Grade 8 German

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

FIRST EDITION

Course guide

Grade 8 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 builds on Grade 7 (the Perfekt) but can be taken alone by a student who knows the present tense.

The child learns the modal verbs können, wollen, müssen, dürfen and möchte, reflexive verbs and a daily routine, the dative case with its articles, prepositions and pronouns, the form of a German letter, and the Präteritum of regular, strong and modal verbs. The pictures are Albrecht Dürer's Saint Jerome in His Study, Albert Anker's Girl Braiding Her Hair, a photograph of the Wartburg, Bernhard Plockhorst's Good Shepherd and Ludwig Emil Grimm's etching of the storyteller Dorothea Viehmann.

The child keeps a German notebook, memorizes Psalm 23 and the first lines of Ein feste Burg in German, and each lesson has a worksheet with a separate answer key. The quarter ends with a life story written in the Präteritum.

> 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 8 (about ages 13–14) 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: können, wollen, übersetzen, der Löwe, die Bibel, das Arbeitszimmer, müssen, dürfen, möchte, gehorchen, die Regel, man. Unit 2: sich waschen, sich kämmen, sich anziehen, sich freuen, flechten, die Haare, zuerst, dann, danach, sich beeilen, sich setzen, der Wecker. Unit 3: die Burg, der Dativ, geben, zeigen, verstecken, das Volk, mit, bei, aus, seit, zum / zur, das Kirchenlied. Unit 4: der Hirte, das Lamm, mir, dir, gefallen, helfen, der Brief, Liebe / Lieber, der Gruß, der Umschlag, die Briefmarke, schreiben. Unit 5: erzählen, war, hatte, kam, sah, das Gedächtnis, drucken, der Buchstabe, die Erfindung, konnte, musste, der Mönch.
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

Modalverben

The modal verbs können, wollen, müssen and dürfen (and the polite möchte), their forms, and the rule that sends the second verb to the end of the sentence, with Albrecht Dürer's 1514 engraving of Saint Jerome translating the Bible in his sunny study, and Peter's answer to the council: Man muß Gott mehr gehorchen denn den Menschen.

1.1 Ich kann, ich will

1.2 Ich muss, ich darf

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

Reflexive Verben

Reflexive verbs with the reflexive pronouns mich, dich, sich, uns, euch (sich waschen, sich anziehen, sich kämmen, sich freuen, sich beeilen) and telling a morning routine, with Albert Anker's quiet painting of a girl braiding her hair, and Paul's command: Freuet euch in dem HERRN allewege.

2.1 Ich wasche mich

2.2 Mein Morgen

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

Ein feste Burg

The dative case: the articles dem, der, dem, den, the dative after the prepositions aus, bei, mit, nach, seit, von and zu, and asking Mit wem?, with the Wartburg castle where Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German, and Luther's great hymn on Psalm 46, Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott.

3.1 Auf der Wartburg

3.2 Mit wem?

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

Briefe und Psalm 23

The dative personal pronouns (mir, dir, ihm, ihr, uns, euch, ihnen) and phrases like Wie geht es dir? and Das gefällt mir, reading and memorizing Psalm 23 in Luther's German with Bernhard Plockhorst's Good Shepherd, and writing personal and formal letters in German.

4.1 Der HERR ist mein Hirte

4.2 Lieber Opa

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

Präteritum

The Präteritum, the past tense of written German: the strong verbs that change their vowel (kam, ging, sah, gab, fand, sprach), the regular verbs with -te (machte, druckte, lebte), and the forms war, hatte and modal verbs (konnte, musste), with the storyteller Dorothea Viehmann, who gave the Brothers Grimm many of their tales, and Johannes Gutenberg, whose printing press carried the Bible to the world.

5.1 Die Märchenfrau

5.2 Gutenberg druckte die Bibel

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 Ich kann, ich will: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 activity (ich kann… poster) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet *Three sessions a week of 20–30 minutes. On the other days, use the week's words at home and review the flashcards.*
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 Ich muss, ich darf: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 activity (hausregeln poster) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (house rules and dreams)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 Ich wasche mich: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 activity (reflexive verb mime cards) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 Mein Morgen: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 activity (morning routine chart) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet

WEEK	PLAN
	• End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (my day in pictures)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 Auf der Wartburg: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 activity (wem gebe ich was?) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 Mit wem?: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 activity (learn and illustrate ein feste burg) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (a tour of the wartburg)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Der HERR ist mein Hirte: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 activity (memorize psalm 23 in german) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 Lieber Opa: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 activity (a letter to a relative) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (a real letter and a psalm)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 Die Märchenfrau: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 activity (interview a storyteller) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Gutenberg druckte die Bibel: warm-up, video, teaching and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 activity (movable type stamp) and German notebook • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (a life story)

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 ICH KANN, ICH WILL

können
KÖN-nen
modal verb
can; to be able to

wollen
VOL-len
modal verb
to want to

übersetzen
ü-ber-ZET-sen
verb
to translate

der Löwe
dehr LÖ-vuh
der · animal
lion

die Bibel
dee BEE-bel
die · things
Bible

das Arbeitszimmer
dahs AR-bites-tsim-mer
das · home
study (room)

das Modalverb
dahs mo-DAHL-vairp
das · grammar
modal verb

er kann
air KAHN
verb form
he can

ich will
ikh VIL
verb form
I want to

du kannst
doo KAHNST
verb form
you can

1.2 ICH MUSS, ICH DARF

müssen
MÜS-sen
modal verb
must; to have to

dürfen
DÜR-fen
modal verb
may; to be allowed to

möchte
MÖKH-tuh
modal form
would like

gehorchen
guh-HOR-khen
verb
to obey

die Regel
dee RAY-gel
die · things
rule

man
MAHN
pronoun
one; people

ich muss
ikh MOOS
verb form
I must

ich darf
ikh DARF
verb form
I may

darf nicht
DARF nikht
phrase
must not

muss nicht
MOOS nikht
phrase
does not have to

2.1 ICH WASCHE MICH

sich waschen
zikh VAH-shen
reflexive verb
to wash (oneself)

sich kämmen
zikh KEM-men
reflexive verb
to comb one’s hair

sich anziehen
zikh AHN-tsee-en
reflexive verb
to get dressed

sich freuen
zikh FROY-en
reflexive verb
to be glad

flechten

FLEKH-ten

verb

to braid

die Haare

dee HAH-ruh

die (plural) · body

hair

sich setzen

zikh ZET-sen

reflexive verb

to sit down

mich

MIKH

pronoun

myself, me

dich

DIKH

pronoun

yourself, you

sich

ZIKH

pronoun

himself, herself, themselves

2.2 MEIN MORGEN

zuerst

tsoo-AIRST

adverb

first

dann

DAHN

adverb

then

danach

dah-NAHKH

adverb

after that

sich beeilen

zikh buh-EYE-len

reflexive verb

to hurry

sich setzen

zikh ZET-sen

reflexive verb

to sit down

der Wecker

dehr VEK-ker

der · home

alarm clock

später
SHPAY-ter
word
later

am Ende
ahm EN-duh
phrase
at the end

sich ausziehen
zikh OWS-tsee-en
reflexive verb
to get undressed

der Morgen
dehr MOR-gen
der · time
morning

3.1 AUF DER WARTBURG

die Burg
dee BOORK
die · place
castle; fortress

der Dativ
dehr DAH-teef
der · grammar
dative case

geben
GAY-ben
verb
to give

zeigen
TSY-gen
verb
to show

verstecken
fair-SHTEK-ken
verb
to hide

das Volk
dahs FOLK
das · people
the people; nation

wem
VAYM
question word
to whom

dem
DAYM
article
the (der, das words, dative)

der Junker
dehr YOONG-ker
der · history
squire, young nobleman

einem
I-nem
article
a (der, das words, dative)

3.2 MIT WEM?

mit
MIT
preposition + dative
with

bei
BY
preposition + dative
at; near

aus
OWS
preposition + dative
from; out of

seit
ZITE
preposition + dative
since

zum / zur
TSOOM / TSOOR
contraction
to the

das Kirchenlied
dahs KEER-khen-leet
das · church
hymn

nach
NAHKH
preposition
after; to

von
FON
preposition
from, of

zu
TSOO
preposition
to

die Wehr
dee VAIR
die · old word
defense, weapon

4.1 DER HERR IST MEIN HIRTE

der Hirte
dehr HEER-tuh

der · people

shepherd

das Lamm
dahs LAHM

das · animal

lamb

mir
MEER

pronoun (dative)

to me; me

dir
DEER

pronoun (dative)

to you; you

gefallen
guh-FAHL-len

verb + dative

to please

helfen
HEL-fen

verb + dative

to help

mangeln
MAHNG-eln

verb

to lack, want

trösten
TRÖS-ten

verb

to comfort

danken
DAHN-ken

verb

to thank

mich
MIKH

pronoun

me (accusative)

4.2 LIEBER OPA

der Brief
dehr BREEF

der · things

letter

Liebe / Lieber
LEE-buh / LEE-ber

greeting

dear

der Gruß

dehr GROOS

der · words

greeting

der Umschlag

dehr OOM-shlahk

der · things

envelope

die Briefmarke

dee BREEF-mar-kuh

die · things

stamp

schreiben

SHRY-ben

verb

to write

Sehr geehrte …

zair guh-AIR-tuh

phrase

Dear … (formal letter)

Liebe Grüße

LEE-buh GRÜ-suh

phrase

Love, best wishes

freundlich

FROYNT-likh

adjective

friendly (Mit freundlichen Grüßen = Yours sincerely)

die Oma

dee OH-mah

die · family

grandma

5.1 DIE MÄRCHENFRAU

erzählen

air-TSAY-len

verb

to tell

war

VAHR

sein (past)

was

hatte

HAHT-tuh

haben (past)

had

kam

KAHM

kommen (past)

came

sah

ZAH

sehen (past)

saw

das Gedächtnis

dahs guh-DEKHT-nis

das · mind

memory

die Märchenfrau

dee MAIR-khen-frow

die · noun

storytelling woman

die Bäuerin

dee BOY-uh-rin

die · noun

farmer’s wife, farm woman

das Märchen

dahs MAIR-khen

das · noun

fairy tale

wir kamen

veer KAH-men

past form

we came

5.2 GUTENBERG DRUCKTE DIE BIBEL

drucken

DROOK-ken

verb

to print

der Buchstabe

dehr BOOKH-shtah-buh

der · writing

letter (of the alphabet)

die Erfindung

dee air-FIN-doong

die · history

invention

konnte

KON-tuh

können (past)

could

musste

MOOS-tuh

müssen (past)

had to

der Mönch

dehr MÖNKH

der · people

monk

der Buchdruck
dehr BOOKH-drook
der · history
book printing

die Druckerpresse
dee DROOK-ker-pres-suh
die · history
printing press

arbeiten
AR-by-ten
verb
to work

die Bibel
dee BEE-bel
die · book
the Bible

UNIT 1

Modalverben

In Lesson 1.1 your child learns können (can) and wollen (to want), their irregular singular forms (ich kann, ich will), and the word order with the infinitive at the end (Ich kann gut schwimmen), and studies Dürer's Saint Jerome in His Study.

In Lesson 1.2 your child learns müssen (must, to have to) and dürfen (may, to be allowed), the polite möchte (would like), and the difference between muss nicht and darf nicht, and learns the German of Acts 5:29. The unit ends with a family house-rules poster in German.

PREREQUISITES

- Grade 7 German, or the present tense of regular verbs.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can conjugate können, wollen, müssen and dürfen.
- ☐ I can put the second verb at the end.
- ☐ I can ask for permission and say what I must do.
- ☐ I can say what I would like with möchte.

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	**Ich kann, ich will**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
1.2	**Ich muss, ich darf**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 1 review

Answer each question. The test is worth 25 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Write ich and er forms of können, wollen, müssen, dürfen and möchten.

2. **5 pts**
   Put in order: schwimmen / ich / gut / kann.

3. **5 pts**
   Write: May I go outside? We have to help Mom.

4. **5 pts**
   What is the difference between Du musst nicht kommen and Du darfst nicht kommen?

5. **5 pts**
   Describe Dürer’s Saint Jerome in His Study in two sentences.

ANSWER KEY

1. Ich kann / er kann; ich will / er will; ich muss / er muss; ich darf / er darf; ich möchte / er möchte.
2. Ich kann gut schwimmen.
3. Darf ich nach draußen gehen? Wir müssen Mama helfen.
4. Musst nicht means you do not have to come; darfst nicht means you are not allowed to come.
5. For example: An old man with a halo writes at a table in a sunny room. A lion and a dog sleep on the floor.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: HOUSE RULES AND DREAMS

Make a two-part poster in German. Part one, Unsere Hausregeln: at least eight family rules with müssen and dürfen (Wir müssen um sieben Uhr aufstehen. Man darf beim Essen nicht singen.). Part two, Meine Träume: at least six sentences with können, wollen and möchte about your abilities and plans (Ich kann Klavier spielen. Ich will Pilot werden.). Present it to the family.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Modals	Uses all five modal verbs correctly.
Word order	The infinitive stands at the end every time.
Range	At least fourteen sentences.
Presentation	Neat, illustrated and read aloud.

UNIT 1 · MODALVERBEN · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.1 Ich kann, ich will

OBJECTIVES

- Conjugate können and wollen.
- Put the second verb at the end.

- Study Dürer’s Saint Jerome in His Study.

> **Warm-up.** Name three things you can do well and three things you want to do one day. Today you learn to say them in German, with two of the most useful verbs in the language.

WATCH

The German Verb "können" - Modal Verbs - A1/A2 [with Jenny]

lingoni GERMAN · 5:27

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TaknrPAqc0

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Write down every sentence with kann and underline the verb at the end.

Note: A lingoni lesson, about five and a half minutes, on the modal verb können.

KEY TERMS

das Modalverb (dahs mo-DAHL-vairp)
A helping verb such as can, must or may.

können (KÖN-nen)
Can; to be able to.

wollen (VOL-len)
To want to.

übersetzen (ü-ber-ZET-sen)
To translate.

der Löwe (dehr LÖ-vuh)
The lion.

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.

können
KÖN-nen
modal verb
can; to be able to

wollen
VOL-len
modal verb
to want to

übersetzen
ü-ber-ZET-sen
verb
to translate

der Löwe
dehr LÖ-vuh
der · animal
lion

die Bibel
dee BEE-bel
die · things
Bible

das Arbeitszimmer
dahs AR-bites-tsim-mer
das · home
study (room)

das Modalverb
dahs mo-DAHL-vairp
das · grammar
modal verb

er kann
air KAHN
verb form
he can

ich will
ikh VIL
verb form
I want to

du kannst
doo KAHNST
verb form
you can

CORE IDEAS

The story. Saint Jerome lived about 1,600 years ago and spent many years in Bethlehem translating the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin, the common language of the western Roman world. His Latin Bible was read in the Western church for a thousand years. In 1514 Albrecht Dürer of Nuremberg made a copper engraving of Jerome at work: a quiet room full of sunlight, the old scholar writing at his desk, and a lion and a dog asleep on the floor. An old legend says Jerome pulled a thorn from a lion's paw, and the grateful lion stayed with him. Eight years later

another German, Martin Luther, would translate the Bible into German, so that every farmer and child could read it.

können and wollen. Modal verbs are irregular in the singular: **ich kann, du kannst, er/sie kann, wir können, ihr könnt, sie/Sie können**; **ich will, du willst, er/sie will, wir wollen, ihr wollt, sie/Sie wollen.** Notice: ich and er have the same form and no -t: **er kann**, **er will**. Careful: **ich will** means I want, not I will!

Word order. The modal verb stands in second place, and the second verb goes to the very end in the infinitive: **Ich kann gut schwimmen. Hieronymus will die Bibel übersetzen. Kannst du Deutsch sprechen?** It is like a frame around the sentence, just like the Perfekt.

PICTURE STUDY



Saint Jerome in His Study, Albrecht Dürer, 1514 · Engraving · National Gallery of Art, Washington (this impression)

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Dürer uses only fine black lines, yet the room seems full of warm light. Look at the floorboards and ceiling beams: they all lead your eye to Jerome at his work. Everything is calm and in order, a picture of patient, faithful study.

Look closely

- Find the lion and the dog.
- Find the skull and the hourglass. What might they remind Jerome of?
- Where does the light come from?
- Find Dürer's monogram and the date.

Talk about it

1. Why do you think Dürer made the room so peaceful?
2. Why was translating the Bible such important work?

ACTIVITY

Ich kann… poster

Make a poster of your skills and goals with können and wollen.

You will need

- Poster board
- Markers, photos or drawings

Steps

1. Divide the poster into two halves: Ich kann… and Ich will…
2. Write six sentences in each half: Ich kann Fahrrad fahren. Ich will Arzt werden.
3. Illustrate each sentence.
4. Interview a family member and add two sentences: Papa kann gut kochen.

Tips

- Add a Jerome corner: Hieronymus kann Griechisch lesen. Er will die Bibel übersetzen.
- Add three questions with kannst du…?

Check your work

☐ My poster has twelve correct sentences.

☐ The infinitive stands at the end every time.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write the full forms of können and wollen. Write eight sentences about what you and your family can and want to do.

> **From history.** Dürer's three great engravings of 1513–1514, Knight, Death and the Devil, Saint Jerome in His Study and Melencolia I, are called his Meisterstiche, his master engravings.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, have him or her read Luther's words of Philippians 4:13 aloud and explain vermag.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say She can play the piano.

▼ **Show solution**

1. sie kann; the infinitive spielen goes to the end.

Answer: Sie kann Klavier spielen.

Example 2. Ask Do you (one friend) want to come along?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Question: verb first: willst du; mitkommen at the end.

Answer: Willst du mitkommen?

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does ich kann mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   I can.

2. Easy What does ich will mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   I want (to).

3. Easy What is der Löwe?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The lion.

4. Medium Say We can speak German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Wir können Deutsch sprechen.

5. Medium Say He wants to read a book.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Er will ein Buch lesen.

6. Hard Say in German: Jerome wants to translate the Bible, and he can read Greek.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Hieronymus will die Bibel übersetzen, und er kann Griechisch lesen.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Ich will gehen for I will go. Ich will means I want to.
- Putting the infinitive second: Ich kann schwimmen gut. Say Ich kann gut schwimmen.

> **Make it a game · Kannst du…?.** Take turns asking Kannst du auf einem Bein stehen? Kannst du rückwärts zählen? The other person must try it and answer Ja, ich kann… or Nein, ich kann nicht… One point for each correct answer.

> **Scripture.** “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Philippians 4:13, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *Ich vermag alles durch den, der mich mächtig macht, Christus.* Paul could face anything, not by his own strength but through Christ. Luther wrote vermag, an older word for kann: I can do all things.

UNIT 1 · MODALVERBEN · LESSON 1.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.2 Ich muss, ich darf

OBJECTIVES

- Conjugate müssen and dürfen.
- Use möchte politely.
- Tell muss nicht from darf nicht.

> **Warm-up.** What must you do every day? What are you allowed to do on Saturday? What would you like for dinner? Today you learn three more modal verbs.

WATCH

The Verb "müssen" - Modal Verbs - A1/A2 [with Jenny]

lingoni GERMAN · 9:01

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. List the things people muss do in the video.

Note: A lingoni lesson, about nine minutes, on the modal verb müssen.

KEY TERMS

müssen (MÜS-sen)
Must; to have to.

dürfen (DÜR-fen)
May; to be allowed to.

möchte (MÖKH-tuh)
Would like.

gehorchen (guh-HOR-khen)
To obey.

die Regel (dee RAY-gel)
The rule.

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.

müssen
MÜS-sen
modal verb
must; to have to

dürfen
DÜR-fen
modal verb
may; to be allowed to

möchte
MÖKH-tuh
modal form
would like

gehorchen
guh-HOR-khen
verb
to obey

die Regel
dee RAY-gel
die · things
rule

man
MAHN
pronoun
one; people

ich muss
ikh MOOS
verb form
I must

ich darf
ikh DARF
verb form
I may

darf nicht
DARF nikht
phrase
must not

muss nicht
MOOS nikht
phrase
does not have to

CORE IDEAS

müssen and dürfen. ich muss, du musst, er/sie muss, wir müssen, ihr müsst, sie/Sie müssen; ich darf, du darfst, er/sie darf, wir dürfen, ihr dürft, sie/Sie dürfen. Ich muss meine Hausaufgaben machen. Darf ich nach draußen gehen? Man darf hier nicht laufen. Man means one or people in general: **Man muss…** (One must…).

A trap. In English, must not means not allowed. In German, **muss nicht** means do not have to, and **darf nicht** means must not. **Du musst nicht kommen** (you don't have to come). **Du darfst nicht kommen** (you are not allowed to come).

möchte. For polite wishes, use **möchte: ich möchte, du möchtest, er/sie möchte, wir möchten, ihr möchtet, sie/Sie möchten. Ich möchte ein Glas Wasser, bitte. Möchten Sie Kaffee?** It is softer than will: a child who says Ich will Kuchen! sounds rude; Ich möchte Kuchen, bitte sounds polite.

Obeying God. When the council in Jerusalem ordered the apostles to stop preaching about Jesus, Peter answered: **Man muß Gott mehr gehorchen denn den Menschen.** We must obey God rather than men. (Luther wrote muß; today it is spelled muss.)

ACTIVITY

Hausregeln poster

Write and decorate a poster of your family's house rules in German.

You will need

- Poster board
- Markers

Steps

1. Agree with your parents on eight family rules.
2. Write them with müssen and dürfen: Wir müssen unsere Betten machen. Man darf im Haus nicht Fußball spielen.
3. Add two rules with nicht müssen: Am Samstag muss man nicht früh aufstehen.
4. Decorate and hang the poster.

Tips

- Add a polite café menu card with möchte: Ich möchte..., bitte.
- Copy Acts 5:29 in German at the top.

Check your work

- ☐ My poster has ten correct rules.
- ☐ I used muss nicht and darf nicht correctly.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write the forms of müssen, dürfen and möchten. Write five things you must do and five things you may not do.

> **From history.** Germany has many signs with dürfen: in a park you may read Hunde dürfen nicht frei laufen (dogs must not run free), and in a museum Fotografieren nicht erlaubt.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, write your house rules together on the poster in proper German.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say May I play outside?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Question: verb first: darf ich; spielen at the end.

Answer: Darf ich draußen spielen?

Example 2. Say You don't have to help.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Not have to: muss nicht.

Answer: Du musst nicht helfen.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does ich muss mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   I must; I have to.

2. Easy What does ich darf mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   I may; I am allowed to.

3. Easy What is the polite way to say I would like?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ich möchte.

4. Medium Say We have to go home.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Wir müssen nach Hause gehen.

5. Medium What does Man darf hier nicht essen mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   One may not eat here.

6. Hard Translate Acts 5:29 into modern German with müssen.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Man muss Gott mehr gehorchen als den Menschen.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Using muss nicht for must not. Use darf nicht for forbidden things.
- Saying Ich will… when ordering. Say Ich möchte…, bitte.

> **Make it a game · Darf ich?.** Play Mother, May I in German. The leader stands far away. Players ask: Darf ich drei Schritte machen? The leader answers Ja, du darfst! or Nein, du darfst nicht! A player who moves without asking goes back to the start.

> **Scripture.** "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *Man muß Gott mehr gehorchen denn den Menschen.* Peter and the apostles answered the council that ordered them to stop teaching in Jesus' name: We ought to obey God rather than men. Luther used muß, the modal verb of this lesson.

UNIT 2

Reflexive Verben

In Lesson 2.1 your child learns what a reflexive verb is (an action done to oneself), the pronouns mich, dich, sich, uns, euch, sich, the verbs sich waschen, sich kämmen, sich anziehen and sich freuen, and studies Anker's Girl Braiding Her Hair.

In Lesson 2.2 your child tells a morning routine in order (Ich stehe um sechs Uhr auf. Ich wasche mich. Ich ziehe mich an.), uses sich beeilen and sich setzen, and learns that God's mercies are new every morning. The unit ends with an illustrated daily routine.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can choose the right reflexive pronoun.
- ☐ I can use six reflexive verbs.
- ☐ I can tell my morning routine in order.
- ☐ I can say what I am glad about with sich freuen.

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	**Ich wasche mich**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
2.2	**Mein Morgen**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 2 review

Answer each question. The test is worth 25 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Fill in: Ich wasche ___. Du kämmst ___. Er zieht ___ an. Wir freuen ___. Ihr beeilt ___.

2. **5 pts**

   Write: I get dressed. She combs her hair.

3. **5 pts**

   Put in order and write three sentences: get dressed, get up, wash.

4. **5 pts**

   Write: We are looking forward to Christmas. Hurry up! (to one friend)

5. **5 pts**

   Describe Anker's Girl Braiding Her Hair in two sentences.

ANSWER KEY

1. Mich, dich, sich, uns, euch.
2. Ich ziehe mich an. Sie kämmt sich (die Haare).
3. Ich stehe auf. Ich wasche mich. Ich ziehe mich an.
4. Wir freuen uns auf Weihnachten. Beeil dich!
5. For example: A girl with long blond hair stands by a table and braids her hair. On the table are a bowl, a towel and an open book.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: MY DAY IN PICTURES

Make an illustrated booklet of your daily routine from waking up to going to bed, with at least fifteen German sentences in order, using times and first/then words (zuerst, dann, danach, am Abend) and at least eight reflexive verbs: Um halb sieben stehe ich auf. Zuerst wasche ich mich. Dann ziehe ich mich an. End with what you look forward to: Ich freue mich auf…

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reflexives	At least eight reflexive verbs with correct pronouns.
Order	Uses times and sequence words with the verb second.
Range	At least fifteen sentences.
Illustration	Every page illustrated.

UNIT 2 · REFLEXIVE VERBEN · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.1 Ich wasche mich

OBJECTIVES

- Learn the reflexive pronouns.
- Use sich waschen, sich kämmen, sich anziehen and sich freuen.
- Study Anker’s Girl Braiding Her Hair.

> **Warm-up.** In English we say I wash myself, but usually just I wash. In German you almost always say the myself: Ich wasche mich. Let us find out why.

WATCH

Reflexive Verbs in German - Accusative Case - A2/B1

lingoni GERMAN · 6:20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idPMk0PQ1Kc

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Write each reflexive verb you hear with its pronoun.

Note: A lingoni lesson, about six minutes, on reflexive verbs in the accusative.

KEY TERMS

das Reflexivpronomen (dahs ray-flek-SEEF-pro-no-men)
The reflexive pronoun (mich, dich, sich…).

sich waschen (zikh VAH-shen)
To wash (oneself).

sich kämmen (zikh KEM-men)
To comb one’s hair.

flechten (FLEKH-ten)
To braid.

sich freuen (zikh FROY-en)
To be glad; to rejoice.

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.

sich waschen
zikh VAH-shen
reflexive verb
to wash (oneself)

sich kämmen
zikh KEM-men
reflexive verb
to comb one’s hair

sich anziehen
zikh AHN-tsee-en
reflexive verb
to get dressed

sich freuen
zikh FROY-en
reflexive verb
to be glad

flechten
FLEKH-ten
verb
to braid

die Haare
dee HAH-ruh
die (plural) · body
hair

sich setzen
zikh ZET-sen
reflexive verb
to sit down

mich
MIKH
pronoun
myself, me

dich
DIKH
pronoun
yourself, you

sich
ZIKH
pronoun
himself, herself, themselves

CORE IDEAS

The picture. Albert Anker, the Swiss painter of village life whose schoolroom you met in Grade 4, painted many quiet pictures of children at home. In 1887 he painted a girl in a white blouse and blue-gray skirt standing by a small table, braiding her long golden hair. On the table are a yellow basin, a towel and an open book, perhaps her hymnal or schoolbook, and beside them a candlestick. A straw hat hangs on the wall. She has washed and is getting ready for the day, calm and careful.

Reflexive pronouns. When you do something to yourself, German uses a reflexive pronoun: **ich wasche mich, du wäschst dich, er/sie wäscht sich, wir waschen uns, ihr wascht euch, sie/Sie waschen sich**. Compare: **Ich wasche das Auto** (I wash the car) and **Ich wasche mich** (I wash myself).

Useful reflexive verbs. sich waschen (to wash), **sich kämmen** (to comb one's hair), **sich anziehen** (to get dressed: Ich ziehe mich an), **sich setzen** (to sit down), **sich**

freuen (to be glad). **Das Mädchen kämmt sich und flicht seine Haare.** With sich freuen: **Ich freue mich!** (I am glad!), **Ich freue mich auf Weihnachten** (I look forward to Christmas), **Ich freue mich über das Geschenk** (I am glad about the gift).

PICTURE STUDY



Girl Braiding Her Hair, Albert Anker, 1887 · Oil on canvas · Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte, Winterthur

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Anker makes the girl's golden hair and white blouse glow against the dark brown room. Everything is simple and humble: a basin, a towel, a candle, a book. The quiet care of an ordinary morning becomes beautiful.

Look closely

- What is the girl doing?
- Find the basin, the towel and the book.
- Find the candle and the hat.
- What colors does Anker use most?

Talk about it

1. What do you think the open book might be?
2. Why might Anker paint such an ordinary moment?

ACTIVITY

Reflexive verb mime cards

Make picture cards for reflexive verbs and use them in a mime game.

You will need

- Index cards
- Markers

Steps

1. Make ten cards, each with a reflexive verb in German and a drawing: sich waschen, sich kämmen, sich anziehen, sich setzen, sich freuen, sich beeilen…
2. On the back, write the ich and er forms: ich wasche mich / er wäscht sich.
3. Draw a card, mime the action, and the family guesses in German: Du kämmst dich!
4. Score one point for each correct guess with the right pronoun.

Tips

- Add a card for flechten and draw Anker's girl.
- Add cards for sich freuen auf and sich freuen über.

Check your work

☐ I have ten cards with correct forms.

☐ I use the right reflexive pronoun when guessing.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write the table of reflexive pronouns. Write sich waschen in all forms. Write five sentences with Ich freue mich auf…

> **From history.** Albert Anker lived in the village of Ins in the canton of Bern, Switzerland, and painted his neighbors and their children over and over; his house and studio there are now a museum.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, ask Worauf freust du dich? at dinner each day this week.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say She is getting dressed.

▼ **Show solution**

1. sich anziehen is separable: zieht… an.
2. Pronoun for sie: sich.

Answer: Sie zieht sich an.

Example 2. Say We are looking forward to the holidays.

▼ **Show solution**

1. sich freuen auf + accusative.
2. Pronoun for wir: uns.

Answer: Wir freuen uns auf die Ferien.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is the reflexive pronoun for ich?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Mich.

2. Easy What is the reflexive pronoun for er?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Sich.

3. Easy What does flechten mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   To braid.

4. Medium Say You (one friend) comb your hair.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Du kämmst dich.

5. Medium Say I am glad about the gift.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ich freue mich über das Geschenk.

6. Hard Describe Anker's girl in German in two sentences.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Das Mädchen kämmt sich und flicht seine Haare. Auf dem Tisch liegt ein Buch.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Leaving out the pronoun: Ich wasche. Say Ich wasche mich.
- Using sich for every person. Change it: ich → mich, du → dich, wir → uns, ihr → euch.

> **Make it a game · Spiegel.** Mirror game: one player is the mirror. The other says a reflexive sentence and acts it: Ich kämme mich. The mirror copies the action and answers with the right form: Du kämmst dich! Switch after five sentences.

> **Scripture.** "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." (Philippians 4:4, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *Freuet euch in dem HERRN allewege! Und abermals sage ich: Freuet euch!* Paul, writing from prison, told the Christians to rejoice in the Lord always. Freuet euch is the reflexive verb sich freuen with euch.

UNIT 2 · REFLEXIVE VERBEN · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.2 Mein Morgen

OBJECTIVES

- Tell a morning routine in order.
- Use sich beeilen and sich setzen.
- Use sequence words with the verb second.

> **Warm-up.** Tell your morning routine in English, step by step, from your alarm to breakfast. Today you tell it in German.

WATCH

Jacqueline's Morning Routine: Juggling Mom Life and Work at lingoni! - A2

lingoni GERMAN · 3:58

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rOMZZ49dyA

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Write down the steps of Jacqueline's morning and the times she gives.

Note: A short lingoni listening video, about four minutes, in which a teacher and mother describes her morning routine in German.

KEY TERMS

zuerst (tsoo-AIRST)
First.

dann (DAHN)
Then.

danach (dah-NAHKH)
After that.

sich beeilen (zikh buh-EYE-len)
To hurry.

der Wecker (dehr VEK-ker)
The alarm clock.

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.

zuerst
tsoo-AIRST
adverb
first

dann
DAHN
adverb
then

danach
dah-NAHKH
adverb
after that

sich beeilen
zikh buh-EYE-len
reflexive verb
to hurry

sich setzen
zikh ZET-sen
reflexive verb
to sit down

der Wecker
dehr VEK-ker
der · home
alarm clock

später
SHPAY-ter
word
later

am Ende
ahm EN-duh
phrase
at the end

sich ausziehen
zikh OWS-tsee-en
reflexive verb
to get undressed

der Morgen
dehr MOR-gen
der · time
morning

CORE IDEAS

A morning in German. Um halb sieben klingelt der Wecker. Zuerst stehe ich auf. Dann wasche ich mich und putze mir die Zähne. Danach ziehe ich mich an und kämme mich. Um sieben Uhr setze ich mich an den Tisch, und wir beten zusammen. Dann frühstücken wir. Ich muss mich beeilen, denn um acht beginnt die Schule!

Order words. Zuerst, dann, danach, später and am Ende take first place, so the verb comes second and the subject third: **Dann wasche ich mich.** Not Dann ich wasche mich.

Reflexive and separable together. Some verbs are both: **sich anziehen → Ich ziehe mich an**, **sich ausziehen → Ich ziehe mich aus**. The pronoun comes right after the verb, the prefix goes to the end. With a modal: **Ich muss mich beeilen.**

ACTIVITY

Morning routine chart

Make an illustrated chart of your morning routine with times in German.

You will need

- Large paper
- Markers
- A clock face drawing for each step

Steps

1. List eight steps of your morning, each with a time.
2. Write each step in German: Um sieben Uhr ziehe ich mich an.
3. Draw a small clock and a picture next to each step.
4. Read your chart aloud using zuerst, dann and danach.

Tips

- Add a family member's routine in the er/sie form: Papa rasiert sich.
- Begin with a morning prayer line: Am Morgen danke ich Gott.

Check your work

☐ My chart has eight steps in order.

☐ I used at least four reflexive verbs correctly.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write your morning routine in ten sentences with times and sequence words.

From history. Many German families keep the old custom of a short morning prayer or a reading from the Losungen, daily Bible verses published by the Moravian Brethren of Herrnhut every year since 1731.

At home in German. If your child already speaks German, let him or her narrate the family's morning in German as it happens.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say Then I get dressed.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Dann first, verb second: ziehe; subject ich; pronoun mich; an at the end.

Answer: Dann ziehe ich mich an.

Example 2. Say We must hurry.

▼ **Show solution**

1. müssen + sich beeilen at the end.

Answer: Wir müssen uns beeilen.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does zuerst mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   First.

2. Easy What is der Wecker?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The alarm clock.

3. Easy What does Beeil dich! mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Hurry up!

4. Medium Say After that I sit down at the table.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Danach setze ich mich an den Tisch.

5. Medium Say At seven o'clock she gets up.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Um sieben Uhr steht sie auf.

6. Hard Tell three steps of your morning in German with sequence words.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Zuerst stehe ich auf. Dann wasche ich mich. Danach ziehe ich mich an.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Writing Dann ich wasche mich. After a first-place word, the verb comes next: Dann wasche ich mich.
- Putting the pronoun at the end: Ich ziehe an mich. Say Ich ziehe mich an.

> **Make it a game · Morgen-Staffel.** Morning relay: place clothes, a comb and a cup at one end of the room. On Los!, run and act out each step while saying it in German: Ich ziehe mich an! Ich kämme mich! The fastest correct routine wins.

> **Scripture.** "They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:23, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *sondern sie ist alle Morgen neu, und deine Treue ist groß.* Every morning, before washing and dressing, there is a reason to thank God: His mercies are new every morning. Luther: alle Morgen neu.

UNIT 3

Ein feste Burg

In Lesson 3.1 your child learns the dative articles (dem Mann, der Frau, dem Kind, den Kindern), the dative for the person who receives something (Ich gebe dem Vater das Buch), and the story of Luther's months hidden at the Wartburg, translating the New Testament.

In Lesson 3.2 your child learns the dative prepositions aus, bei, mit, nach, seit, von and zu with their contractions (zum, zur, beim, vom), asks Mit wem?, and learns the first lines of Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott. The unit ends with a guided tour of the Wartburg in German.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–2, and the accusative (den, einen).

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can use dem, der, dem and den in the dative.
- ☐ I can use the seven dative prepositions.
- ☐ I can use zum, zur, beim and vom.
- ☐ I can tell Luther's Wartburg story in simple 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

3.1	**Auf der Wartburg**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
3.2	**Mit wem?**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 3 review

Answer each question. The test is worth 25 points.

1. **5 pts**

   Write the dative article: ___ Mann, ___ Frau, ___ Kind, ___ Kindern, ___ Burg.

2. **5 pts**

   Fill in: Ich fahre mit ___ Bus. Er kommt aus ___ Schule. Wir gehen zu ___ Arzt.

3. **5 pts**

   Write: I give the child the book. She lives with her grandmother.

4. **5 pts**

   What did Luther do at the Wartburg in 1521–1522?

5. **5 pts**

   Write the first line of Luther's hymn in German and tell which psalm it is based on.

ANSWER KEY

1. Dem, der, dem, den, der.
2. Dem, der, dem (zum Arzt).
3. Ich gebe dem Kind das Buch. Sie wohnt bei ihrer Großmutter (Oma).
4. He hid there in disguise as Junker Jörg and translated the New Testament from Greek into German.
5. Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott. It is based on Psalm 46.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: A TOUR OF THE WARTBURG

Prepare and give a short guided tour of the Wartburg in German, as if you were the guide, with at least twelve sentences, a drawn floor plan or pictures, and at least eight dative phrases: Willkommen auf der Wartburg! Wir gehen zuerst zu dem Turm. In diesem Zimmer hat Luther mit der Feder die Bibel übersetzt. End by singing or reciting the first lines of Ein feste Burg.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Dative	At least eight correct dative phrases.
History	Tells Luther's story accurately.
Language	At least twelve clear sentences.
Delivery	Given with pictures and the hymn.

UNIT 3 · EIN FESTE BURG · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.1 Auf der Wartburg

OBJECTIVES

- Learn the dative articles.
- Use the dative for the receiver.
- Learn Luther's Wartburg story.

> **Warm-up.** Imagine being hidden in a castle for almost a year, with an enemy looking for you. What would you do with all that time? Martin Luther gave the German people a gift that changed their language forever.

WATCH

The Dative Case in German - Part 1: Definite Articles - A1 [with Jenny]

lingoni GERMAN · 7:57

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Copy Jenny's table of dative articles and two of her example sentences.

Note: A lingoni lesson, about eight minutes, on the dative case with definite articles.

KEY TERMS

der Dativ (dehr DAH-teef)
The dative case (to whom? with whom?).

das Neue Testament (dahs NOY-uh tes-tah-MENT)
The New Testament.

geben (GAY-ben)
To give.

die Burg (dee BOORK)
The castle; the fortress.

verstecken (fair-SHTEK-ken)
To hide.

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 Burg
dee BOORK
die · place
castle; fortress

der Dativ
dehr DAH-teef
der · grammar
dative case

geben
GAY-ben
verb
to give

zeigen
TSY-gen
verb
to show

verstecken
fair-SHTEK-ken
verb
to hide

das Volk
dahs FOLK
das · people
the people; nation

wem
VAYM
question word
to whom

dem
DAYM
article
the (der, das words, dative)

der Junker
dehr YOONG-ker
der · history
squire, young nobleman

einem
I-nem
article
a (der, das words, dative)

CORE IDEAS

The story. In April 1521, Martin Luther stood before the emperor at the Diet of Worms and refused to take back his writings unless he was shown from Scripture that he was wrong. He was declared an outlaw: anyone could kill him. On his way home, armed riders "kidnapped" him, but they were friends sent by his prince, Frederick the Wise, to protect him. They took him secretly to the Wartburg castle above Eisenach. There Luther let his hair and beard grow, dressed as a knight, and was called **Junker Jörg** (Knight George). In about eleven weeks he translated the whole New Testament from Greek into clear, everyday German. It was printed in September 1522, and Germans of every town could at last read the Gospel in their own tongue. His Bible helped shape the standard German that is spoken today.

The dative. The dative answers **Wem?** (to whom?). The person who receives something goes in the dative: **Ich gebe dem Vater das Buch.** (I give the book to the father.) The articles change: **der** → **dem** (masculine), **die** → **der** (feminine), **das** →

dem (neuter), **die → den** + n (plural): dem Mann, der Frau, dem Kind, den Kindern. With ein: **einem Mann, einer Frau, einem Kind**.

Luther's gift. Luther gab dem Volk die Bibel auf Deutsch. Luther gave the people the Bible in German. Dem Volk is dative: the people received the gift.

PICTURE STUDY



The Wartburg near Eisenach, Photograph by A.Savin, medieval castle, much restored in the 1800s; photographed 2020 · Photograph · Eisenach, Thuringia, Germany

Image: Wikimedia Commons, photograph by A.Savin, FAL

The photographer stands on the path that leads to the castle gate, so we see the whole length of the Wartburg stretching along the hilltop. The castle has stood here for over 900 years. Somewhere inside is the plain wooden room where Luther worked.

Look closely

- Find the tall tower. What is on top?
- Find the half-timbered walls.
- Find the gate on the right.
- Why would a castle on a hill be a good hiding place?

Talk about it

1. Why do you think Luther's friends chose this castle?
2. How would you feel working alone in a castle for months?

ACTIVITY

Wem gebe ich was?

Give small gifts to family members and describe them with the dative.

You will need

- Five small objects or drawings (a book, an apple, a pencil, a flower, a card)
- Paper for labels

Steps

1. Give each object to a different family member.
2. Say each time: Ich gebe dem Vater das Buch. Ich gebe der Schwester den Apfel.
3. Write each sentence on a label and put it by the object.
4. Then ask: Wem gibst du den Bleistift? and let someone else answer.

Tips

- Add a sentence about Luther: Luther gab dem Volk die Bibel.
- Use einem and einer: Ich gebe einem Freund eine Karte.

Check your work

☐ I wrote five correct dative sentences.

☐ I can answer Wem? questions.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, copy the dative article table. Write eight sentences with geben, schenken and zeigen and a dative person. Write four sentences about Luther at the Wartburg.

> **From history.** The Wartburg was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999. Visitors can see the simple Lutherstube where he worked, with an old legend that Luther once threw his inkwell at the devil there.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, read together from Luther's preface or a passage of his New Testament and notice how familiar the words are.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say I show the woman the castle.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Woman is the receiver: die Frau → der Frau.
2. Castle is the object: die Burg (accusative stays die).

Answer: Ich zeige der Frau die Burg.

Example 2. Say He gives the children the bread.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Plural dative: den Kindern.

Answer: Er gibt den Kindern das Brot.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is the dative of der?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Dem.

2. Easy What is the dative of die (feminine)?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Der.

3. Easy What is die Burg?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The castle.

4. Medium Say I give the dog water.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ich gebe dem Hund Wasser.

5. Medium What was Luther called at the Wartburg?

▼ **Show answer**

Junker Jörg.

6. Hard Say Luther gave the people the Bible in German.

▼ **Show answer**

Luther gab dem Volk die Bibel auf Deutsch.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Using den for the dative masculine. Masculine dative is dem.
- Forgetting the -n in the dative plural: den Kinder. Say den Kindern.

> **Make it a game · Wem gehört das?.** Collect one item from each family member in a basket. Draw an item and say: Das gebe ich dem Vater! or Das gebe ich der Mutter! If you are right, keep a point; if not, the owner takes the item back.

> **Scripture.** "To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *Gott ist unsre Zuversicht und Stärke.* This psalm was Luther's comfort in hard times, and it became his most famous hymn. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

UNIT 3 · EIN FESTE BURG · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.2 Mit wem?

OBJECTIVES

- Use aus, bei, mit, nach, seit, von and zu.
- Use zum, zur, beim and vom.
- Learn the opening of Ein feste Burg.

> **Warm-up.** With whom do you like to spend time? Where do you come from? Who do you go to when you are sick? All these questions in German need the dative.

WATCH

Sommerprogramm #25 - Mit wem hast du dich getroffen? - REVIEW: Family Members + DATIVE CASE - A1/A2

lingoni GERMAN · 5:58

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72vP46DWb_0

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Write each answer to Mit wem...? and circle the dative article.

Note: A lingoni review lesson, about six minutes, on family members and the dative case.

KEY TERMS

mit (MIT)
With.

aus (OWS)
Out of; from (a country or town).

das Kirchenlied (dahs KEER-khen-leet)
The hymn.

bei (BY)
At (someone's place); near.

die Wehr (dee VAIR)
The defense; the bulwark.

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.

mit	bei
MIT	**BY**
preposition + dative	preposition + dative
with	at; near

aus
OWS
preposition + dative
from; out of

seit
ZITE
preposition + dative
since

zum / zur
TSOOM / TSOOR
contraction
to the

das Kirchenlied
dahs KEER-khen-leet
das · church
hymn

nach
NAHKH
preposition
after; to

von
FON
preposition
from, of

zu
TSOO
preposition
to

die Wehr
dee VAIR
die · old word
defense, weapon

CORE IDEAS

Seven dative prepositions. These always take the dative: **aus** (from, out of), **bei** (at, near), **mit** (with), **nach** (after; to a city or country), **seit** (since), **von** (from, of), **zu** (to). Many German children learn them as a little chant: **aus, bei, mit, nach, seit, von, zu. Ich wohne bei meiner Oma. Er kommt aus der Schweiz. Wir fahren mit dem Zug. Nach dem Essen spielen wir.**

Contractions. zu dem → zum (zum Arzt), **zu der → zur** (zur Schule), **bei dem → beim** (beim Bäcker), **von dem → vom** (vom Bahnhof). And the question: **Mit wem?** (with whom?) **Mit meinem Bruder.**

Ein feste Burg. Luther wrote this hymn about 1528, on Psalm 46. It begins: **Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, ein gute Wehr und Waffen. Er hilft uns frei aus aller Not, die uns jetzt hat betroffen.** (A mighty fortress is our God, a good defense and weapon. He helps us free from every need that now has come upon us.) Notice **aus aller Not**: aus

with the dative! The hymn was sung by Protestants in times of danger and is still sung on Reformation Day, October 31.

ACTIVITY

Learn and illustrate Ein feste Burg

Learn the first four lines of Luther's hymn and make an illustrated copy.

You will need

- A sheet of heavy paper
- Pencils, gold or yellow markers

Steps

1. Copy the first four lines in your best handwriting.
2. Draw a strong castle on a rock around the words.
3. Underline aus aller Not and write: aus + Dativ.
4. Learn the lines by heart and recite or sing them (find the tune in a church hymnal or ask your parents).

Tips

- Add the English lines of Frederick Hedge's translation: A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
- Copy Psalm 46:1 in German under the castle.

Check your work

- ☐ My copy is neat and correctly spelled.
- ☐ I can recite the first four lines.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write the seven dative prepositions with one sentence each. Copy the first four lines of Ein feste Burg.

> **From history.** Johann Sebastian Bach wrote a cantata on Ein feste Burg, and Felix Mendelssohn used its melody in his Reformation Symphony.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, sing Ein feste Burg together from a German hymnal on Reformation Day.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say I am going to school with my sister.

▼ **Show solution**

1. zu der → zur Schule; mit + dative: meiner Schwester.

Answer: Ich gehe mit meiner Schwester zur Schule.

Example 2. Say After the church service we eat at Grandma's.

▼ **Show solution**

1. nach + dem Gottesdienst; bei + der Oma (bei Oma).

Answer: Nach dem Gottesdienst essen wir bei Oma.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does mit mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   With.

2. Easy What is zu dem shortened to?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Zum.

3. Easy Say the seven dative prepositions.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Aus, bei, mit, nach, seit, von, zu.

4. Medium Say She comes from Austria.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Sie kommt aus Österreich.

5. Medium Ask With whom are you going?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Mit wem gehst du?

6. Hard Recite the first two lines of Ein feste Burg.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, ein gute Wehr und Waffen.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Using the accusative after mit: mit den Bus. Say mit dem Bus.
- Saying zu die Schule. Say zur Schule.

> **Make it a game · Aus-bei-mit-Ball.** Toss a ball and call out a dative preposition. The catcher must make a sentence with it in three seconds: Mit! → Ich spiele mit dem Hund. A correct sentence earns a point.

> **Scripture.** "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:20, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *ich bin bei euch alle Tage bis an der Welt Ende.* Jesus promised His disciples: lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Luther wrote bei euch, the dative after bei.

UNIT 4

Briefe und Psalm 23

In Lesson 4.1 your child learns the dative pronouns, phrases that use them (Es geht mir gut. Das gefällt mir. Hilf mir!), and reads Psalm 23 in Luther's German, finding mir, mich and bei mir, with Plockhorst's painting of the Good Shepherd.

In Lesson 4.2 your child learns how to write a German letter: the place and date, Lieber / Liebe, du or Sie, Sehr geehrte..., and closings such as Viele Grüße and Mit freundlichen Grüßen, and writes a real letter to a relative. The unit ends with a handwritten letter and a recitation of Psalm 23.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 3 (the dative).

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can use mir, dir, ihm, ihr, uns, euch and ihnen.
- ☐ I can read Psalm 23 in Luther's German.
- ☐ I can write a friendly letter in German.
- ☐ I can choose between du and Sie in a letter.

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	**Der HERR ist mein Hirte**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
4.2	**Lieber Opa**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 4 review

Answer each question. The test is worth 25 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Write the dative of ich, du, er, sie (she) and wir.

2. **5 pts**

   Write: How are you (one friend)? I like the book. Help me!

3. **5 pts**

   Write the first line of Psalm 23 in German and translate it.

4. **5 pts**

   Write the greeting and closing for a letter to your grandmother and to a teacher you do not know.

5. **5 pts**

   Describe Plockhorst's Good Shepherd in two sentences.

ANSWER KEY

1. Mir, dir, ihm, ihr, uns.
2. Wie geht es dir? Das Buch gefällt mir. Hilf mir!
3. Der HERR ist mein Hirte; mir wird nichts mangeln. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
4. Liebe Oma, … Viele Grüße, dein(e)… / Sehr geehrte Frau (Herr) …, … Mit freundlichen Grüßen …
5. For example: Jesus walks on a path carrying a lamb in His arms. Sheep walk beside Him, and the sky glows with evening light.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: A REAL LETTER AND A PSALM

Write a real handwritten letter in German of at least twelve sentences to a grandparent, godparent or friend, with the place and date, a correct greeting and closing, news from your life in the Perfekt, two questions, and at least four dative pronouns. Copy Psalm 23:1 at the end as a blessing. Then recite all of Psalm 23 in German to the family.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Form	Correct place, date, greeting and closing.
Content	At least twelve sentences with news and questions.
Dative	At least four correct dative pronouns.
Psalm	Psalm 23 recited in German.

UNIT 4 · BRIEFE UND PSALM 23 · LESSON 4.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.1 Der HERR ist mein Hirte

OBJECTIVES

- Learn the dative pronouns.
- Read Psalm 23 in Luther’s German.
- Study Plockhorst’s Good Shepherd.

> **Warm-up.** Can you say Psalm 23 in English? Many Christians know it by heart. Today you meet it in the German that Luther wrote, and find a new set of little words in it.

WATCH

The Dative Case in German - Part 3: Personal Pronouns - A1 [with Jenny]

lingoni GERMAN · 6:51

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdW2JNBFzTI

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Copy the table of personal pronouns in the dative and two example sentences.

Note: A lingoni lesson, about seven minutes, on personal pronouns in the dative case.

KEY TERMS

der Hirte (dehr HEER-tuh)
The shepherd.

das Lamm (dahs LAHM)
The lamb.

mangeln (MAHNG-eln)
To lack; to be wanting.

trösten (TRÖS-ten)
To comfort.

gefallen (guh-FAHL-len)
To please (Das gefällt mir: I like that).

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 Hirte
dehr HEER-tuh
der · people
shepherd

das Lamm
dahs LAHM
das · animal
lamb

mir
MEER
pronoun (dative)
to me; me

dir
DEER
pronoun (dative)
to you; you

gefallen
guh-FAHL-len
verb + dative
to please

helfen
HEL-fen
verb + dative
to help

mangeln
MAHNG-eln
verb
to lack, want

trösten
TRÖS-ten
verb
to comfort

danken
DAHN-ken
verb
to thank

mich
MIKH
pronoun
me (accusative)

CORE IDEAS

The picture. Bernhard Plockhorst was a German painter of the 1800s whose pictures of Christ were printed again and again and hung in homes, Sunday schools and Bibles around the world. In his Good Shepherd, Jesus walks barefoot down a rocky path at sunset, carrying a tired lamb in His arms and holding a shepherd's crook, while His sheep crowd close around Him. It illustrates Jesus' words, I am the good shepherd (John 10:11), and David's psalm.

Dative pronouns. ich → mir, du → dir, er → ihm, sie → ihr, es → ihm, wir → uns, ihr → euch, sie → ihnen, Sie → Ihnen. You already know some: **Wie geht es dir? Es geht mir gut.** Others: **Das gefällt mir** (that pleases me: I like it), **Hilf mir!** (help me), **Ich danke dir** (I thank you), **Gib ihm das Brot** (give him the bread), **Komm mit mir!**

Psalm 23. Der HERR ist mein Hirte; mir wird nichts mangeln. Er weidet mich auf einer grünen Aue und führet mich zum frischen Wasser. Er erquicket meine Seele;

er führet mich auf rechter Straße um seines Namens willen. Und ob ich schon wanderte im finstern Tal, fürchte ich kein Unglück; denn du bist bei mir, dein Stecken und Stab trösten mich. Find the pronouns: **mir** (dative: to me nothing will be lacking), **mich** (accusative: he leads me), **bei mir** (bei + dative).

PICTURE STUDY



The Good Shepherd, Bernhard Plockhorst, Late 19th century · Oil painting, widely reproduced as a print · Present location not recorded; known from reproductions

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Plockhorst sets the Shepherd against a bright evening sky, so He seems to walk out of the light toward us. The lamb rests safely against His chest. The sheep press close, trusting Him. The stony path reminds us that the way can be hard, but the Shepherd walks it with us.

Look closely

- Where is the lamb?
- What is Jesus holding in His other hand?
- How many sheep can you count?
- What time of day is it?

Talk about it

1. Which words of Psalm 23 does this picture show best?
2. Why is a shepherd a good picture of God's care?

ACTIVITY

Memorize Psalm 23 in German

Learn the first four verses of Psalm 23 in Luther's German with a picture card for each verse.

You will need

- Four index cards
- Colored pencils

Steps

1. Copy one verse onto each card.
2. Draw a small picture for each: a shepherd, green meadow and water, a straight path, a dark valley with a staff.
3. Circle every mir and mich in different colors.
4. Practice one verse a day and recite all four by the end of the week.

Tips

- Learn verses 5 and 6 too.
- Write a short German prayer with dative pronouns: Herr, hilf mir…

Check your work

- ☐ I can recite at least four verses.
- ☐ I marked all the pronouns correctly.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, copy the table of dative pronouns and Psalm 23:1–4. Write six sentences with gefallen, helfen and danken.

> **From history.** In 1536 Luther wrote a whole little book explaining the Twenty-third Psalm, and German Christians still often choose a verse from it as a confirmation or baptism verse.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, pray Psalm 23 together in German at bedtime this week.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say I like the song.

▼ **Show solution**

1. gefallen: the thing pleases me: Das Lied gefällt mir.

Answer: Das Lied gefällt mir.

Example 2. Say Can you (one friend) help me?

▼ **Show solution**

1. helfen takes the dative: mir.
2. Modal + infinitive at the end.

Answer: Kannst du mir helfen?

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is the dative of ich?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Mir.

2. Easy What is der Hirte?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The shepherd.

3. Easy What does Es geht mir gut mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   I am doing well.

4. Medium Say I thank you (one friend).

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ich danke dir.

5. Medium What does du bist bei mir mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   You are with me.

6. Hard Recite Psalm 23:1–2 in German.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Der HERR ist mein Hirte; mir wird nichts mangeln. Er weidet mich auf einer grünen Aue und führet mich zum frischen Wasser.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying Kannst du mich helfen? Helfen takes the dative: mir.
- Saying Ich gefalle das Buch. Turn it around: Das Buch gefällt mir.

> **Make it a game · Hilf mir!.** One player is blindfolded. The others guide him or her across the room with German commands using dative pronouns: Komm zu mir! Gib mir die Hand! Folge ihm! Reach the goal without bumping anything.

> **Scripture.** "A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *Der HERR ist mein Hirte; mir wird nichts mangeln.* David, who was once a shepherd boy, wrote: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In German, mir is the dative: to me nothing shall be lacking.

UNIT 4 · BRIEFE UND PSALM 23 · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.2 Lieber Opa

OBJECTIVES

- Learn the form of a German letter.
- Choose du or Sie in writing.
- Write a real letter.

> **Warm-up.** When did you last write a real letter by hand? A letter shows someone that you took time for them. Today you learn to write one in German.

WATCH

How to WRITE German Emails - Easy Writing Practice - A1/A2

lingoni GERMAN · 9:09

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCAtaOM1yzY

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Note the greetings and closings, and which ones are formal and informal.

Note: A lingoni lesson, about nine minutes, on writing German emails, with greetings, closings and practice.

KEY TERMS

der Brief (dehr BREEF)
The letter.

Lieber / Liebe (LEE-ber / LEE-buh)
Dear (to a man / to a woman).

Sehr geehrte… (zair guh-AIR-tuh)
Dear... (formal).

der Gruß (dehr GROOS)
The greeting.

der Umschlag (dehr OOM-shlahk)
The envelope.

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 Brief
dehr BREEF
der · things
letter

Liebe / Lieber
LEE-buh / LEE-ber
greeting
dear

der Gruß
dehr GROOS
der · words
greeting

der Umschlag
dehr OOM-shlahk
der · things
envelope

die Briefmarke
dee BREEF-mar-kuh
die · things
stamp

schreiben
SHRY-ben
verb
to write

Sehr geehrte …
zair guh-AIR-tuh
phrase
Dear … (formal letter)

Liebe Grüße
LEE-buh GRÜ-suh
phrase
Love, best wishes

freundlich
FROYNT-likh
adjective
friendly (Mit freundlichen Grüßen = Yours sincerely)

die Oma
dee OH-mah
die · family
grandma

CORE IDEAS

A friendly letter. At the top right, write the place and date: **Springfield, den 18. Oktober 2026.** Greeting: **Lieber Opa,** (to a man) or **Liebe Oma,** (to a woman), followed by a comma, and the letter begins with a small letter. Closings: **Viele Grüße**, **Liebe Grüße**, **Herzliche Grüße**, then **dein Peter** or **deine Anna**.

A sample letter. Lieber Opa, wie geht es dir? Mir geht es gut. Letzte Woche haben wir einen Ausflug gemacht. Wir sind mit dem Zug nach Chicago gefahren und haben das Museum besucht. Das hat mir sehr gefallen! In der Schule lerne ich jetzt Deutsch. Ich kann schon Psalm 23 auf Deutsch sagen. Wann kommst du uns besuchen? Ich freue mich auf dich! Viele Grüße, deine Anna

A formal letter. To an adult you do not know, use Sie: **Sehr geehrte Frau Müller,** / **Sehr geehrter Herr Schmidt, … Mit freundlichen Grüßen**, then your full name. Sie, Ihnen and Ihr are always capitalized.

ACTIVITY

A letter to a relative

Write and mail a real letter in German to a grandparent or relative.

You will need

- Nice paper
- An envelope and a stamp
- A pen

Steps

1. Write the place and date at the top right.
2. Begin with Lieber… or Liebe…
3. Write at least ten sentences: how you are, news in the Perfekt, what you are learning, and two questions.
4. Close with Viele Grüße and your name; copy Psalm 23:1 at the bottom as a blessing; address and mail it with a parent.

Tips

- Include an English translation on the back for a relative who does not read German.
- Write a second, formal letter to a pastor or teacher with Sie.

Check your work

☐ My letter has the right form.

☐ It has at least ten correct sentences.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, copy the parts of a German letter. Write a short practice letter to a friend and a formal note to a teacher.

> **From history.** Luther was a tireless letter writer: about 2,600 of his letters survive, to princes, friends, his wife Katharina, and his little son Hans.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, write back to him or her in German, and keep the correspondence going.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Write a greeting to your aunt.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Aunt is die Tante: feminine, so Liebe.

Answer: Liebe Tante...,

Example 2. Write a formal closing.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Formal letters close with Mit freundlichen Grüßen.

Answer: Mit freundlichen Grüßen

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is der Brief?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The letter.

2. Easy Lieber or Liebe for Oma?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Liebe.

3. Easy What is a common friendly closing?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Viele Grüße.

4. Medium How do you write the date 3 May 2027 in a German letter?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   den 3. Mai 2027.

5. Medium Write a formal greeting to Mr. Weber.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Sehr geehrter Herr Weber,

6. Hard Write two sentences of news for a letter in the Perfekt.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: Letzte Woche bin ich nach Texas gefahren. Ich habe meine Kusine besucht.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Writing Lieber Oma. For a woman, use Liebe.
- Writing sie in lowercase for formal you. The formal Sie, Ihnen and Ihr are capitalized.

> **Make it a game · Postbote.** Write five short postcards in German to family members, each with one question. The mail carrier delivers them; each person must write back in German. The first complete exchange wins.

> **Scripture.** "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you," (Philippians 1:3, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *Ich danke meinem Gott, so oft ich euer gedenke* Paul began his letter to the Philippians by thanking God for them. Luther wrote meinem Gott: dative after danken.

UNIT 5

Präteritum

In Lesson 5.1 your child learns the full Präteritum of sein, haben and the strong verbs most used in stories, reads the story of Dorothea Viehmann, the storyteller of Niederzwehren, in the Präteritum, and studies Ludwig Emil Grimm's portrait of her.

In Lesson 5.2 your child learns the regular Präteritum with -te and the modal verbs konnte, musste, wollte, durfte, reads the story of Johannes Gutenberg and his printed Bible, and writes a short biography in the Präteritum. The quarter ends with a written and illustrated life story.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4, and the Perfekt (Grade 7).

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can form the Präteritum of regular verbs.
- ☐ I can recognize and use ten strong Präteritum forms.
- ☐ I can use war, hatte, konnte and musste.
- ☐ I can write a short life story in the Präteritum.

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	**Die Märchenfrau**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
5.2	**Gutenberg druckte die Bibel**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 5 review

Answer each question. The test is worth 25 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Write the er form in the Präteritum: sein, haben, gehen, kommen, sehen.

2. **5 pts**

   Write the er form in the Präteritum: machen, drucken, leben, können, müssen.

3. **5 pts**

   Write in the Präteritum: Die Frau erzählt viele Märchen. Die Brüder schreiben sie auf.

4. **5 pts**

   Who was Dorothea Viehmann, and who was Johannes Gutenberg?

5. **5 pts**

   Write two sentences about your own past in the Präteritum.

ANSWER KEY

1. War, hatte, ging, kam, sah.
2. Machte, druckte, lebte, konnte, musste.
3. Die Frau erzählte viele Märchen. Die Brüder schrieben sie auf.
4. Viehmann was a storyteller near Kassel who told many tales to the Brothers Grimm. Gutenberg was the printer of Mainz who developed printing with movable metal type and printed the Bible.
5. For example: Als ich klein war, hatte ich einen Hund. Ich konnte noch nicht lesen.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: A LIFE STORY

Write and illustrate the life story of a grandparent, an older family member, or a great Christian from German history (such as Luther, Bach, Gutenberg or Paul Gerhardt) in at least fifteen sentences in the Präteritum, with dates and at least five strong verbs, five -te verbs and two modal verbs. Interview your relative or use a library book, and read it aloud to the family.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Präteritum	At least twelve correct Präteritum forms of different kinds.
Content	A clear life story with dates.
Language	At least fifteen sentences.
Illustration	Pictures or photos with captions.

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

5.1 Die Märchenfrau

OBJECTIVES

- Learn the Präteritum of sein, haben and strong verbs.
- Read the story of Dorothea Viehmann.
- Study Ludwig Emil Grimm’s portrait.

> **Warm-up.** Who in your family tells the best stories? Many of the Grimms’ fairy tales came from one remarkable storyteller, a woman from a village near Kassel. Today you meet her, and the tense she would have used for her tales.

WATCH

Präteritum in Spoken German: The Verbs You Really Need (A2)

lingoni GERMAN · 5:49

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmORs6lAHa0

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> After the reading. Write down every Präteritum form the teacher says is used in spoken German.

Note: A lingoni lesson, about six minutes, on the Präteritum verbs used even in spoken German.

KEY TERMS

erzählen (air-TSAY-len)
To tell (a story).

das Gedächtnis (dahs guh-DEKHT-nis)
The memory.

die Bäuerin (dee BOY-uh-rin)
The farm woman.

die Märchenfrau (dee MAIR-khen-frow)
The storyteller woman.

der Radierer (dehr rah-DEE-rer)
The etcher.

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.

erzählen
air-TSAY-len
verb
to tell

war
VAHR
sein (past)
was

hatte
HAHT-tuh
haben (past)
had

kam
KAHM
kommen (past)
came

sah
ZAH
sehen (past)
saw

das Gedächtnis
dahs guh-DEKHT-nis
das · mind
memory

die Märchenfrau
dee MAIR-khen-frow
die · noun
storytelling woman

die Bäuerin
dee BOY-uh-rin
die · noun
farmer’s wife, farm woman

das Märchen
dahs MAIR-khen
das · noun
fairy tale

wir kamen
veer KAH-men
past form
we came

CORE IDEAS

The story in the Präteritum. Dorothea Viehmann lebte in Niederzwehren bei Kassel. Sie war die Tochter eines Gastwirts, und ihre Familie kam aus Frankreich. Her ancestors were French Huguenots, Protestants who had fled persecution. **Sie verkaufte Gemüse aus ihrem Garten in der Stadt.** In her father’s inn she had heard travelers tell stories since she was a girl. **Im Jahr 1813 besuchte sie die Brüder Grimm.** She told them dozens of tales, among them Die Gänsemagd (The Goose Girl) and Der Teufel mit den drei goldenen Haaren. Wilhelm Grimm wrote that she told the stories slowly and carefully, and when asked, repeated them word for word without changing anything. **Sie starb im Jahr 1815.**

sein and haben. ich war, du warst, er/sie war, wir waren, ihr wart, sie/Sie waren; ich hatte, du hattest, er/sie hatte, wir hatten, ihr hattet, sie/Sie hatten. These two are used in the Präteritum even when speaking: **Ich war krank. Wir hatten Hunger.**

Strong verbs change their vowel. Like English sing → sang: **kommen → kam, gehen → ging, sehen → sah, geben → gab, finden → fand, sprechen → sprach, schreiben → schrieb, sitzen → saß, rufen → rief, sterben → starb.** The ich and er forms have no ending: **ich kam, er kam**; wir and sie add -en: **wir kamen.**

PICTURE STUDY



Dorothea Viehmann, Ludwig Emil Grimm, by 1815 · Etching · Published as the frontispiece of the second volume of the Grimms' Kinder- und Hausmärchen, second edition, 1819

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Ludwig Emil Grimm, the younger brother of Jacob and Wilhelm, drew her plainly, as a working woman of the village, with no fancy clothes. The fine lines show every wrinkle of her face, and her calm eyes seem to be looking into a story. Her folded hands suggest patience.

Look closely

- What is she wearing on her head?
- Find her folded hands.
- Where is she looking?
- How old do you think she is?

Talk about it

1. Why might the Grimms have put her picture in their book?
2. What does her face tell you about her?

ACTIVITY

Interview a storyteller

Interview an older family member about a story from his or her childhood and retell it in the Präteritum.

You will need

- A notebook
- A recorder (optional)

Steps

1. Ask a grandparent or older relative to tell a story from childhood.
2. Take notes in English while listening.
3. Rewrite the story in at least eight German sentences in the Präteritum: Opa war zehn Jahre alt. Er ging jeden Tag zur Schule.
4. Read your retelling to the storyteller and ask: Ist es richtig so?

Tips

- Draw a portrait of your storyteller in black pen, like L. E. Grimm.
- Add a title in German: Eine Geschichte von meinem Opa.

Check your work

☐ My story has at least eight Präteritum sentences.

☐ I used at least four strong verbs.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write the full forms of war and hatte. List twelve strong verbs with their Präteritum forms. Write five sentences about Dorothea Viehmann.

> **From history.** In 1812 the Brothers Grimm published the first volume of their Kinder- und Hausmärchen, and many of the tales in the second volume of 1815 came from Viehmann; the collection has since been translated into more than a hundred languages.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, read Die Gänsemagd from a German Grimm edition and hunt for Präteritum forms together.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Write in the Präteritum: Sie kommt aus Kassel.

▼ **Show solution**

1. kommen → kam.

Answer: Sie kam aus Kassel.

Example 2. Write in the Präteritum: Wir haben keine Zeit.

▼ **Show solution**

1. haben → hatten for wir.

Answer: Wir hatten keine Zeit.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is the Präteritum of sein for er?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   War.

2. Easy What is the Präteritum of gehen for er?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ging.

3. Easy What does erzählen mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   To tell (a story).

4. Medium Write: She told many stories.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Sie erzählte viele Geschichten (Märchen).

5. Medium What is the Präteritum of sehen and geben for ich?

▼ **Show answer**

Ich sah, ich gab.

6. Hard Write two sentences about Viehmann in the Präteritum.

▼ **Show answer**

Dorothea Viehmann lebte bei Kassel. Sie erzählte den Brüdern Grimm viele Märchen.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Adding -te to strong verbs: kommte, gehte. Learn the strong forms: kam, ging.
- Adding -t to ich and er: ich kamt. Say ich kam, er kam.

> **Make it a game · Präteritum-Kette.** Story chain: the first player says Es war einmal ein König. Each next player adds a sentence with a new Präteritum verb: Er hatte eine Tochter. Sie ging in den Wald… A player who uses the wrong form or repeats a verb drops out.

> **Scripture.** “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.” (2 Timothy 1:5, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *welcher zuvor gewohnt hat in deiner Großmutter Lois und deiner Mutter Eunike* Paul remembered how Timothy’s faith had first lived in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. Old women who tell the true story of God to children are a treasure.

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

5.2 Gutenberg druckte die Bibel

OBJECTIVES

- Form the regular Präteritum with -te.
- Use konnte, musste, wollte and durfte.
- Write a short biography.

Warm-up. Before printing, every book had to be copied by hand, and a Bible could take a scribe more than a year. Then a man in Mainz changed everything. Today you tell his story in German.

WATCH

German Lesson (118) - Präteritum - Regular Verbs - A2

lingoni GERMAN · 8:51

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zspMSIAP4pQ

WHEN TO WATCH
After the reading. Write each regular Präteritum form you hear with its infinitive.

Note: A lingoni lesson, about nine minutes, on the Präteritum of regular verbs.

KEY TERMS

drucken (DROOK-ken)
To print.

der Buchdruck (dehr BOOKH-drook)
Printing (of books).

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

die Druckerpresse (dee DROOK-ker-pres-suh)
The printing press.

die Erfindung (dee air-FIN-doong)
The invention.

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.

drucken
DROOK-ken
verb
to print

der Buchstabe
dehr BOOKH-shtah-buh
der · writing
letter (of the alphabet)

die Erfindung
dee air-FIN-doong
die · history
invention

konnte
KON-tuh
können (past)
could

musste
MOOS-tuh
müssen (past)
had to

der Mönch
dehr MÖNKH
der · people
monk

der Buchdruck
dehr BOOKH-drook
der · history
book printing

die Druckerpresse
dee DROOK-ker-pres-suh
die · history
printing press

arbeiten
AR-by-ten
verb
to work

die Bibel
dee BEE-bel
die · book
the Bible

CORE IDEAS

Regular verbs. Add -te to the stem: **machen → ich machte, du machtest, er machte, wir machten, ihr machtet, sie machten.** If the stem ends in -t or -d, add an e: **arbeiten → arbeitete. Gutenberg druckte. Die Leute kauften Bücher.**

Modal verbs. Drop the umlaut and add -te: **können → konnte, müssen → musste, dürfen → durfte, wollen → wollte. Früher konnten nur wenige Menschen eine Bibel kaufen.**

Gutenberg's story. Johannes Gutenberg lebte in Mainz. Um 1450 entwickelte er den Buchdruck mit beweglichen Buchstaben aus Metall. Each letter was cast separately,

so they could be set into lines, printed, and used again. **Er druckte die Bibel auf Latein.** His great Bible was finished about 1455, with about 180 copies; around 49 survive today. **Vorher mussten Mönche jedes Buch mit der Hand abschreiben.** Printing spread across Europe, and when Luther translated the Bible into German, printers could make thousands of copies. **Bald konnten viele Familien eine Bibel kaufen und lesen.**

ACTIVITY

Movable type stamp

Make your own movable letters and print a short Bible verse, like Gutenberg.

You will need

- Potatoes or foam sheets and a craft knife (with a parent)
- Washable paint or an ink pad
- Paper

Steps

1. With a parent, cut letters for a short word, such as GOTT or WORT, remembering to cut them backwards.
2. Set the letters in a row, ink them and press them onto paper.
3. Print the word several times, then rearrange the letters to make a new word.
4. Write three sentences in the Präteritum about what you did: Ich schnitt Buchstaben. Ich druckte das Wort GOTT.

Tips

- Print the whole phrase DAS WORT BLEIBT.
- Explain to the family why movable type was such a good idea.

Check your work

☐ I printed at least one clear word.

☐ I wrote three Präteritum sentences.

GERMAN NOTEBOOK

1. In your German notebook, write the full Präteritum of machen and können. Write eight sentences about Gutenberg.

> **From history.** The Gutenberg Museum in Mainz displays original Gutenberg Bibles and a working replica of his press.

> **At home in German.** If your child already speaks German, read a short biography in a German children's encyclopedia and retell it together.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Write in the Präteritum: Gutenberg arbeitet in Mainz.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Stem ends in -t: add -ete.

Answer: Gutenberg arbeitete in Mainz.

Example 2. Write in the Präteritum: Wir müssen warten.

▼ **Show solution**

1. müssen → mussten (no umlaut).

Answer: Wir mussten warten.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does drucken mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   To print.

2. Easy What is the Präteritum of machen for er?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Machte.

3. Easy In which city did Gutenberg live?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Mainz.

4. Medium What is the Präteritum of können for wir?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Konnten.

5. Medium Write: Monks had to copy every book.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Mönche mussten jedes Buch abschreiben.

6. Hard Write two sentences in the Präteritum about why printing mattered for the Bible.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Vorher war eine Bibel sehr teuer. Nach Gutenberg konnten viele Familien eine Bibel kaufen.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Keeping the umlaut: könnte, müsste. Those mean could/would have to. The Präteritum drops the umlaut: konnte, musste.
- Writing arbeitte. Add an e after -t: arbeitete.

> **Make it a game · Präteritum-Bingo.** Make bingo cards with Präteritum forms (war, hatte, machte, konnte, ging, kam…). A caller says the infinitive; players mark the matching past form. The first to complete a row calls Bingo! and reads the forms aloud.

> **Scripture.** “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.” (Isaiah 40:8, KJV)
>
> In the Luther Bible (1912): *aber das Wort unsres Gottes bleibt ewiglich.* Printing made the Bible spread across the world, but its power comes from God: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.