



EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

# 15-MINUTE GERMAN



ORDER A MEAL • BOOK A ROOM • BUY A TICKET  
GIVE DIRECTIONS • MAKE CONVERSATION

LEARN GERMAN IN  
JUST 15 MINUTES A DAY

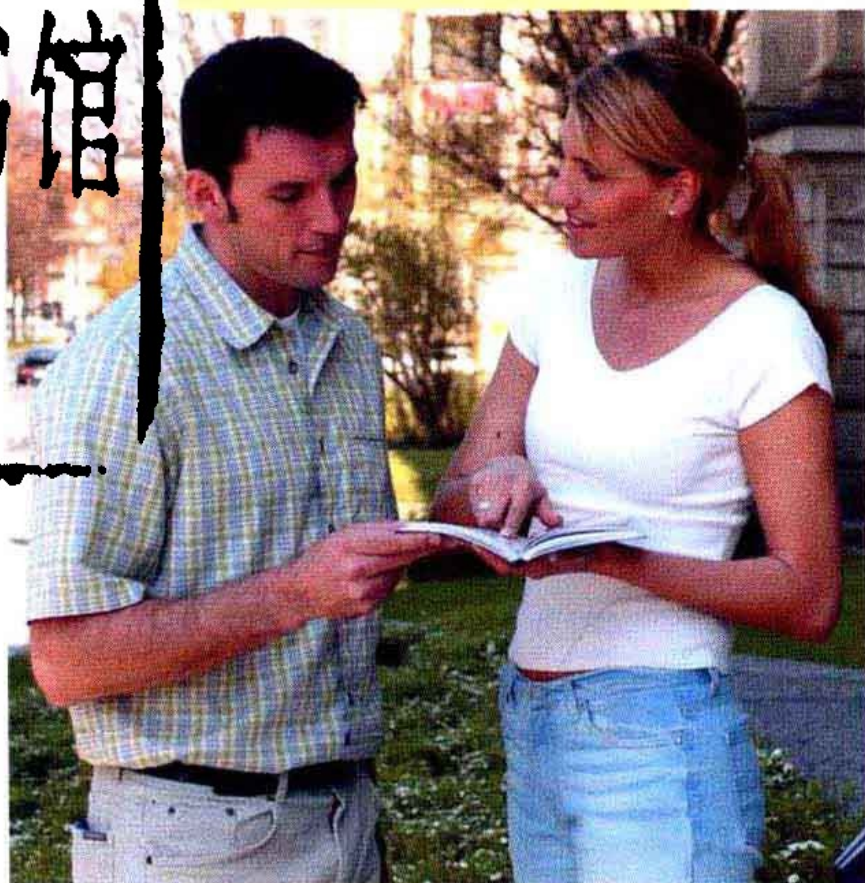




EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

# 15-MINUTE GERMAN

图书馆  
章











EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

# 15-MINUTE GERMAN

LEARN GERMAN  
IN JUST 15  
MINUTES A DAY

SYLVIA GOULDING







London, New York, Munich, Melbourne,  
and Delhi

Dorling Kindersley Limited  
**Senior Editor** Angeles Gavira  
**Project Art Editor** Vanessa Marr  
**DTP Designer** John Goldsmid  
**Production Controller** Luca Frassinetti  
**Publishing Manager** Liz Wheeler  
**Managing Art Editor** Philip Ormerod  
**Publishing Director** Jonathan Metcalf  
**Art Director** Bryn Walls

Language content for Dorling Kindersley by  
g-and-w publishing

Produced for Dorling Kindersley by  
Schermuly Design Co.

**Art Editor** Hugh Schermuly  
**Project Editor** Cathy Meeus  
**Special photography** Mike Good

First American Edition, 2005

Published in the United States by  
DK Publishing, Inc., 375 Hudson Street,  
New York, New York 10014

05 06 07 08 09 10 9 8 7 6 5 4

Copyright © 2005 Dorling Kindersley Limited

All rights reserved under International and  
Pan-American Copyright Conventions. No part  
of this publication may be reproduced, stored  
in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any  
form or by any means, electronic, mechanical,  
photocopying, recording or otherwise, without  
the prior written permission of the copyright  
owner. Published in Great Britain by Dorling  
Kindersley Limited.

A Cataloging-in-Publication record for this book  
is available from the Library of Congress.

ISBN-13: 978-0-7566-0923-8

ISBN-10: 0-7566-0923-2

*15-Minute German* is also available in a pack  
with two CDs (ISBN-13: 978-0-7566-0930-6)  
(ISBN-10: 0-7566-0930-5)

Color reproduction by Colourscan, Singapore  
Printed and bound in China by Leo Paper  
Products Limited

Discover more at  
[www.dk.com](http://www.dk.com)

# Contents

How to use this book 6

## Week 1 Introductions

Hello 8  
Relatives 10  
My family 12  
To be and to have 14  
Review and repeat 16

## Week 2 Eating and drinking

In the café 18  
In the restaurant 20  
To want 22  
Dishes 24  
Review and repeat 26

## Week 3 Making arrangements

Days and months 28  
Time and numbers 30  
Appointments 32  
On the telephone 34  
Review and repeat 36

## Week 4 Travel

At the ticket office 38  
To go and to take 40  
Public transportation 42  
On the road 44  
Review and repeat 46







## Week 5 Getting around

Around town	48
Finding your way	50
Sightseeing	52
At the airport	54
Review and repeat	56

## Week 6 Accommodation

Booking a room	58
In the hotel	60
Camping	62
Descriptions	64
Review and repeat	66

## Week 7 Shopping

Shopping	68
At the market	70
At the supermarket	72
Clothes and shoes	74
Review and repeat	76

## Week 8 Work and study

Jobs	78
The office	80
Academic world	82
In business	84
Review and repeat	86

## Week 9 Health

At the pharmacy	88
The body	90
At the doctor	92

At the hospital	94
Review and repeat	96

## Week 10 At home

At home	98
In the house	100
The backyard	102
Pets	104
Review and repeat	106

## Week 11 Services

Bank and post office	108
Services	110
To come	112
Police and crime	114
Review and repeat	116

## Week 12 Leisure and socializing

Leisure time	118
Sports and hobbies	120
Socializing	122
Review and repeat	124

Reinforce and progress	126
------------------------	-----

Menu guide	128
------------	-----

English–German dictionary	132
---------------------------	-----

German–English dictionary	146
---------------------------	-----

Acknowledgments	160
-----------------	-----





# How to use this book

This main part of the book is devoted to 12 themed chapters, broken down into five 15-minute daily lessons, the last of which is a revision lesson. So, in just 12 weeks you will have completed the course. A concluding reference section contains a menu guide and English-to-German and German-to-English dictionaries.

## Warm up and clock

Each day starts with a one-minute warm-up that encourages you to recall vocabulary or phrases you have learned previously. A clock to the right of the heading bar indicates the amount of time you are expected to spend on each exercise.

## Instructions

Each exercise is numbered and introduced by instructions that explain what to do. In some cases additional information is given about the language point being covered.

## Cultural/Conversational tip

These panels provide additional insights into life in Germany and language usage.

## Text styles

Distinctive text styles differentiate German and English, and the pronunciation guide (see right).

**18 WEEK 2**

**Warm up**  
Count to ten (pp.10-11)  
Say "hello" and "goodbye" (pp.8-9)  
Ask "Do you have a brother?" (pp.12-13)

**Im Café**  
*At the café*  
In a German **Café** the busiest time is the afternoon, when people stop for coffee and cake. Some savory dishes are also usually available, but the emphasis is on pastries and cakes.

der Zucker  
dair tsuok-er  
sugar

**Match and repeat**  
Familiarize yourself with the words below. Then test yourself by hiding the German with the cover flap. Practice the words on the picture also.

der Kaffee ohne Milch  
dair kuh-lay oh-ne milch  
black coffee

der Tee mit Milch  
dair tay mit milch  
tea with milk

das Gebäck  
dass ge-bäck  
pastry

das Sandwich  
dass zent-vich  
sandwich

der schwarze Tee  
dair shvartse-tay  
black tea

**Cultural tip** Coffee is always served with milk and sugar, but tea drinkers should specify if they want milk ("mit Milch") or lemon ("mit Zitronen").

**In conversation**

Ich hätte gern eine Tasse Tee mit Milch.  
Ich hätte ja gerne eine Tasse Tee mit Milch.  
I would like a cup of tea with milk, please.

Sonst noch etwas?  
zonsht noch et-was  
Anything else?

Haben Sie Kuchen?  
hah-ben zee kuh-chen  
Do you have any cake?

## How to use the flap

The book's cover flaps allow you to conceal the German so that you can test whether you have remembered correctly.

## Revision pages

A recap of selected elements of previous lessons helps to reinforce your knowledge.

**86 WEEK 8**

**Antworten**  
Answers  
Cover with flap

**Wiederholung**  
Review and repeat

**At the office**  
1. das Heftgerät  
2. die Lampe  
3. der Laptop  
4. der Stuhl  
5. der Schreibtisch  
6. der Notizblock  
7. die Uhr

**At the office**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
1. Was ist das?  
2. Wo ist das?  
3. Was ist das?  
4. Was ist das?  
5. Was ist das?  
6. Was ist das?  
7. Was ist das?

**Jobs**  
1. Arzt/Ärztin  
2. Klempner(in)  
3. Verkäufer(in)  
4. Buchhalter(in)  
5. Lehrer(in)  
6. Rechtsanwalt/Rechtsanwältin

**Jobs**  
1. doctor  
2. plumber  
3. sales clerk  
4. accountant  
5. teacher  
6. lawyer

**How much?**  
1. Was kostet der Kaffee? (€1.50)  
2. Was kostet das Eis? (€1.50)  
3. Was kostet das Eis? (€1.50)  
4. Was kostet der Parkplatz? (€1.50)

**How much?**  
1. Das macht zwei Euro.  
2. Es kostet sieben Euro.  
3. Das macht drei Euro.  
4. Es kostet fünf Euro.



Many German sounds will already be familiar to you, but a few require special attention. Take note of how these letters are pronounced:

Selected phrases relevant to the topic help you speak and understand.

<p>ja, selbstverständlich. ja, selbst für intend-lich</p> <p>Yes, certainly</p>	<p>Danke. Was macht das? dun-ke. vuzs-mu-ke dus</p> <p>Thank you. How much is that?</p>	<p>Vier Euro, bitte. fee: oy-foe, bit-te</p> <p>Four euros, please</p>

In these exercises you are asked to apply what you have learned using different vocabulary.

Is breakfast included?

Use this guide as a reference for food terminology and popular German dishes.

- ch** pronounced from the back of the throat, as in the Scottish loch
- j** pronounced y as in yes
- r** rolled, produced from the back of the throat
- s** pronounced either s as in see or z as in zoo
- sch** pronounced sh as in ship
- ß** a special character that represents a double ss
- v** pronounced f as in foot
- w** pronounced v as in van
- z/tz** pronounced ts as in tsets

German vowels can be tricky, with the same vowel having a number of different pronunciations. Watch out also for these combinations that may look like familiar English sounds, but are pronounced differently in German:

<b>au</b>	as the English <i><u>now</u></i>
<b>ee</b>	as the English <i><u>lay</u></i>
<b>ei</b>	as the English <i><u>high</u></i>
<b>eu</b>	as the English <i><u>boy</u></i>
<b>ie</b>	as the English <i><u>see</u></i>

After each word or phrase you will find a pronunciation transcription. Read this, bearing in mind the tips above, and you will achieve a comprehensible result. But remember that the transcription can only ever be an approximation and that there is no real substitute for listening to and mimicking native speakers.

A mini-dictionary provides ready reference from English to German and German to English for 2,500 words.

[illegible][illegible]



## 1 Warm up

The Warm Up panel appears at the beginning of each topic. Use it to reinforce what you have already learned and to prepare yourself for moving ahead with the new subject.

# Guten Tag

## Hello

In formal situations, Germans greet each other with a handshake. They are addressed with title—**Herr** (for men) and **Frau** (for women)—and last name. Nowadays the title **Fräulein** (*Miss*) is rarely used for adult women. Young people may greet each other with a kiss on each cheek.

## 2 Words to remember

Learn these expressions. Conceal the German with the cover flap and test yourself.

**Guten Tag.**  
goo-ten tahk

*Hello/Good day.*

**Guten Abend/Nacht.**  
goo-ten ah-bent  
/nukht

*Good evening/night.*

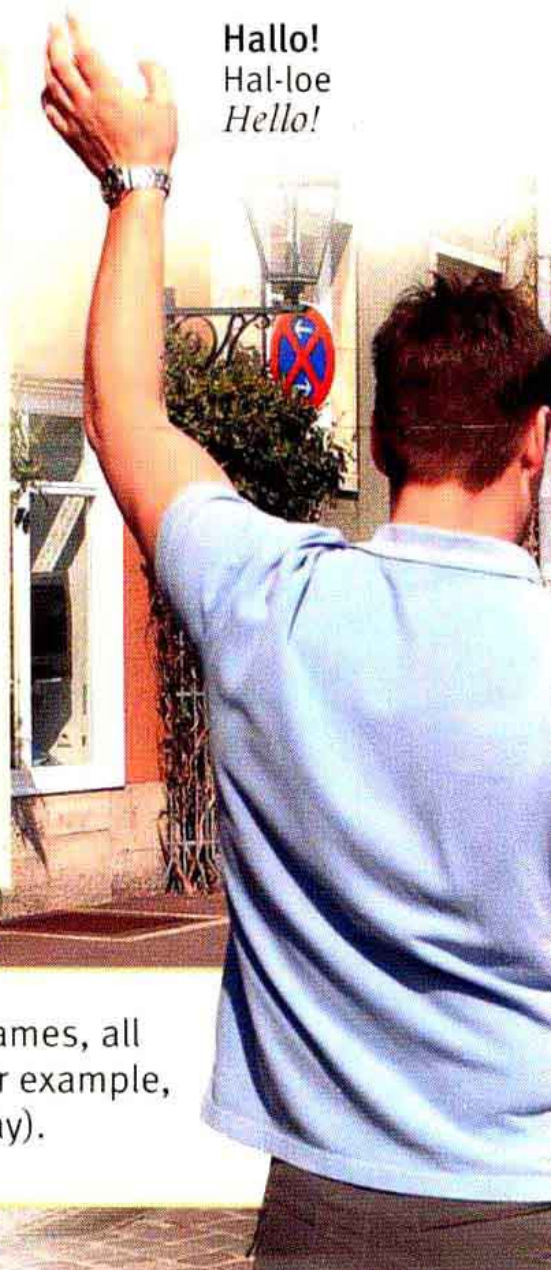
**Bis bald/morgen.**  
biss balt/mor-gen

*See you  
soon/tomorrow.*

**Auf Wiedersehen/  
Tschüss.**  
owf vee-der-zay-  
en/tchews

*Goodbye.  
(formal/informal)*

Hallo!  
Hal-loe  
Hello!



**Cultural tip** In addition to proper names, all nouns start with a capital letter in German—for example, “der Tag” (the day), as in “Guten Tag” (good day).

## 3 In conversation: formal



**Guten Tag. Ich heiße  
Martina Li.**  
goo-ten tahk. ikh high-  
se mar-teen-a lee

*Hello. My name is  
Martina Li.*



**Guten Tag. Michael  
Brand, freut mich.**  
goo-ten tahk. mikh-ah-  
ail brant, froyt mikh

*Hello. Michael Brand,  
pleased to meet you.*



**Freut mich.**  
froyt mikh

*Pleased to meet you.*



## Put into practice

Join in this conversation. Read the German beside the pictures on the left and then follow the instructions to make your reply. Then test yourself by concealing the answers with the cover flap.



**Guten Abend, Herr Gohl.**  
goo-ten ah-bent, hair goel  
*Good evening, Mr. Gohl.*

**Guten Abend.**  
goo-ten ah-bent

*Say: Good evening.*



**Ich heiße Ilse Gerlach.**  
ikh high-se ilze gair-lakh.  
*My name is Ilse Gerlach.*

**Freut mich.**  
froyt mikh

*Say: Pleased to meet you.*



## 5 Useful phrases

Familiarize yourself with these words. Read them aloud several times and try to memorize them. Conceal the German with the cover flap and test yourself.

*What's your name?*

**Wie heißen Sie?**  
vee high-sen zee

*My name is Thomas.*

**Ich heiße Thomas.**  
ikh high-se toe-mass

*Pleased to meet you.*

**Freut mich.**  
froyt mikh

*Thank you.*

**Danke.**  
dun-ke

## 6 In conversation: informal



**Also, bis morgen?**  
ull-zoe, biss mor-gen

*So, see you tomorrow?*



**Ja, auf Wiedersehen.**  
yah, owf vee-der-zay-en

*Yes, goodbye.*



**Tschüss. Bis bald.**  
tchews. biss balt

*Goodbye. See you soon.*



## Warm up

Say "hello" and  
"goodbye" in German.  
(pp.8-9)

Now say "My name  
is...". (pp.8-9)

Say "Mr" and "Mrs".  
(pp.8-9)

# Die Verwandten

## Relatives

In German things are masculine, feminine, or neuter, taking a different form of "the" according to gender: **der** (masculine), **die** (feminine), and **das** (neuter). There is no easy way of knowing the gender of a word; you will have to memorize them individually.

### 2 Match and repeat

Look at the numbered family members in this scene and match them with the vocabulary list at the side. Read the German words aloud. Now, conceal the list with the cover flap and test yourself.

1 **der Großvater**  
dair groes-fah-ter

2 **der Bruder**  
dair broo-der

3 **die Schwester**  
dee shvess-ter

4 **der Vater**  
dair fah-ter

5 **die Mutter**  
dee moot-ter

6 **die Großmutter**  
dee groes-moot-ter

7 **der Sohn**  
dair zoen

8 **die Tochter**  
dee tokh-ter

1 grandfather

3 sister

brother 2

4 father

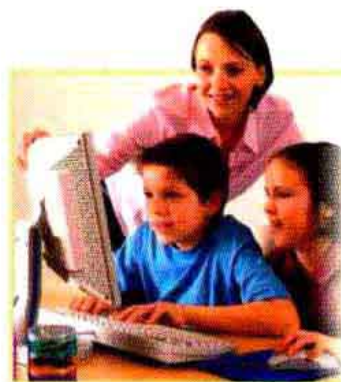
5 mother



grandmother 6

7 son

8 daughter



**Conversational tip** In German the word "ein" (a/an) changes according to the gender of the noun—for example, "Ich habe eine Schwester" (I have a sister), but "Ich habe einen Sohn" (I have a son).



### 3 Words to remember: relatives

Germans commonly refer to their spouses as **mein Mann** (*my man*) or **meine Frau** (*my woman*). This is not impolite, but a shortened version of **mein Ehemann** and **meine Ehefrau**.

**der**  
**Ehemann**  
dair  
ay-amunn  
*husband*

**die**  
**Ehefrau**  
dee  
ay-afrow  
*wife*



**Ich bin verheiratet.**  
ikh bin fer-hye-rah-tet  
*I'm married.*

*children*

**die Kinder**  
dee kin-der

*brother-in-law/  
sister-in-law*

**der Schwager/die  
Schwägerin**  
dair shvar-ger/dee  
shvay-ge-rin

*half-brother/half-  
sister*

**der Halbbruder/die  
Halbschwester**  
dair hulp-broo-der/dee  
hulp-shvess-ter

*stepson/stepdaughter*

**der Stiefsohn/die  
Stieftochter**  
dair shteef-zohn/dee  
shteef-tokh-ter

*stepfather/stepmother*

**der Stiefvater/die  
Stiefmutter**  
dair shteef-fah-ter/dee  
shteef-moot-ter

*I have two sons*

**Ich habe zwei Söhne.**  
ikh hah-be tsvie zer-ne.

### 4 Words to remember: numbers

Memorize these words and then test yourself using the cover flap.

In German the plural is formed by adding an "en," "e," "er," or "s" to the end of the word, as in **Frau/Frauen** (*woman/women*), **Tag/Tage** (*day/days*), **Mann/Männer** (*man/men*), **Auto/Autos** (*car/cars*). In many cases the main vowel changes to an umlaut, as in **der Bruder/die Brüder** (*brother/brothers*). In others there is no change.

### 5 Say it

One sister.

Three sons.

Two brothers.

*one*

**eins**  
ients

*two*

**zwei**  
tsvie

*three*

**drei**  
drie

*four*

**vier**  
feer

*five*

**fünf**  
fewnf

*six*

**sechs**  
zeks

*seven*

**sieben**  
zee-ben

*eight*

**acht**  
akht

*nine*

**neun**  
noyn

*ten*

**zehn**  
tsayn



## 1 Warm up

Say the German for as many members of the family as you can.  
(pp.10–11)

Say "I have two sons."  
(pp.10–11)

# Meine Familie

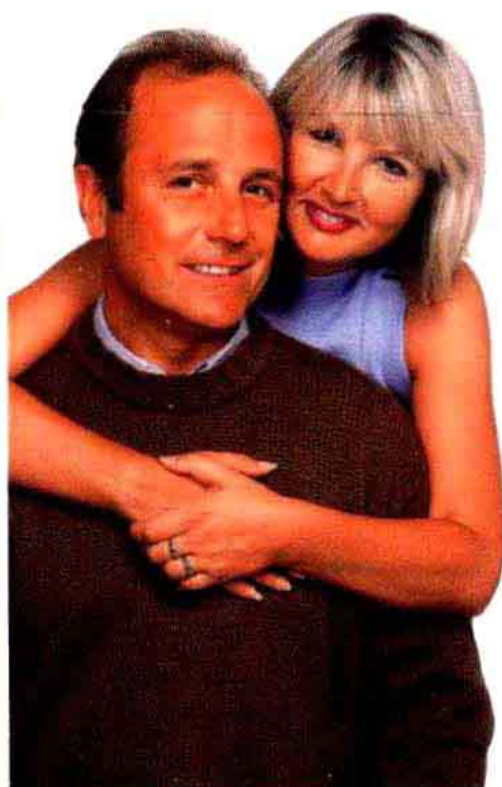
## *My family*

There are two ways of saying "you" in German: **Sie** for people you have just met or don't know very well, and **du** for family and friends. There are also different words for "your" (see below). It is best to use **Sie** when you first meet someone and wait until he or she invites you to use **du**.

## 2 Words to remember

The words for "my" and "your" change, depending on the gender and number of the word to which they relate.

<b>mein</b> mine	<i>my (with masculine or neuter)</i>
<b>meine</b> mye-ne	<i>my (with feminine)</i>
<b>meine</b> mye-ne	<i>my (with plural)</i>
<b>dein</b> dine	<i>your (informal, with masculine or neuter)</i>
<b>deine</b> dye-ne	<i>your (informal, with feminine)</i>
<b>deine</b> dye-ne	<i>your (informal, with plural)</i>
<b>Ihr</b> eer	<i>your (formal, with masculine or neuter)</i>
<b>Ihre</b> ee-re	<i>your (formal, with feminine or plural)</i>



Das sind meine Eltern.  
duss zint mye-ne ell-tern  
*These are my parents.*

## 3 In conversation



Haben Sie Kinder?  
hah-ben zee kin-der

*Do you have any children?*



Ja, ich habe zwei Töchter.  
yah, ikh hah-be tsvie terk-ter

*Yes, I have two daughters.*



Hier sind meine Töchter. Und Sie?  
heer zint mye-ne terk-ter. oont zee

*These are my daughters. And you?*





## Conversational tip

The most common way to ask a question in German is to invert the verb and the subject: "Sie haben" (you have) becomes "Haben Sie...?" (have you?, or do you have?). Similarly, "Sie möchten Kaffee" (you want coffee) becomes "Möchten Sie Kaffee?" (Do you want coffee?).



## Useful phrases

Read these phrases aloud several times and try to memorize them. Conceal the German with the cover flap and test yourself.



*Do you have any brothers? (formal)*

**Haben Sie Brüder?**  
hah-ben zee brew-der

*Do you have any brothers? (informal)*

**Hast du Brüder?**  
husst doo brew-der



*This is my husband.*

**Hier ist mein Mann.**  
heer isst mine munn

*That's my wife.*

**Dort ist meine Frau.**  
dort isst mye-ne frow



*Is that your sister? (formal)*

**Ist das Ihre Schwester?**  
isst duss ee-re shvess-ter

*Is that your sister? (informal)*

**Ist das deine Schwester?**  
isst duss dye-ne shvess-ter



**Nein, aber ich habe einen Stiefsohn.**  
nine, ah-ber ikh hah-be ie-nen shteef-zohn

*No, but I have a stepson.*

## 5 Say it

Do you have any brothers and sisters? (formal)

Do you have any children? (informal)

I don't have any sisters.

This is my wife.





## 1 Warm up

Say "See you soon."  
(pp.8–9)

Say "I am married"  
and "I have a wife."  
(pp.10–11 and  
pp.12–13)

# Sein und haben

## To be and to have

German verbs have more forms than English ones, so learn them carefully. The verbs **sein** (*to be*) and **haben** (*to have*) are used in many expressions, often differently from English. For example, in English you say "I'm hungry," but in German you say **Ich habe Hunger** (literally, *I have hunger*).

## 2 Sein: to be

Familiarize yourself with the different forms of **sein** (*to be*). Use the cover flaps to test yourself and, when you are confident, practice the sample sentences below.

**ich bin**  
ikh bin

*I am*

**du bist**  
doo bist

*you are (informal,  
singular)*

**er/sie/es ist**  
air/zee/ess isst

*he/she/it is*

**wir sind**  
veer zint

*we are*

**ihr seid**  
eer ziet

*you are (informal,  
plural)*

**sie sind/Sie sind**  
zee zint

*they are/you are  
(formal)*

**Ich bin müde.**  
ikh bin mew-de

*I'm tired.*

**Du bist/Sie sind  
pünktlich.**  
doo bist/zee zint  
pewnkt-likh

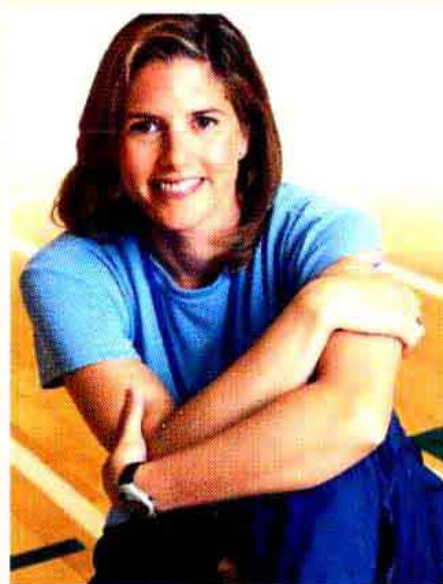
*You're on time.*

**Ist sie glücklich?**  
isst zee glewk-likh

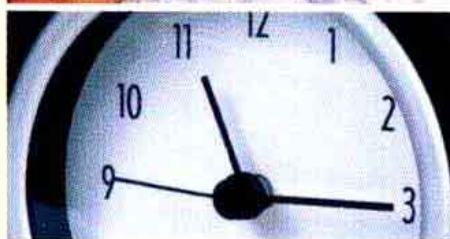
*Is she happy?*

**Wir sind Deutsche.**  
veer zind doitch

*We're German.*



**Ich bin Engländerin.**  
ikh bin ang-lan-darin  
*I'm English.*





### 3 Haben

Learn this verb and the sample sentences. Use the flap to test yourself.



**Haben Sie Brokkoli?**  
hah-ben zee brokolee  
*Do you have any broccoli?*

*I have*

**ich habe**  
ikh hah-be

*you have (informal, singular)*

**du hast**  
doo husst

*he/she/it has*

**er/sie/es hat**  
air/zee/ess hut

*we have*

**wir haben**  
veer hah-ben

*you have (informal, plural)*

**ihr habt**  
eer hahpt

*they have/you have (formal)*

**sie haben/Sie haben**  
zee hah-ben



*He has a meeting.*

**Er hat eine Besprechung.**  
air hut ie-ne be-shpre-khoong



*Do you have a cell phone?*

**Haben Sie ein Handy?**  
hah-ben zee ine han-di



*They have a half-brother.*

**Sie haben einen Halbbruder.**  
zee hah-ben ie-nen hup-broo-der

### 4 Negatives

The most common way to make a sentence negative in German is to put **nicht** (*not*) in front of the word that is negated, much as in English: **Wir sind nicht verheiratet** (*We are not married*). Note the following special negative constructions: *not a/not any* becomes **kein/keine**, *not ever/never* becomes **nie**, and *not anywhere/nowhere* becomes **nirgendwo**.



**das Fahrrad**  
duss fahr-raht  
*bicycle*

*I'm not tired.*

**Ich bin nicht müde.**  
ikh bin nikht mew-de

*He's not married.*

**Er ist nicht verheiratet.**  
air isst nikht fer-hye-rah-tet

*We don't have any children.*

**Wir haben keine Kinder.**  
veer hah-ben kye-ne kin-der

**Ich habe kein Auto.**  
ikh hah-be kine ow-to  
*I don't have a car.*



**Antworten***Answers*

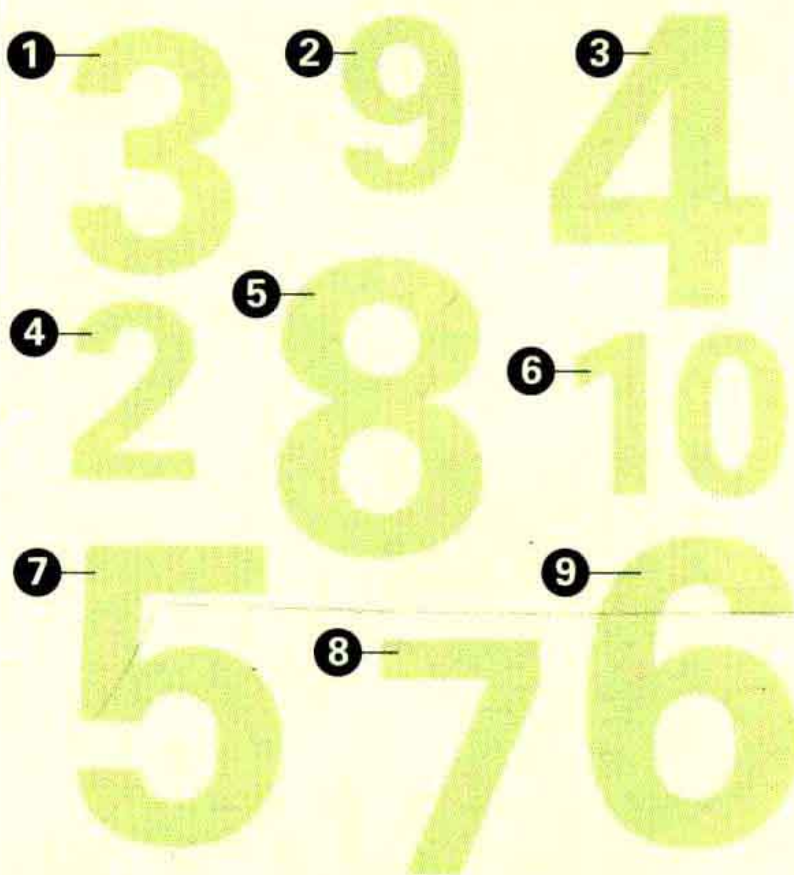
Cover with flap

**Wiederholung**  
*Review and repeat***1 How many?**

- 1 **drei**  
drie
- 2 **neun**  
noyn
- 3 **vier**  
feer
- 4 **zwei**  
tsvie
- 5 **acht**  
akht
- 6 **zehn**  
tsayn
- 7 **fünf**  
fewnf
- 8 **sieben**  
zee-ben
- 9 **sechs**  
zeks

**1 How many?**

Conceal the answers with the cover flap.  
Then say these numbers in German. Check  
to see if you remembered correctly.

**2 Hello**

- 1 **Guten Tag. Ich heiße... [your name].**  
goo-ten tahk. ikh high-se...
- 2 **Freut mich.**  
froyt mikh
- 3 **Ja, und ich habe zwei Söhne. Und Sie?**  
yah, oont ikh hah-be tsvie zer-ne. Oont zee?
- 4 **Auf Wiedersehen. Bis morgen.**  
owf vee-der-zay-en. biss mor-gen

**2 Hello**

You meet someone in a formal situation.  
Join in the conversation, replying in  
German according to the English prompts.

**Guten Tag. Ich heiße Claudia.**

1 *Answer the greeting and give your name.*

**Das ist mein Mann, Norbert.**

2 *Say "Pleased to meet you."*

**Sind Sie verheiratet?**

3 *Say "Yes, and I have two sons. And you?"*

**Wir haben drei Töchter.**

4 *Say "Goodbye. See you tomorrow."*

