SHPEE-len

verb

to play

singen

ZING-en

verb

to sing

hören

HÖ-ren

verb

to hear; listen

lernen

LER-nen

verb

to learn

wohnen

VOH-nen

verb

to live (reside)

die Flöte

dee FLÖ-tuh

die · music

flute

das Verb

dahs VERP

das · grammar

verb

der Stamm

dehr SHTAHM

der · grammar

stem

die Endung

dee EN-doong

die · grammar

ending

ich spiele

ikh SHPEE-luh

verb form

I play

3.2 DAS VERB AN ZWEITER STELLE

die Stelle

dee SHTEL-luh

die · grammar

place; position

heute

HOY-tuh

time word

today

jetzt

YETST

time word

now

dann

DAHN

time word

then

morgen

MOR-gen

time word

tomorrow

der Abend

dehr AH-bent

der · time

evening

am Montag

ahm MOHN-tahk

phrase

on Monday

ja

YAH

word

yes

nein

NINE

word

no

die Musik

dee moo-ZEEK

die · noun

music

4.1 ICH BIN, DU BIST

sein
ZINE

verb

to be

ich bin
ikh BIN

sein

I am

du bist
doo BIST

sein

you are

er ist
air IST

sein

he is

wir sind
veer ZINT

sein

we are

ihr seid
eer ZITE

sein

you (all) are

sie sind
zee ZINT

verb form

they are

die Geschwister
dee guh-SHVIS-ter

die · family

brothers and sisters

groß
GROHS

describing word

tall, big

lang
LAHNG

describing word

long

4.2 ALT UND JUNG

jung
YOONG

adjective

young

fröhlich
FRÖ-likh

adjective

happy; cheerful

traurig

TROW-rikh

adjective

sad

schnell

SHNELL

adjective

fast

langsam

LAHNG-zahm

adjective

slow

ziemlich

TSEEM-likh

little word

rather; quite

alt

AHLT

describing word

old

sehr

ZAIR

word

very

stark

SHTARK

describing word

strong

schwach

SHVAHKH

describing word

weak

5.1 WER? WAS? WO?

die Frage

dee FRAH-guh

die · grammar

question

wer

VAIR

question word

who

was

VAHS

question word

what

wo

VOH

question word

where

wann
VAHN
question word
when

warum
vah-ROOM
question word
why

wie
VEE
question word
how

wohnen
VOH-nen
verb
to live, dwell

das Schiff
dahs SHIF
das · noun
ship

das Meer
dahs MAIR
das · noun
sea

5.2 WOHER? WOHIN? WIE VIEL?

woher
voh-HAIR
question word
where from

wohin
voh-HIN
question word
where to

wie viel
vee FEEL
question word
how much

wie viele
vee FEE-luh
question word
how many

welcher
VEL-kher
question word
which

doch
DOKH
little word
yes (after a negative question)

welche
VEL-khuh
question word
which (die words)

welches
VEL-khes
question word
which (das words)

nach Hause
nahkh HOW-zuh
phrase
home (going home)

das Interview
dahs IN-ter-vyoo
das · noun
interview

UNIT 1

Vettern: Englisch und Deutsch

In Lesson 1.1 your child discovers that English and German grew from the same old Germanic family, finds dozens of cousin words (Wasser, Apfel, Buch, Garten), learns the sound patterns that link them, and studies Hans Holbein's great painting The Ambassadors, made in London by a German painter.

In Lesson 1.2 your child meets the false friends, words that look English but mean something else (das Gift is poison, bekommen is to get, also is so), and learns German words that English borrowed: Kindergarten, Rucksack, Pretzel. The unit ends with a cousin-word dictionary.

PREREQUISITES

- None. Grades K–4 German help but are not needed.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can explain why English and German are related.
- ☐ I can find twenty German–English cousin words.
- ☐ I can use three sound patterns to guess German words.
- ☐ I can name five false friends and their real meanings.

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.
- **Forvo**: Free pronunciation library: hear any German word said by native speakers (link only).

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	**Wasser und Water**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
1.2	**Falsche Freunde**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 1 review

Answer each question. The test is worth 25 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Write the English cousins of Wasser, Apfel, Buch, Haus and Hand.

2. **5 pts**
   Complete the patterns: English t often becomes German ___ (as in ten / zehn); English p often becomes German ___ (as in apple / Apfel).

3. **5 pts**
   Give the real meanings of das Gift, bekommen, also and der Rat.

4. **5 pts**
   Name three German words used in English.

5. **5 pts**
   Who painted The Ambassadors, and what German book lies open in it?

ANSWER KEY

1. Water, apple, book, house, hand.
2. z (or tz/ss); pf (or f).
3. Poison; to get or receive; so or therefore; advice or council.
4. For example kindergarten, rucksack, pretzel (hamburger, angst, wanderlust, noodle).
5. Hans Holbein the Younger; a Lutheran hymnbook.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: MY COUSIN-WORD DICTIONARY

Make an illustrated dictionary of at least twenty-five German–English cousin words, grouped by the sound pattern that links them (t/z, p/pf, d/t, th/d, v/b and so on), plus a page of at least six false friends with funny drawings showing the mistake. Present five entries to your family and explain the pattern.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Cousins	At least twenty-five correct pairs.
Patterns	Groups words by at least four sound patterns.
False friends	At least six, with real meanings.
Presentation	Explains the patterns clearly.

UNIT 1 · VETTERN: ENGLISCH UND DEUTSCH · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.1 Wasser und Water

OBJECTIVES

- Explain why English and German are related.
- Find cousin words in German.
- Use sound patterns to guess German words.
- Study Holbein's The Ambassadors.

> **Warm-up.** Say these German words out loud and guess what they mean: Hand, Finger, Haus, Garten, Wasser, Apfel, Buch, Milch. How many did you guess? Why do you think they are so easy?

WATCH

Learn the most common German-English cognates - A2 [with Niko]

lingoni GERMAN · 9:21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TAeQNK_oAY

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Keep a list of every cousin word you hear, and compare lists after the video.

Note: A lingoni lesson, about nine minutes, on the most common words that are alike in German and English.

KEY TERMS

verwandt (fehr-VAHNT)
Related, as family.

der Vetter (dehr FET-ter)
The cousin (an old word; today usually der Cousin).

die Sprache (dee SHPRAH-khuh)
The language.

germanisch (gehr-MAH-nish)
Germanic: of the old family of languages that includes German, English, Dutch and the Scandinavian languages.

Englisch (ENG-lish)
English (the language).

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 Sprache
dee SHPRAH-khuh
die · language
language

verwandt
fehr-VAHNT
describing word
related

der Vetter
dehr FET-ter
der · family
cousin (old word)

das Wasser
dahs VAHS-ser
das · cousin word
water

der Apfel
dehr AHP-fel
der · cousin word
apple

danken
DAHN-ken
verb · cousin word
to thank

das Haus
dahs HOWS
das · cousin word
house

die Hand
dee HAHNT
die · cousin word
hand

der Vater
dehr FAH-ter
der · cousin word
father

die Mutter
dee MOOT-ter
die · cousin word
mother

CORE IDEAS

The story. Hans Holbein the Younger was born in Augsburg in southern Germany and trained in his father's workshop. He became the finest portrait painter of his age and went to England, where he became court painter to King Henry VIII. In 1533 he painted two Frenchmen visiting London: on the left Jean de Dinteville, the ambassador, in a pink satin shirt and a fur-lined coat; on the right his friend Georges de Selve, a bishop, in a long dark robe. Between them is a two-shelf table covered with the learning of their day: a globe of the stars, sundials and instruments for measuring time and the heavens; below, a globe of the earth, a lute with one broken

string, a case of flutes, an arithmetic book, and a hymnbook lying open. The hymnbook is in German! It shows Martin Luther's translation of the hymn Come, Holy Ghost, and his hymn on the Ten Commandments. Across the floor stretches a strange gray shape. Look at it from the side, close to the picture's right edge, and it becomes a skull, a reminder that every life ends. In the top left corner, half-hidden behind the green curtain, hangs a small crucifix: Christ is the answer to death.

A family of languages. About 1,500 years ago, Germanic tribes called the Angles and the Saxons sailed from what is now northern Germany and Denmark to Britain. Their language became Old English. The tribes who stayed behind spoke the languages that became German and Dutch. That is why English and German are cousins: **Vater** (father), **Mutter** (mother), **Bruder** (brother), **Haus** (house), **Hand**, **Finger**, **Gras** (grass), **Buch** (book).

Sound patterns. Long ago, German changed some sounds, so the cousins look a little different. English **t** often became German **z, tz or ss**: ten/zehn, sit/sitzen, water/Wasser, eat/essen. English **p** became **pf or f**: apple/Apfel, pound/Pfund, ship/Schiff. English **d** became **t**: day/Tag, door/Tür. English **th** became **d**: thank/danken, three/drei, thing/Ding. English **k** sometimes became **ch**: book/Buch, make/machen. Learn the patterns and you can guess hundreds of words!

PICTURE STUDY



The Ambassadors, Hans Holbein the Younger, 1533 · Oil on oak panel · National Gallery, London

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Holbein painted every thread of the rug, every fur hair and every brass mark with amazing precision. The two men are rich, young and learned, surrounded by the science and music of their day. But the skull across the floor and the hidden crucifix remind us that riches and learning do not last forever, and that only Christ conquers death.

Look closely

- Find the globe of the stars and the globe of the earth.
- Find the lute. What is wrong with it?
- Find the open hymnbook.
- Find the small crucifix in the corner.

Talk about it

1. Why do you think Holbein painted a skull that you can see only from the side?
2. What do you think Holbein wanted people to remember when they saw this painting?

ACTIVITY

Sound-pattern detective chart

Make a chart of cousin words sorted by their sound patterns.

You will need

- A large sheet of paper divided into five columns
- A German–English dictionary or online dictionary
- Colored markers

Steps

1. Label the columns t → z/ss, p → pf/f, d → t, th → d, k → ch.
2. Find at least four German–English pairs for each column.
3. Write each pair with the changed letters in a bright color: Wasser – water.
4. Add a column of words that are exactly the same: Hand, Finger, Butter, Name.
5. Quiz a family member: Can you guess what Pfeffer means?

Tips

- Add Dutch words to some pairs to see a third cousin: water, appel, boek.
- Draw a family tree of the Germanic languages.

Check your work

☐ My chart has at least twenty pairs in the right columns.

☐ I can explain each pattern.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write the five sound patterns with two examples each. List ten words that are the same in both languages.

> **From history.** Holbein painted the most famous portraits of King Henry VIII, and he died in London in 1543. Many of his drawings of the English court are kept at Windsor Castle.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, hunt for cousin words together in a German children's Bible: Vater, Mutter, Brot, Wasser, Licht.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Guess the German word for to sit.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Pattern: English t becomes z or tz.
2. German verbs end in -en.

Answer: Sitzen.

Example 2. What English word is the cousin of Tag?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Pattern: German t comes from English d.
2. Tag: d-ay.

Answer: Day.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does Wasser mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Water.

2. Easy What does Buch mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Book.

3. Easy What does Garten mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Garden.

4. **Medium** Use a pattern to guess Pfeffer.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Pepper (p → pf).

5. **Medium** Use a pattern to guess danken.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   To thank (th → d).

6. **Hard** Explain why English and German share so many words.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Both come from the old Germanic languages; the Angles and Saxons brought their language from northern Germany and Denmark to Britain, where it became English.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking German comes from English, or English from German. They are cousins, both from an older Germanic language.
- Saying Wasser with an English w. German w says v: VAHS-ser.

> **Make it a game · Cousin or not?.** A parent says a German word. Shout Vetter! if it has an English cousin (Milch, Schiff, Haus) and Nein! if it does not (Tisch, Stuhl, Mädchen). Give the cousin word for a bonus point.

> **Scripture.** "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech." (Genesis 11:1, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *Es hatte aber alle Welt einerlei Zunge und Sprache.* Before the tower of Babel, the whole earth had one language. When people proudly tried to build a tower to heaven, God confused their language and scattered them. All the languages of the world, and their families, have a history that goes back to God's work.

1.2 Falsche Freunde

OBJECTIVES

- Name five false friends and their real meanings.
- Name German words borrowed by English.
- Avoid common mix-ups.

> **Warm-up.** If a German friend says Ich bekomme ein Geschenk, does he become a present? If a German label says Gift, is it a present? Today you learn the words that trick you.

WATCH

What Are Some of the Most Common “False Friends” in German?

Learn German with GermanPod101.com · 3:24

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Write down each false friend from the video with its real meaning.

Note: A GermanPod101 lesson, about three minutes, on the most common false friends in German.

KEY TERMS

falsche Freunde (FAHL-shuh FROYN-duh)
False friends: words that look alike but mean different things.

bekommen (buh-KOM-men)
To get; to receive (to become is werden).

das Gift (dahs GIFT)
Poison (a present is das Geschenk).

also (AHL-zoh)
So; therefore (also is auch).

das Lehnwort (dahs LANE-vort)

The loanword: a word borrowed from another language.

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 Geschenk

dahs guh-SHENK

das · cousin trap

present; gift

das Gift

dahs GIFT

das · false friend

poison

bekommen

buh-KOM-men

verb · false friend

to get; to receive

also

AHL-zoh

false friend

so; therefore

auch

OWKH

little word

also; too

bald

BAHLT

false friend

soon

das Handy

dahs HEN-dee

das · false friend

cell phone

der Chef

dehr SHEF

der · false friend

boss

wer

VAIR

false friend

who

wo

VOH

false friend

where

CORE IDEAS

False friends. Some German words look like English words but mean something else. **das Gift** means poison; a present is **das Geschenk**. **bekommen** means to get: Ich bekomme einen Brief. **also** means so or therefore; also is **auch**. **der Rat** means advice; a rat is **die Ratte**. **das Handy** is a cell phone. **wer** means who, and **wo** means where. **bald** means soon. **der Chef** is the boss.

Why they happen. Sometimes the cousin words drifted apart over the centuries. Gift once meant something given in both languages; in German it came to mean a deadly gift, poison. Sometimes German borrowed an English-sounding word and used it its own way, like Handy.

German words in English. English has borrowed many German words: **kindergarten** (children's garden), **rucksack** (back-sack), **pretzel** (Brezel), **hamburger** (from the city Hamburg), **frankfurter**, **noodle** (Nudel), **wanderlust**, **dachshund** (badger-dog), **poltergeist** and **angst**.

ACTIVITY

False-friend cartoons

Draw funny cartoons showing what happens when you trust a false friend.

You will need

- Paper folded into four boxes
- Pencils and colored markers

Steps

1. Choose four false friends: Gift, bekommen, Rat, bald.
2. In each box draw the mistake: a girl wrapping a bottle of poison as a birthday present.
3. Under the drawing write the German sentence and the real meaning: Das ist Gift! = That is poison!
4. Show your cartoons and explain the joke in German and English.

Tips

- Make a fifth cartoon with a German loanword in English: a dachshund wearing a rucksack.
- Make a matching game of false friends and their meanings.

Check your work

☐ My cartoons show four false friends correctly.

☐ I can explain each real meaning.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, make a two-column list: false friend and real meaning (at least eight). List six German words used in English.

> **From history.** Friedrich Fröbel opened the first Kindergarten in Bad Blankenburg in 1840. German immigrants brought the idea to America, where the first kindergarten opened in Watertown, Wisconsin, in 1856, taught in German.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, share the false friends that once tripped you or your family, and make a family list on the fridge.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. A German friend says Ich bekomme ein Buch. What does he mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. bekommen is a false friend.
2. It means to get.

Answer: I am getting (receiving) a book.

Example 2. How do you say present in German?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Not Gift; that is poison!

Answer: Das Geschenk.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does das Gift mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Poison.

2. Easy What does bald mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Soon.

3. Easy What is a Handy?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A cell phone.

4. Medium How do you say also (too) in German?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Auch.

5. Medium What does dachshund mean word by word?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Badger-dog.

6. Hard Translate: Also bekomme ich bald ein Geschenk.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   So I will get a present soon.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Ich bekomme müde for I become tired. Say Ich werde müde.
- Using also to mean too. Say auch: Ich auch!

> **Make it a game · Freund oder Feind?.** A parent says a German word that looks English. Hold up a green card if it means the same (Hand, Name, Arm) and a red card if it is a false friend (Gift, bald, also). For red cards, give the real meaning.

> **Scripture.** "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *steht fester bei denn ein Bruder* Some friends are false and some are true. Solomon wrote of a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Jesus is that faithful friend to all who trust Him.

UNIT 2

Der, die, das

In Lesson 2.1 your child learns that every German noun is der, die or das, that every noun starts with a capital letter, and that ein goes with der and das, eine with die. Kersting's painting of Friedrich's nearly empty studio gives a room full of nouns to sort.

In Lesson 2.2 your child learns the endings that give away the gender, -chen and -lein (das), -ung, -heit, -keit (die), -er for people and tools (der), and that every plural uses die. Jesus' word to the little girl, Mägdlein, shows -lein in the Bible. The unit ends with a gender-color word wall.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can explain the three genders and the capital letter rule.
- ☐ I can use ein and eine correctly.
- ☐ I can guess gender from five endings.
- ☐ I know that every plural takes die.

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.
- **Forvo**: Free pronunciation library: hear any German word said by native speakers (link only).

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, die, das**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
2.2	**Das Mädchen**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 2 review

Answer each question. The test is worth 25 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Write der, die or das: ___ Fenster, ___ Tür, ___ Stuhl, ___ Mädchen, ___ Zeitung.

2. **5 pts**
   Write ein or eine: ___ Tisch, ___ Lampe, ___ Buch, ___ Palette, ___ Pinsel.

3. **5 pts**

   Which gender do these endings show? -chen, -ung, -heit, -lein, -keit.

4. **5 pts**

   Write the plural article for der Stuhl, die Lampe and das Buch.

5. **5 pts**

   Describe Kersting's painting of Friedrich in two sentences.

ANSWER KEY

1. Das Fenster, die Tür, der Stuhl, das Mädchen, die Zeitung.
2. Ein Tisch, eine Lampe, ein Buch, eine Palette, ein Pinsel.
3. -chen das; -ung die; -heit die; -lein das; -keit die.
4. Die (die Stühle, die Lampen, die Bücher).
5. For example: Friedrich sits on a chair and paints at an easel. The studio is almost empty, with one window showing only the sky.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE GENDER WORD WALL

Make a word wall in three colors (for example blue for der, red for die, green for das) with at least forty nouns, each with a picture. Add a fourth section for the gender endings with three examples each. Use the wall to teach a family member ten words and test them: der, die or das?

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Nouns	At least forty nouns with the correct article.
Colors	Every noun is in the right color.
Endings	At least five endings with examples.
Teaching	Teaches and tests ten words clearly.

2.1 Der, die, das

OBJECTIVES

- Explain the three genders.
- Use the capital letter rule for nouns.
- Use ein and eine.
- Study Kersting's Friedrich in His Studio.

> **Warm-up.** In English, we say the for everything: the man, the woman, the table. Do you know any language that has more than one word for the? Today you learn German's three.

WATCH

How to learn German articles with easy words for beginners! With Jenny and Jacqueline!

lingoni GERMAN · 7:35

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDuOQ3zhNHs

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Sort every noun you hear into three columns: der, die and das.

Note: A lingoni lesson, about seven and a half minutes, on learning German articles with easy words.

KEY TERMS

der Artikel (dehr ar-TEE-kel)
The article (the word for the or a).

das Nomen (dahs NOH-men)
The noun.

männlich (MEN-likh)
Masculine (der).

weiblich (VIBE-likh)
Feminine (die).

sächlich (ZEKH-likh)
Neuter (das).

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 Artikel
dehr ar-TEE-kel
der · grammar
article

das Nomen
dahs NOH-men
das · grammar
noun

die Staffelei
dee shtahf-fuh-LYE
die · art
easel

die Palette
dee pah-LET-tuh
die · art
palette

der Pinsel
dehr PIN-zel
der · art
paintbrush

das Fenster
dahs FEN-ster
das · house
window

männlich
MEN-likh
describing word
masculine

weiblich
VIBE-likh
describing word
feminine

sächlich
ZEKH-likh
describing word
neuter

die Tür
dee TÜR
die · house
door

CORE IDEAS

The story. Georg Friedrich Kersting was a friend of Caspar David Friedrich, the painter of the wanderer above the fog. In 1811 he painted Friedrich at work in his studio in Dresden. The room is almost empty: bare green walls, a bare wooden floor, a door, a chair, an easel and a little table with a few bottles. Two wooden palettes, a triangle and a T-square hang on the wall. Friedrich has covered the lower half of the

window with shutters, so that only the sky and a white cloud show. He sits quietly, palette and brushes in hand, leaning on a long stick to steady his hand as he paints. Friedrich wanted nothing in his studio to distract him from the picture in his mind.

Three genders. Every German noun is **der** (masculine), **die** (feminine) or **das** (neuter). For people it usually matches: der Mann, die Frau. For things, it is part of the word and must be learned: **der Stuhl** (chair), **die Tür** (door), **das Fenster** (window). So always learn the article with the noun, like a first name and a last name. And remember: every German noun starts with a capital letter, wherever it is in the sentence.

ein and eine. For a or an, use **ein** with der and das nouns and **eine** with die nouns: **ein Stuhl, ein Fenster, eine Tür.** In Friedrich's studio: **Da ist ein Stuhl, eine Staffelei** (easel), **ein Tisch, ein Fenster und eine Tür.**

PICTURE STUDY



Caspar David Friedrich in His Studio, Georg Friedrich Kersting, 1811 · Oil on canvas · Hamburger Kunsthalle

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Kersting paints the empty room with the same quiet care as the painter. The strong light from the window falls on the canvas and on Friedrich's face and hand: everything in the picture points to the work he is doing. The emptiness feels peaceful, like a place of prayer.

Look closely

- Find the easel and the canvas.
- What can you see through the window?
- Find the two palettes on the wall.
- Name five things in the room in German with der, die or das.

Talk about it

1. Why do you think Friedrich covered the bottom of the window?
2. How is your favorite place to work different from this studio?

ACTIVITY

Color-coded room

Label everything in a room with notes colored by gender.

You will need

- Sticky notes in three colors (or white paper and three markers)
- A room in your home

Steps

1. Choose a color for der, one for die and one for das.
2. Look up the gender of at least fifteen objects in the room.
3. Write each noun with its article on the right color and stick it on the object.
4. Walk a family member through the room: Das ist ein Stuhl. Das ist eine Lampe.

Tips

- Do the same for Kersting's painting: draw it and label it in color.
- After a week, remove the notes and test yourself.

Check your work

☐ At least fifteen objects are labeled with the right article and color.

☐ I can say ein or eine for each.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, make three columns: der, die, das. Write at least eight nouns in each, all with capital letters.

> **From history.** In 1813 Kersting and Friedrich's friends joined the volunteer Lützow Free Corps to fight Napoleon. Its black, red and gold uniform colors later became the colors of the German flag.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, play a quick der-die-das quiz at every meal with the things on the table.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Is it der, die or das Fenster? And ein or eine?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Look it up: das Fenster.
2. Das words take ein.

Answer: Das Fenster; ein Fenster.

Example 2. Say There is a door and a window.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Door: die Tür, so eine.
2. There is: da ist.

Answer: Da ist eine Tür und ein Fenster.

PRACTICE

1. Easy How many genders do German nouns have?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Three: der, die, das.

2. Easy What letter does every German noun start with?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A capital letter.

3. Easy Is it ein or eine Lampe?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Eine Lampe.

4. Medium Say the easel and an easel.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Die Staffelei; eine Staffelei.

5. Medium Why should you learn the article with every noun?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Because gender is part of the word and usually cannot be guessed from the meaning.

6. Hard Name four things in Friedrich's studio with ein or eine.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ein Stuhl, eine Staffelei, ein Tisch, ein Fenster (eine Tür, eine Palette).

COMMON MISTAKES

- Writing nouns with small letters. Every noun is capitalized: das Fenster.
- Thinking things are always das. Things can be der, die or das: der Stuhl, die Tür, das Fenster.

> **Make it a game · Der-die-das corners.** Label three corners of a room der, die and das. A parent calls a noun: Tür! Run to the right corner. Wrong corner? Do five jumping jacks and try again.

> **Scripture.** "And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof." (Genesis 2:19, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *brachte er sie zu dem Menschen, daß er sähe, wie er sie nennte* God brought every animal to Adam to see what he would call them, and whatever Adam called each creature, that was its name. Naming things is one of the first jobs God gave to man.

UNIT 2 · DER, DIE, DAS · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.2 Das Mädchen

OBJECTIVES

- Guess gender from five endings.
- Use die for every plural.
- Learn some common plural forms.

> **Warm-up.** Here is a puzzle: in German, the word for girl, Mädchen, is not die but das. Why would that be? Today you find out.

WATCH

Finally Master German Articles! - The Neutral Article "das" - A1 [with Jenny]

lingoni GERMAN · 3:56

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Write down every das word in the video and circle any with -chen or -lein.

Note: A lingoni lesson, about four minutes, on the neuter article das and the endings that go with it.

KEY TERMS

-chen / -lein

Little: these endings make a noun small, and always das (das Mädchen, das Büchlein).

-ung, -heit, -keit

Endings that are always die (die Zeitung, die Freiheit, die Freundlichkeit).

die Mehrzahl (dee MARE-tsahl)

The plural.

die Einzahl (dee INE-tsahl)

The singular.

der Umlaut (dehr OOM-lowt)

The two dots on ä, ö, ü.

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 Mädchen

dahs MAYT-khen

das · people

girl

die Zeitung

dee TSY-toong

die · things

newspaper

die Freiheit

dee FRY-hite

die · ideas

freedom

die Freundschaft

dee FROYNT-shahft

die · ideas

friendship

das Brötchen

dahs BRÖT-khen

das · food

bread roll

die Mehrzahl

dee MARE-tsahl

die · grammar

plural

die Einzahl

dee INE-tsahl

die · grammar

singular

der Umlaut

dehr OOM-lowt

der · grammar

umlaut

die Haustür

dee HOWS-tür

die · compound

front door

der Handschuh

dehr HAHNT-shoo

der · compound

glove

CORE IDEAS

Endings that tell. **-chen and -lein** mean little and are always das: das Häuschen (little house), das Brötchen (little bread, a roll), das Kätzchen (kitten), das Büchlein (little book). Das Mädchen once meant little maid, so it is das, even though a girl is a girl! **-ung, -heit, -keit, -schaft** are always die: die Zeitung (newspaper), die Freiheit (freedom), die Freundlichkeit (kindness), die Freundschaft (friendship). **-er** for a person or tool that does something is usually der: der Lehrer (teacher), der Maler (painter), der Computer.

Plurals. All plurals take **die**, whatever the gender: der Stuhl → die Stühle, die Lampe → die Lampen, das Buch → die Bücher. The plural ending must be learned with the noun. Common patterns: many die words add -n or -en (die Blumen); many der words add -e, often with an Umlaut (die Stühle); many short das words add -er with an Umlaut (die Bücher, die Häuser); -chen and -er words do not change (die Mädchen, die Maler).

Compound nouns. German joins nouns together, and the last part decides the gender: **das Haus + die Tür = die Haustür** (front door). **die Hand + der Schuh = der Handschuh** (glove). **die Kinder + der Garten = der Kindergarten.**

ACTIVITY

Shrink machine

Build a paper shrink machine that turns nouns into das words with -chen.

You will need

- A cereal box or shoebox
- Paper strips, scissors, markers
- Tape

Steps

1. Cut a slot in each side of the box. Decorate it as a Schrumpfmaschine (shrink machine).
2. Write ten nouns on strips: der Hund, die Katze, das Haus, der Baum…
3. Feed a strip in one side and pull out a new strip from the other side, written with -chen: das Hündchen, das Kätzchen, das Häuschen, das Bäumchen.
4. Notice the Umlaut that often appears.

Tips

- Make a second machine for -ung words: wohnen → die Wohnung.
- Shrink the people in your family: das Brüderchen, das Schwesterchen.

Check your work

- ☐ My machine turns at least ten nouns into -chen words.
- ☐ Every -chen word has das.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, list the das endings and the die endings with three examples each. Write ten nouns with their plurals.

> **From history.** The Brothers Grimm began the great German Dictionary, Deutsches Wörterbuch, in 1838. It was so huge that it was not finished until 1961, more than a hundred years after their deaths.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, read a page of a German book together and hunt for -chen, -ung and -heit words.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Der, die or das Freiheit?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Look at the ending: -heit.
2. -heit is always die.

Answer: Die Freiheit.

Example 2. What is the plural article of das Haus, and the plural?

▼ **Show solution**

1. All plurals take die.
2. Short das word: -er with Umlaut.

Answer: Die Häuser.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Der, die or das Mädchen?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Das Mädchen.

2. Easy Der, die or das Zeitung?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Die Zeitung.

3. Easy What article do all plurals take?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Die.

4. Medium Make a little cat with -chen.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Das Kätzchen.

5. Medium What is die Haustür, and why is it die?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The front door; the last part, die Tür, decides.

6. Hard Why is Mädchen a das word?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Because it ends in -chen, the little ending, which is always das; it once meant little maid.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying die Mädchen for one girl. One girl is das Mädchen; die Mädchen is the plural.
- Thinking the plural keeps der or das. All plurals take die.

> **Make it a game · Ending bingo.** Make bingo cards with endings: -chen, -lein, -ung, -heit, -keit, -er. A parent reads nouns: die Zeitung! Cover the matching ending and say its article. First full row wins.

> **Scripture.** “And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.” (Mark 5:41, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *Mägdlein, ich sage dir stehe auf!* Jesus took the dead girl by the hand and said, Talitha cumi: Damsel, arise. Luther translated it Mägdlein, little girl, with the -lein ending. She rose up at once, for Jesus has power over death.

UNIT 3

Verben

In Lesson 3.1 your child learns that German verbs end in -en, finds the stem, and adds the six present-tense endings: ich spiele, du spielst, er spielt, wir spielen, ihr

spielt, sie spielen. Adolph Menzel's painting of a king playing the flute for his court is full of people doing things.

In Lesson 3.2 your child learns the most important rule of German sentences: the verb is always the second idea. Heute spiele ich Flöte. Am Abend singen wir. The unit ends with a family concert announced in German.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–2.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can find the stem of a regular verb.
- ☐ I can conjugate regular verbs in all six persons.
- ☐ I can put the verb in second place.
- ☐ I can describe what people are doing in a picture.

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.
- **Forvo**: Free pronunciation library: hear any German word said by native speakers (link only).

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	**Ich spiele, du spielst**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
3.2	**Das Verb an zweiter Stelle**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 3 review

Answer each question. The test is worth 25 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Write all six forms of spielen.

2. **5 pts**
   Fill in: ich lern__, du sing__, er hör__, wir mach__, ihr wohn__.

3. **5 pts**
   Rewrite with Heute first: Ich spiele Klavier heute.

4. **5 pts**
   Write: She plays the flute. We are singing a song.

5. **5 pts**
   In Menzel's painting, who is playing the flute, and where?

ANSWER KEY

1. ich spiele, du spielst, er/sie/es spielt, wir spielen, ihr spielt, sie/Sie spielen.
2. lerne, singst, hört, machen, wohnt.
3. Heute spiele ich Klavier.
4. Sie spielt Flöte. Wir singen ein Lied.
5. King Frederick the Great, in his palace of Sanssouci at Potsdam.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE FAMILY CONCERT

Organize a short family concert (singing, an instrument, or a recording) and be the announcer in German. Introduce each performer and say what they do: Jetzt spielt mein Bruder Klavier. Dann singen wir ein Lied. Use at least eight sentences with six different verbs, and start at least three sentences with a time word (Jetzt, Dann, Zuerst, Am Ende).

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Verbs	Uses at least six regular verbs with correct endings.
Word order	Puts the verb second, including after time words.
Variety	Uses at least three persons (ich, er, wir…).
Delivery	Announces clearly and confidently.

UNIT 3 · VERBEN · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.1 Ich spiele, du spielst

OBJECTIVES

- Find the stem of a regular verb.
- Add the six present-tense endings.
- Study Menzel’s Flute Concert of Frederick the Great.

> **Warm-up.** Act out: I play, you play, he plays, we play. In English only he plays changes. In German, almost every person has its own ending. Let’s learn them.

WATCH

Learn Regular Verbs in the Present Tense in German - A1 [with Jenny]

lingoni GERMAN · 7:41

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDLwaO3WfjM

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Say each form with the teacher and write the endings in your notebook.

Note: A lingoni lesson, about seven and a half minutes, on regular verbs in the present tense.

KEY TERMS

das Verb (dahs VERP)
The verb (action word).

der Infinitiv (dehr IN-fee-nee-teef)
The infinitive: the dictionary form, ending in -en (spielen).

der Stamm (dehr SHTAHM)
The stem: the verb minus -en (spiel-).

die Endung (dee EN-doong)
The ending.

die Flöte (dee FLÖ-tuh)
The flute.

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.

spielen
SHPEE-len
verb
to play

singen
ZING-en
verb
to sing

hören
HÖ-ren
verb
to hear; listen

lernen
LER-nen
verb
to learn

wohnen
VOH-nen
verb
to live (reside)

die Flöte
dee FLÖ-tuh
die · music
flute

das Verb
dahs VERP
das · grammar
verb

der Stamm
dehr SHTAHM
der · grammar
stem

die Endung
dee EN-doong
die · grammar
ending

ich spiele
ikh SHPEE-luh
verb form
I play

CORE IDEAS

The story. Frederick the Great was king of Prussia in the 1700s. He was a soldier and a ruler, but he also loved music, played the flute every day, and wrote more than a hundred flute sonatas. In the evenings he gave concerts in the music room of his summer palace, Sanssouci, at Potsdam near Berlin. A hundred years later, Adolph Menzel painted such an evening. The king stands in the middle in a blue coat, playing his flute at a music stand. Candles glow in a crystal chandelier and on the music stands, and their light shines on the gold walls. At the harpsichord sits Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, son of Johann Sebastian Bach. Violinists and other string players play beside him, and at the far right stands the king's flute teacher, Johann Joachim Quantz. On the left, ladies and gentlemen in powdered wigs listen on pink sofas.

Stem and endings. Almost every German verb ends in **-en** in the dictionary: spielen (to play), singen (to sing), hören (to hear), lernen (to learn), machen (to do, make),

wohnen (to live). Take off -en to get the stem: spiel-. Then add the ending: **ich spiele, du spielst, er/sie/es spielt, wir spielen, ihr spielt, sie/Sie spielen.** Chant the endings: e, st, t, en, t, en.

One tense for two. German has no -ing form. **Ich spiele** means both I play and I am playing. **Der König spielt Flöte**: the king plays the flute, or is playing it. In the painting: **Der König spielt. Bach spielt Cembalo. Die Damen hören. Alle lauschen.** (All are listening.)

PICTURE STUDY



The Flute Concert of Frederick the Great at Sanssouci, Adolph Menzel, 1850–1852 · Oil on canvas · Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Menzel was a master of light. Look how the candles make bright spots on the music sheets, the faces and the floor, while the corners fade into shadow. Every person is doing something: playing, listening, leaning, watching. Menzel studied the real room at Sanssouci and the faces of the real people from old portraits to paint this scene a century later.

Look closely

- Find the king. What is he doing?
- Find the harpsichord and the man playing it.
- Find the chandelier. How many candles can you count?
- Find someone who is listening, not playing.

Talk about it

1. How does the candlelight change the mood of the painting?
2. Would you like to be at this concert? Why?

ACTIVITY

Verb ending wheel

Make a double wheel that matches persons with verb endings.

You will need

- Two paper plates of different sizes
- A paper fastener
- Markers

Steps

1. On the large plate, write the six persons around the edge: ich, du, er/sie/es, wir, ihr, sie/Sie.
2. On the small plate, write the six endings: -e, -st, -t, -en, -t, -en.
3. Fasten them together in the middle.
4. Write a verb stem in the center: spiel-, sing-, hör-, lern-.
5. Spin to match a person and an ending, and say the full form aloud.

Tips

- Add music verbs: spielen, singen, hören, üben (practice).
- Write a sentence for each spin.

Check your work

☐ My wheel matches each person to the right ending.

☐ I can conjugate four verbs with it.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write the endings chart. Conjugate spielen, singen and lernen in all six persons.

> **From history.** In 1747 Johann Sebastian Bach visited Frederick the Great at Potsdam. The king played him a theme, and Bach made it into a famous set of pieces called The Musical Offering.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, describe what each family member is doing during the day: Papa kocht, Mama liest, du spielst.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say You (one friend) are learning German.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Stem: lern-; du ending: -st.

Answer: Du lernst Deutsch.

Example 2. Say We hear the music.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Stem: hör-; wir ending: -en.
2. Music: die Musik.

Answer: Wir hören die Musik.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is the stem of machen?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Mach-.

2. Easy What is the ich ending?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   -e.

3. Easy What is the du ending?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   -st.

4. Medium Conjugate wohnen for er and ihr.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Er wohnt; ihr wohnt.

5. Medium Translate: Sie singen ein Lied (two meanings).

▼ **Show answer**

They sing a song / they are singing a song (or polite you sing).

6. Hard Describe three people in Menzel's painting with verbs.

▼ **Show answer**

Der König spielt Flöte. Bach spielt Cembalo. Die Damen hören zu.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Ich bin spielen for I am playing. German has no -ing form: Ich spiele.
- Forgetting the -st on du: du spielst.

> **Make it a game · Verb relay.** A parent calls a verb and a person: singen, wir! The first to say the right form (wir singen) and act it out wins a point. Go faster and faster.

> **Scripture.** "Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs." (Psalm 150:4, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *lobet ihn mit Saiten und Pfeifen!* The last psalm calls everyone to praise God with every instrument: drums, dancing, strings and pipes. Luther wrote Pfeifen, pipes or flutes. All music can be offered to God.

UNIT 3 · VERBEN · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.2 Das Verb an zweiter Stelle

OBJECTIVES

- Put the verb in second place in every statement.
- Start sentences with time words.
- Ask yes-or-no questions with the verb first.

> **Warm-up.** Which sounds right in English: Today I play the piano, or Today play I the piano? In German, the second one is right! Today you learn why.

WATCH

German Sentence Structure - Part 1: Verbs in Main Clauses - A1/A2 [with Jenny]

lingoni GERMAN · 4:13

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82mU6CLIql0

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Pause after each example and point to the verb. Count: is it in second place?

Note: A lingoni lesson, about four minutes, on where the verb goes in German main clauses.

KEY TERMS

die Stelle (dee SHTEL-luh)
The place; the position.

heute (HOY-tuh)
Today.

jetzt (YETST)
Now.

dann (DAHN)
Then.

am Abend (ahm AH-bent)
In the evening.

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 Stelle
dee SHTEL-luh
die · grammar
place; position

heute
HOY-tuh
time word
today

jetzt
YETST
time word
now

dann
DAHN
time word
then

morgen
MOR-gen
time word
tomorrow

der Abend
dehr AH-bent
der · time
evening

am Montag
ahm MOHN-tahk
phrase
on Monday

ja
YAH
word
yes

nein
NINE
word
no

die Musik
dee moo-ZEEK
die · noun
music

CORE IDEAS

The golden rule. In a German statement, the verb is always the **second idea.** Not the second word, the second idea: **Ich spiele Flöte.** (Ich is the first idea.) **Heute spiele ich Flöte.** (Heute is first, so the verb comes next and ich moves after it.) **Am Abend spielt der König Flöte.** (Am Abend is one idea of two words.)

Time words first. Germans love to start with time: **Jetzt** (now), **Heute** (today), **Morgen** (tomorrow), **Dann** (then), **Am Montag** (on Monday), **Am Abend** (in the evening). Each time, the verb jumps to second place and the subject follows it: **Dann singen wir.**

Yes-or-no questions. For a question you answer with ja or nein, put the verb first: **Spielst du Flöte? — Ja, ich spiele Flöte. Hört ihr die Musik? — Nein, wir hören nichts.**

ACTIVITY

Sentence trains

Build sentence trains with the verb always in the second car.

You will need

- Index cards or paper rectangles
- Markers in two colors
- Tape or string

Steps

1. Write verbs in red on cards: spiele, singt, hören. Write other words in black: ich, er, wir, heute, jetzt, Flöte, ein Lied.
2. Build a train: first car, red verb car second, then the rest.
3. Rebuild the same sentence with a different first car: Ich spiele heute Flöte. → Heute spiele ich Flöte.
4. Make five trains and read them aloud.

Tips

- Build question trains with the red car first.
- Time how fast you can rebuild a sentence.

Check your work

☐ Every train has the verb car in second place.

☐ I can rebuild each sentence two ways.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write five sentences starting with a time word. Underline the verb. Write three yes-or-no questions.

> **From history.** Mark Twain wrote a funny essay called The Awful German Language, complaining about German word order and long words. He still loved Germany, and he even gave a speech in German in Vienna.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, plan the next day aloud together, starting each sentence with a time word: Morgen gehen wir… Dann essen wir…

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Start with Am Montag: Wir lernen Deutsch am Montag.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Am Montag is one idea.
2. Verb second: lernen, then wir.

Answer: Am Montag lernen wir Deutsch.

Example 2. Make a question: Du hörst die Flöte.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Verb first.

Answer: Hörst du die Flöte?

PRACTICE

1. Easy Where does the verb go in a German statement?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   In second place (the second idea).

2. Easy What does jetzt mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Now.

3. Easy Where does the verb go in a yes-or-no question?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   First.

4. Medium Start with Heute: Ich spiele Fußball.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Heute spiele ich Fußball.

5. Medium Start with Dann: Wir singen ein Lied.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Dann singen wir ein Lied.

6. Hard Start with Am Abend: Der König spielt Flöte in Sanssouci.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Am Abend spielt der König Flöte in Sanssouci.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Heute ich spiele. The verb must be second: Heute spiele ich.
- Thinking second word instead of second idea: Am Abend counts as one.

> **Make it a game · Stand-up sentences.** Each player holds a word card. Line up to make a sentence, then the first person swaps with someone else: the verb must stay second! Read it aloud each time.

> **Scripture.** "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *Seid aber Täter des Worts und nicht Hörer allein* James wrote: be doers of the Word, and not hearers only. Verbs are action words, and faith shows itself in actions.

UNIT 4

Sein und Adjektive

In Lesson 4.1 your child learns all the forms of sein, the most important German verb, and uses it to describe people: Ich bin zwölf. Du bist groß. Er ist Maler. Dürer's self-portrait, with its inscription I was twenty-six years old, opens the unit.

In Lesson 4.2 your child learns twenty adjectives in pairs of opposites, alt/jung, groß/klein, lang/kurz, fröhlich/traurig, and makes them stronger or weaker with sehr, ziemlich, nicht and zu. The unit ends with a portrait described in German.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–3.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can say all six forms of sein.
- ☐ I can describe a person with sein and adjectives.
- ☐ I can name ten pairs of opposites.
- ☐ I can use sehr, ziemlich, nicht and zu.

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.
- **Forvo**: Free pronunciation library: hear any German word said by native speakers (link only).

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	**Ich bin, du bist**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
4.2	**Alt und Jung**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 4 review

Answer each question. The test is worth 25 points.

1. (5 pts)
   Write all six forms of sein.

2. (5 pts)
   Fill in: Wir ___ müde. Du ___ klug. Ihr ___ laut. Ich ___ hier. Sie ___ alt.

3. **5 pts**

   Write the opposites of alt, groß, lang, fröhlich and schnell.

4. **5 pts**

   Write: The house is very old. The soup is too hot. I am not tired.

5. **5 pts**

   How old was Dürer in his 1498 self-portrait, and how do we know?

ANSWER KEY

1. ich bin, du bist, er/sie/es ist, wir sind, ihr seid, sie/Sie sind.
2. sind, bist, seid, bin, ist/sind.
3. Jung (or neu), klein, kurz, traurig, langsam.
4. Das Haus ist sehr alt. Die Suppe ist zu heiß. Ich bin nicht müde.
5. Twenty-six; he wrote it on the painting.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: A PORTRAIT IN WORDS

Draw or paint a self-portrait (or a portrait of a family member) in the style of Dürer, with a window and a landscape behind. Then write and read aloud a description of at least ten sentences: Das bin ich. Ich bin elf Jahre alt. Meine Haare sind braun und kurz. Ich bin ziemlich groß. Include an inscription like Dürer's: Das malte ich… Ich war … Jahre alt.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
sein	Uses at least four forms of sein correctly.
Adjectives	Uses at least eight different adjectives.
Intensifiers	Uses sehr, ziemlich, nicht or zu.
Portrait	The picture and inscription are done with care.

4.1 Ich bin, du bist

OBJECTIVES

- Say all six forms of sein.
- Describe a person with sein.
- Study Dürer's Self-Portrait of 1498.

> **Warm-up.** Say in English: I am, you are, he is, we are, they are. The verb to be is the strangest verb in English. In German, sein is strange too. Let's learn it.

WATCH

SEIN in the Present Tense - Mastering German Verbs

Learn German with GermanPod101.com · 2:31

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nXjtgWPtfI

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Say each form of sein with the teacher, then make a sentence about yourself.

Note: A short GermanPod101 lesson, under three minutes, on the present tense of sein.

KEY TERMS

sein (ZINE)
To be.

ich bin (ikh BIN)
I am.

du bist (doo BIST)
You are.

wir sind (veer ZINT)
We are.

ihr seid (eer ZITE)
You (all) are.

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.

sein
ZINE
verb
to be

ich bin
ikh BIN
sein
I am

du bist
doo BIST
sein
you are

er ist
air IST
sein
he is

wir sind
veer ZINT
sein
we are

ihr seid
eer ZITE
sein
you (all) are

sie sind
zee ZINT
verb form
they are

die Geschwister
dee guh-SHVIS-ter
die · family
brothers and sisters

groß
GROHS
describing word
tall, big

lang
LAHNG
describing word
long

CORE IDEAS

The story. Albrecht Dürer of Nuremberg was the greatest German artist of his age. In 1498, the year he published his famous woodcuts of the Book of Revelation, he painted himself. He stands at a window, turned a little toward us, with long golden curls falling to his shoulders and a fine beard. He wears an elegant black-and-white striped cap with a tassel, a white shirt with a gold-embroidered neckline, a striped jacket, a brown cloak tied with a twisted cord, and soft gray gloves. Through the window we see mountains, a lake and green fields. Under the window he wrote in old German: Das malt ich nach meiner gestalt, ich was sex und zwenzig jor alt. In

today's German: **Das malte ich nach meiner Gestalt. Ich war sechsundzwanzig Jahre alt.** (I painted this after my own likeness. I was twenty-six years old.) Painters were usually treated as craftsmen; Dürer painted himself like a gentleman, to show that an artist's work is a noble calling.

The forms of sein. ich bin, du bist, er/sie/es ist, wir sind, ihr seid, sie sind, Sie sind. Learn them as a chant: bin, bist, ist, sind, seid, sind. Notice the cousins: English am/is and German bin/ist. Careful: **ihr seid** (you all are) sounds like **seit** (since) but is spelled with d.

Describing with sein. Ich bin elf Jahre alt. Du bist groß. Er ist Maler. (He is a painter: no ein for jobs.) **Dürer ist jung. Seine Haare sind lang und lockig.** (His hair is long and curly; Haare is plural, so sind.) **Wir sind Geschwister.**

PICTURE STUDY



Self-Portrait at Twenty-Six, Albrecht Dürer, 1498 · Oil on panel · Museo del Prado, Madrid

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Dürer paints every curl of his hair and every stripe of his clothes. He looks straight at us, calm and confident. The landscape window lets us see far into the distance, and the gloves show that he is a gentleman, not just a craftsman with paint on his hands.

Look closely

- How old was Dürer? Say it in German.
- Describe his hair in German.
- Find the gloves.
- What can you see through the window?

Talk about it

1. Why do you think Dürer wrote his age on the painting?
2. If you painted yourself, what would you wear and what would be in the window?

ACTIVITY

sein mobile

Make a hanging mobile with the six forms of sein.

You will need

- A coat hanger or stick
- String
- Cardboard and markers

Steps

1. Cut six cardboard shapes. On one side write a person (ich, du, er/sie/es, wir, ihr, sie/Sie); on the other the form of sein.
2. On each shape, add a picture and a sentence: Wir sind eine Familie.
3. Hang the shapes from the coat hanger at different lengths.
4. Spin the mobile, read a person, and say the form before you check.

Tips

- Add a seventh card with Dürer's inscription: Ich war sechsundzwanzig Jahre alt.
- Add a card with God's name from Exodus 3:14.

Check your work

☐ My mobile has all six forms of sein.

☐ Each card has a correct example sentence.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write the six forms of sein. Write six sentences about your family, one for each person.

> **From history.** Dürer's house in Nuremberg, where he lived and worked from 1509 until his death in 1528, still stands and is a museum today.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, describe family photos together with sein: Opa ist hier jung. Wir sind am Meer.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say We are brothers and sisters.

▼ **Show solution**

1. We: wir sind.
2. Brothers and sisters: Geschwister.

Answer: Wir sind Geschwister.

Example 2. Say You (all) are very nice.

▼ **Show solution**

1. You all: ihr seid.
2. Nice: nett.

Answer: Ihr seid sehr nett.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is the ich form of sein?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ich bin.

2. Easy What is the du form?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Du bist.

3. Easy What is the wir form?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Wir sind.

4. Medium Fill in: Ihr ___ Kinder.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Seid.

5. Medium Say He is a painter.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Er ist Maler.

6. Hard Put Dürer's inscription into modern German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Das malte ich nach meiner Gestalt. Ich war sechsundzwanzig Jahre alt.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Ich habe elf Jahre for my age. Germans say Ich bin elf Jahre alt.
- Writing ihr seit. The verb is ihr seid, with d.

> **Make it a game · sein ping-pong.** Two players face each other. One says a person (wir!), the other answers the form (sind!) and fires back a new person. Miss or hesitate and the other gets a point. Play to ten.

> **Scripture.** "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." (Exodus 3:14, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *ICH WERDE SEIN, DER ICH SEIN WERDE.* At the burning bush God told Moses His name: I AM THAT I AM. Luther translated it with the verb sein: ICH WERDE SEIN, DER ICH SEIN WERDE. God simply is; He always was and always will be.

UNIT 4 · SEIN UND ADJEKTIVE · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.2 Alt und Jung

OBJECTIVES

- Name ten pairs of opposites.
- Use sehr, ziemlich, nicht and zu.
- Describe a person or picture in detail.

> **Warm-up.** Describe Dürer in English with as many describing words as you can: young, proud, … Now think of the opposite of each. Today you learn them in German.

WATCH

Learn German with Video - Learning Through Opposites 1

Learn German with GermanPod101.com · 3:21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PTC7Ic77TA

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Say each pair of opposites and show it with your hands or face.

Note: A short GermanPod101 lesson, about three minutes, teaching German words through opposites.

KEY TERMS

das Adjektiv (dahs AHT-yek-teef)
The adjective (describing word).

das Gegenteil (dahs GAY-gen-tile)
The opposite.

sehr (ZAIR)
Very.

ziemlich (TSEEM-likh)
Rather; quite.

zu (TSOO)
Too (too much).

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.

jung
YOONG
adjective
young

fröhlich
FRÖ-likh
adjective
happy; cheerful

traurig
TROW-rikh
adjective
sad

schnell
SHNELL
adjective
fast

langsam
LAHNG-zahm
adjective
slow

ziemlich
TSEEM-likh
little word
rather; quite

alt
AHLT
describing word
old

sehr
ZAIR
word
very

stark
SHTARK
describing word
strong

schwach
SHVAHKH
describing word
weak

CORE IDEAS

Opposites. alt – jung (old – young), **alt – neu** (old – new), **groß – klein**, **lang – kurz**, **schnell – langsam** (fast – slow), **laut – leise** (loud – quiet), **fröhlich – traurig** (happy – sad), **stark – schwach** (strong – weak), **schön – hässlich** (beautiful – ugly), **warm – kalt**, **leicht – schwer** (easy/light – hard/heavy).

Stronger and weaker. sehr (very): Das Bild ist sehr schön. **ziemlich** (rather): Er ist ziemlich jung. **nicht** (not): Ich bin nicht müde. **zu** (too): Die Suppe ist zu heiß! Be careful: zu means too much, so it is a complaint.

After sein, no ending. When an adjective comes after sein, it never changes: **Der Mann ist alt. Die Frau ist alt. Die Kinder sind alt.** (Endings come only when the adjective stands before the noun, as in der alte Mann. You will learn those later.)

ACTIVITY

Opposites flip book

Make a flip book of opposites with pictures.

You will need

- Ten index cards
- A hole punch and a ring or string
- Markers

Steps

1. On each card, draw one opposite on the front and its partner on the back: an old man / a young boy.
2. Write the German word under each drawing.
3. Add a sentence with sehr, ziemlich or zu: Der Mann ist sehr alt.
4. Punch holes and join the cards.
5. Flip through and quiz a family member.

Tips

- Make one card about Dürer: Er ist jung. Seine Haare sind lang.
- Add a card with a Bible opposite: Licht – Finsternis.

Check your work

☐ My book has ten pairs of opposites with German words.

☐ Each card has a correct sentence.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write twelve pairs of opposites. Write four sentences, one each with sehr, ziemlich, nicht and zu.

> **From history.** The German word schön means both beautiful and nice: Schönes Wetter! is nice weather, and Danke schön! is thank you very much.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, play opposites in the car: you say an adjective and your child answers the opposite.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say The music is too loud.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Music: die Musik.
2. Too: zu; loud: laut.

Answer: Die Musik ist zu laut.

Example 2. What is the opposite of schwer, and what are its two meanings?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Schwer means heavy or difficult.

Answer: Leicht: light or easy.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Opposite of jung?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Alt.

2. Easy Opposite of laut?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Leise.

3. Easy What does sehr mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Very.

4. Medium Say The book is rather long.

▼ **Show answer**

Das Buch ist ziemlich lang.

5. Medium What is the difference between sehr heiß and zu heiß?

▼ **Show answer**

Sehr heiß is very hot; zu heiß is too hot (a problem).

6. Hard Describe Dürer in his self-portrait in three sentences.

▼ **Show answer**

For example: Er ist jung. Seine Haare sind lang und lockig. Er ist sehr elegant.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Adding endings after sein: Die Frau ist alte. After sein there is no ending: Die Frau ist alt.
- Using zu when you mean very. Zu means too much.

> **Make it a game · Opposite ping-pong.** One player says an adjective: groß! The other must answer the opposite within three seconds: klein! and fire back a new word. Three misses and you are out.

> **Scripture.** "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *ein Mensch sieht, was vor Augen ist; der HERR aber sieht das Herz an.* When Samuel looked for a king among Jesse's sons, he admired the tall, handsome ones. But God said: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.

UNIT 5

Fragen

In Lesson 5.1 your child learns the question words wer, was, wo, wann, wie and warum, puts the verb right after them (Wo wohnst du?), and asks and answers questions about Friedrich's painting of the white chalk cliffs on the island of Rügen.

In Lesson 5.2 your child adds woher, wohin, wie viel and welcher, practices yes-or-no questions with the verb first, and holds a full interview. The quarter ends with an interview of a family member, written up as a short German newspaper article.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can use nine question words.
- ☐ I can put the verb right after the question word.
- ☐ I can make yes-or-no questions with the verb first.
- ☐ I can interview someone in German.

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.
- **Forvo**: Free pronunciation library: hear any German word said by native speakers (link only).

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	**Wer? Was? Wo?**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
5.2	**Woher? Wohin? Wie viel?**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 5 review

Answer each question. The test is worth 25 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Write the German for who, what, where, when and why.

2. **5 pts**
   Write questions: Where do you live? What is your name? How old are you?

3. **5 pts**
   Make yes-or-no questions: Du spielst Klavier. Ihr seid müde.

4. **5 pts**
   What is the difference between wo, woher and wohin?

5. **5 pts**
   Describe Friedrich's Chalk Cliffs on Rügen in two sentences.

ANSWER KEY

1. Wer, was, wo, wann, warum.
2. Wo wohnst du? Wie heißt du? Wie alt bist du?
3. Spielst du Klavier? Seid ihr müde?
4. Wo is where (at), woher is where from, wohin is where to.
5. For example: Three people stand at the edge of white chalk cliffs. Below them is the blue sea with two sailboats, framed by trees.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: THE FAMILY INTERVIEW

Interview a grandparent or another family member in German (with help if needed) about his or her life: Wie heißt du? Wann hast du Geburtstag? Wo hast du als Kind gewohnt? Was machst du gern? Ask at least ten questions using at least six different question words and two yes-or-no questions. Then write a short German newspaper article of at least eight sentences about the person, with a drawing or photo.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Question words	Uses at least six different question words.
Word order	Puts the verb right after the question word, or first in yes-or-no questions.
Article	Writes at least eight correct sentences.
Courtesy	Listens well and thanks the person.

UNIT 5 · FRAGEN · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.1 Wer? Was? Wo?

OBJECTIVES

- Use six question words.
- Put the verb right after the question word.
- Study Friedrich's Chalk Cliffs on Rügen.

> **Warm-up.** Look at a picture in a book and ask as many questions about it as you can in one minute: Who is that? What is he doing? Where are they? Today you learn to ask them in German.

WATCH

German Dialogues with Question Words - A1/A2 - with Co-Founders Jenny & Jacqueline

lingoni GERMAN · 8:29

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DD5GtfBVgRI

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Each time you hear a question word, write it down. Which one did you hear most?

Note: A lingoni lesson, about eight and a half minutes, with short German dialogues built on question words.

KEY TERMS

die Frage (dee FRAH-guh)
The question.

was? (VAHS)
What?

warum? (vah-ROOM)
Why?

wer? (VAIR)
Who?

wo? (VOH)
Where?

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 Frage
dee FRAH-guh
die · grammar
question

wer
VAIR
question word
who

was
VAHS
question word
what

wo
VOH
question word
where

wann
VAHN
question word
when

warum
vah-ROOM
question word
why

wie
VEE
question word
how

wohnen
VOH-nen
verb
to live, dwell

das Schiff
dahs SHIF
das · noun
ship

das Meer
dahs MAIR
das · noun
sea

CORE IDEAS

The story. In the summer of 1818, Caspar David Friedrich married Caroline Bommer and took her on a journey to see his family in Greifswald and to the island of Rügen in the Baltic Sea, famous for its tall white chalk cliffs. Soon after, he painted this picture. We stand on a grassy edge high above the sea, framed by two leaning trees whose branches meet overhead. Below, white chalk peaks drop to a calm blue-violet sea where two little sailboats glide. A woman in a red dress sits at the left, holding a bush and pointing down. A man in a dark blue coat crawls on hands and knees to peer over the edge, his hat lying in the grass. A third man stands at the right against a tree with his arms folded, gazing far out to sea. Many think the three are Friedrich, his wife and his brother. The painting is full of questions: What is the woman pointing at? What is the crawling man looking for? What does the standing man see on the horizon?

Question words. Wer? (who) **Was?** (what) **Wo?** (where) **Wann?** (when) **Wie?** (how) **Warum?** (why). Most begin with w, which says v. Careful: German **wer** is who and **wo** is where, false friends for English speakers!

Word order. The question word is first and the verb comes right after it, then the subject: **Wo wohnst du? Was macht der Mann? Wer ist die Frau? Warum lacht ihr?** This is the verb-second rule again: the question word is the first idea. Answer in a full sentence: **Wo ist das Schiff? — Das Schiff ist auf dem Meer.**

PICTURE STUDY



Chalk Cliffs on Rügen, Caspar David Friedrich, about 1818 · Oil on canvas · Museum Oskar Reinhart, Winterthur

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Friedrich frames the view like a window, with the two trees and the white cliffs making a shape like a heart around the sea. The three people each react differently: one points, one peers, one gazes. The vast, peaceful sea beyond seems to stand for eternity, and the small people at the edge seem to be asking what lies beyond.

Look closely

- Find the woman in red. What is she doing?
- Find the man on his hands and knees. Where is his hat?
- Count the sailboats.
- What colors is the sea?

Talk about it

1. Which of the three people would you be? Why?
2. Make up three questions you would ask the people in the painting.

ACTIVITY

Question-word dice

Make a pair of dice to practice asking questions.

You will need

- Two paper cube templates or small boxes
- Markers, tape

Steps

1. On the first cube, write six question words: wer, was, wo, wann, wie, warum.
2. On the second cube, write six verbs: wohnen, spielen, machen, lernen, singen, sein.
3. Roll both and make a question: wo + wohnen → Wo wohnst du?
4. Your partner answers in a full sentence, then rolls.

Tips

- Ask questions about Friedrich's painting: Was macht die Frau?
- Add a third cube with persons: du, er, ihr…

Check your work

☐ My dice have six question words and six verbs.

☐ I can make a correct question from any roll.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write the six question words with a question for each. Write five questions about Friedrich's painting with answers.

> **From history.** Friedrich met Caroline Bommer in Dresden and married her in 1818 when he was forty-three. They had three children, and the family appears in several of his later paintings.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, let your child ask the questions at dinner: Was hast du heute gemacht? Wie war die Arbeit?

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Ask what the man is doing.

▼ **Show solution**

1. What: was.
2. Verb right after: macht.

Answer: Was macht der Mann?

Example 2. Ask why you (all) are laughing.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Why: warum.
2. Ihr form: lacht.

Answer: Warum lacht ihr?

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does wer mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Who?

2. Easy What does wo mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Where?

3. Easy What does wann mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   When?

4. Medium Ask Where does Anna live?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Wo wohnt Anna?

5. Medium Ask How old are you?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Wie alt bist du?

6. Hard Ask two questions about Friedrich's painting and answer them.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: Wer sitzt links? — Eine Frau sitzt links. Was sieht der Mann? — Er sieht das Meer.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing up wer and wo. Wer is who; wo is where.
- Putting the subject before the verb: Wo du wohnst? Say Wo wohnst du?

> **Make it a game · Twenty questions.** One player thinks of a person or thing. The others may ask twenty yes-or-no questions in German: Ist es ein Tier? Ist es groß? Wohnt es im Wasser? Guess it before twenty and you win.

> **Scripture.** "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Psalm 8:4, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *was ist der Mensch, daß du seiner gedenkst* Looking at the heavens, David asked: What is man, that thou art mindful of him? Standing before God's vast creation, we feel small, yet God cares for each of us.

UNIT 5 · FRAGEN · LESSON 5.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.2 Woher? Wohin? Wie viel?

OBJECTIVES

- Use woher, wohin, wie viel and welcher.
- Make yes-or-no questions with the verb first.
- Hold a short interview in German.

> **Warm-up.** Think of a reporter interviewing someone. What questions does the reporter ask? Today you learn more question words and become a German reporter.

WATCH

Learn How to Ask Questions with Regular Verbs in German - A1 [with Jenny]

lingoni GERMAN · 4:16

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4E9vLFjO7M

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Pause after each question, answer it about yourself, then play on.

Note: A lingoni lesson, about four minutes, on asking questions with regular verbs.

KEY TERMS

woher? (voh-HAIR)
Where from?

wohin? (voh-HIN)
Where to?

wie viel? (vee FEEL)
How much? How many?

welcher? (VEL-kher)
Which? (welche, welches)

das Interview (dahs IN-ter-vyoo)
The interview.

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.

woher
voh-HAIR
question word
where from

wohin
voh-HIN
question word
where to

wie viel
vee FEEL
question word
how much

wie viele
vee FEE-luh
question word
how many

welcher
VEL-kher
question word
which

doch
DOKH
little word
yes (after a negative question)

welche
VEL-khuh
question word
which (die words)

welches
VEL-khes
question word
which (das words)

nach Hause
nahkh HOW-zuh
phrase
home (going home)

das Interview
dahs IN-ter-vyoo
das · noun
interview

CORE IDEAS

Three kinds of where. Wo asks where something is: **Wo bist du? Woher** asks where from: **Woher kommst du? — Ich komme aus Amerika. Wohin** asks where to: **Wohin gehst du? — Ich gehe nach Hause.**

More question words. Wie viel? (how much): Wie viel kostet das? **Wie viele?** (how many): Wie viele Geschwister hast du? **Welcher, welche, welches?** (which) changes like der, die, das: Welcher Tag ist heute? Welche Farbe magst du? Welches Buch liest du?

Yes-or-no questions. Without a question word, the verb comes first: **Kommst du aus Deutschland? Hast du einen Hund? Bist du müde?** Answer **Ja, …** or **Nein, …** in a full sentence. If someone asks a negative question, like Bist du nicht müde?, answer **Doch!** to mean yes, I am!

ACTIVITY

German newspaper interview

Interview someone and write it up as a German newspaper page.

You will need

- Paper or a computer
- A pencil and notebook for notes
- A photo or drawing of the person

Steps

1. Write ten questions using at least six question words: Wie heißt du? Woher kommst du? Wie viele Geschwister hast du?
2. Interview a family member and write down the answers.
3. Write a newspaper page with a headline, a picture and the questions and answers.
4. Read your interview aloud to the family.

Tips

- Interview a pretend guest: one of the people in Friedrich's painting.
- Add a section of yes-or-no questions with Ja, Nein and Doch.

Check your work

☐ My interview has ten questions with six question words.

☐ The answers are full German sentences.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write questions with woher, wohin, wie viel, wie viele and welche. Write three yes-or-no questions with answers.

> **From history.** Germany has one of the oldest newspaper traditions in the world: the first printed weekly newspaper, called the Relation, appeared in Strasbourg in 1605, when the city belonged to the Holy Roman Empire.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, let your child interview a grandparent in German by phone or video, and help write it up.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Ask where your friend is going.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Where to: wohin.
2. Du form of gehen: gehst.

Answer: Wohin gehst du?

Example 2. Ask how many books you have.

▼ **Show solution**

1. How many: wie viele.
2. Verb haben: hast.

Answer: Wie viele Bücher hast du?

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does woher mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Where from?

2. Easy What does wohin mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Where to?

3. Easy What does wie viel mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   How much?

4. Medium Ask Which color do you like?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Welche Farbe magst du?

5. Medium Make a yes-or-no question: Er kommt aus Köln.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Kommt er aus Köln?

6. Hard Someone asks Hast du keinen Hunger? You are hungry. What do you answer?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Doch! (Ich habe Hunger.)

COMMON MISTAKES

- Asking Wo kommst du? for where are you from. Say Woher kommst du?
- Answering ja to a negative question. Use doch: Doch, ich bin müde!

> **Make it a game · Hot seat.** One player sits in the hot seat as a famous person (Dürer, Luther, Bach). The others ask questions in German: Woher kommst du? Was machst du? Wann hast du gelebt? The player answers in character until someone guesses who it is.

> **Scripture.** “He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?” (Matthew 16:15, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *Wer sagt denn ihr, daß ich sei?* Jesus asked His disciples the most important question of all: Whom say ye that I am? Peter answered: Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. Everyone must answer that question.