

Deutsch Lernen

Learn German: A1–A2 Foundations

LEVEL A1

LEVEL A2

A Complete Beginner's Guide for High School Students

LERNZIELE

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- 1 Pronounce German letters and sounds correctly
- 2 Use basic greetings and introduce yourself
- 3 Count and use numbers in everyday contexts
- 4 Understand German articles (der, die, das) and noun genders
- 5 Form basic sentences and conjugate common verbs

The German Alphabet

Special German Letters

A

"eh" sound (like "air")

Apfel (apple), Madchen (girl)

O

"ur" sound (like "bird")

schon (beautiful), Konig (king)

U

"ee" with rounded lips

uber (over), grun (green)

SS

Sharp "s" sound

Strasse (street), gross (big)

Key Sound Differences

W

= English "V" (Wasser = "Vasser")

V

= English "F" (Vater = "Fater")

J

= English "Y" (ja = "ya")

Z

= "TS" sound (Zeit = "Tseit")

CH

Soft rasp (ich) or hard (ach)

SCH

= "SH" (Schule = "Shoole")

GRUNDLAGEN

Essential Greetings

GREETINGS

Guten Morgen

Good morning *[GOO-ten MOR-gen]*

Guten Tag

Good day / Hello *[GOO-ten TAHK]*

Guten Abend

Good evening *[GOO-ten AH-bent]*

Hallo / Hi

Hello / Hi (informal) *[HAH-lo]*

FAREWELLS

Auf Wiedersehen

Goodbye (formal) *[owf VEE-der-zay-en]*

Tschuss

Bye (informal) *[CHOOS]*

Bis bald / Bis später

See you soon / later *[bis BAHLT]*

Gute Nacht

Good night *[GOO-te NAKHT]*

POLITE PHRASES

Bitte

Please / You're welcome *[BIT-te]*

Danke (schon)

Thank you (very much) *[DAHN-ke SHURN]*

Entschuldigung

Excuse me / Sorry *[ent-SHOOL-di-goong]*

Wie bitte?

Pardon? / Come again? *[vee BIT-te]*

DIE ZAHLEN

Numbers 1-20

1

eins

2

zwei

3

drei

4

vier

5

funf

6

sechs

7

sieben

8

acht

9

neun

10

zehn

11

elf

12

zwolf

13

dreizehn

14

vierzehn

15

funfzehn

16

sechzehn

17

siebzehn

18

achtzehn

19

neunzehn

20

zwanzig

Pattern: 13-19 = digit + "zehn" (like English "-teen"). 21+ = digit + "und" + tens (einundzwanzig = 21)

German Articles: der, die, das

MASCULINE

der

der Mann (man)
der Tisch (table)
der Hund (dog)

FEMININE

die

die Frau (woman)
die Lampe (lamp)
die Katze (cat)

NEUTER

das

das Kind (child)
das Buch (book)
das Haus (house)

Quick Tips for Remembering Gender

- Words ending in -er, -en, -el are often masculine
- Words ending in -ung, -heit, -keit, -schaft are feminine
- Words ending in -chen, -lein, -ment are neuter

Plural = die

All plurals use "die"
regardless of the singular
gender!

German Sentence Structure

THE GOLDEN RULE

The verb is ALWAYS in the second position in a main clause.

1 Basic Statements

Subject + Verb + Object

Ich trinke Kaffee.

"I drink coffee."

Time + Verb + Subject + Object

Heute trinke ich Kaffee.

"Today I drink coffee." (verb stays 2nd!)

2 Questions

Yes/No: Verb + Subject + ...?

Trinkst du Kaffee?

"Do you drink coffee?"

W-Question: W-word + Verb + ...?

Was trinkst du?

"What do you drink?"

W-WORDS: wer (who) | was (what) | wo (where) | wann (when) | warum (why) | wie (how)

VERBEN

Common Verbs and Conjugation

sein

(to be)

ich	bin
du	bist
er/sie/e s	ist
wir	sind
ihr	seid
sie/Sie	sind

haben

(to have)

ich	habe
du	hast
er/sie/e s	hat
wir	haben
ihr	habt
sie/Sie	haben

machen

(to make/do)

ich	mach-e
du	mach-st
er/sie/e s	mach-t
wir	mach-en
ihr	mach-t
sie/Sie	mach-en

Practice Dialogue: Meeting Someone

Anna Hallo! Ich heiße Anna. Wie heißt du?
Hello! My name is Anna. What's your name?

Max Hallo Anna! Ich bin Max. Freut mich!
Hello Anna! I am Max. Nice to meet you!

Anna Woher kommst du?
Where are you from?

Max Ich komme aus Berlin. Und du?
I come from Berlin. And you?

Anna Ich komme aus München. Schon!
I come from Munich. Nice!

Key Phrases

Ich heiße...	My name is...
Wie heißt du?	What's your name?
Freut mich!	Nice to meet you!
Woher kommst du?	Where are you from?

Try It Yourself!

Practice introducing yourself:

1. Say your name
2. Ask someone their name
3. Say where you are from

Resources and Next Steps

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Duolingo - Free app for daily practice
- Deutsche Welle - Free German courses
- YouTube channels for German learners

DAILY PRACTICE TIPS

- Label items in your home in German
- Listen to German music or podcasts
- Practice 10-15 minutes every day

What to Study Next (A2 Level)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Cases (Nominative, Accusative, Dative) | 4. Prepositions with cases |
| 2. Modal verbs (können, müssen, wollen) | 5. Adjective endings |
| 3. Past tense (Perfekt) | 6. Subordinate clauses |

Viel Erfolg! (Good luck!) Keep practicing every day!