

Beginners' German: Places and people



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About this free course

This free course is an adapted extract from a previous edition of the Open University course L193

Rundblick: beginners' German: www3.open.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/course/l193.html

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Introduction

This free course focuses on planning and preparing for a journey through German-speaking countries. You will read and hear about a range of places and people.

You will learn the names of things you need to remember when travelling and, most importantly, you will find out what it's like to read and listen to German in real contexts, and about developing strategies and studying useful phrases, which will help you to cope in a range of situations.

You will also find out how to order and pay for things in cafes and restaurants.

This OpenLearn course is an adapted extract from a previous edition of the Open University course [L193 Rundblick: beginners' German](#).

Learning Outcomes

After studying this course, you should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of the singular forms of personal pronouns, singular forms of the regular verb *kommen* and generalisations using *man*
- use improved vocabulary and pronunciation related to place names, numbers 0–10, countries, finding out what is available when ordering and paying for things, ordering and paying for food
- understand the cultures of places and people in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, German-speaking minorities
- address people, imitate German pronunciation, and read for gist
- learned how to work out meanings from the contexts.

1 Talking about places and locations

In this section, you have a first look at places and people in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. You familiarise yourself with the pronunciation of place names in German, and you talk about the location of cities and towns in German-speaking countries. You also talk about where some people come from (some well-known and some not so well-known).

1.1 People and places

You will start this section by looking at the geography of some German-speaking countries.

Übung 1

Here is a map showing places in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. To start with, listen to the audio extract beneath the map. Can you understand where the various people are from? Which of the labelled places do you hear mentioned in the clip?



Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 1

Discussion

The places mentioned were Frankfurt, München (Munich), Berlin, Innsbruck and Zürich.

Which of the places have you heard of before (or perhaps even visited)? Make a note of them. Do you know any other places in Germany, Austria and Switzerland? Where are they?

Provide your answer...

Discussion

What you've written depends entirely on your own experiences. The aim of this activity is to make you think about what you know already, and encourage you to have a look at a map to find out more about the location of places you have heard of.

Übung 2

Now listen to the pronunciation of the place names. Repeat each name as you hear it.

Hören Sie und sprechen Sie nach.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 2



Insel Rügen



Berlin



Genf



Wien



Frankfurt

1.2 Pronunciation

German uses the same letters as English, with some additions: 'a', 'o' and 'u' can sometimes be found with two dots over them (called *Umlaut*). They sound slightly different from 'a', 'o', and 'u' on their own. The letter 'ß' represents a double 's' and is pronounced like an 's'.

At this stage, all the German you need to use is presented in the audio clips. Listen to the words and phrases and try to imitate the pronunciation of the speakers. You will find that

German pronunciation becomes very easy to predict after a while. As the course progresses, you will be introduced to some of the rules and asked to practise individual sounds.

Übung 3

How are the following letters or groups of letters pronounced in German? Listen to this audio extract again and, if you like, make some personal notes on the pronunciation. Write down something that will help you remember how to say the word when you see it written down. The first one has been done as an example.

Bitte hören Sie und schreiben Sie.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 3

'eu' in *Deutschland*: sounds like 'oy' in 'joy'

'ü' in *München*: sounds like ...

'ch' in *München*: sounds like ...

'au' in *Augsburg*: sounds like ...

'ö' in *Köln*: sounds like ...

'a' in *Hamburg*: sounds like ...

'ei' in *Österreich*: sounds like ...

'w' in *Wien*: sounds like ...

'ie' in *Wien*: sounds like ...

'z' in *Zürich*: sounds like ...

Answer

The answer depends on what you find helpful and on your own mother tongue, accent and knowledge of other languages. Here are some suggestions:

'eu' in *Deutschland* sounds like 'oy' in 'joy';

'ü' in *München* sounds like nothing in English (it is pronounced right at the front of your mouth, halfway between 'ee' and 'oo');

'ch' in *München* sounds a bit like 'H' in 'Hugh';

'au' in *Augsburg* sounds like 'ou' in 'ouch';

'ö' in *Köln* sounds a bit like 'oeu' in the French word 'boeuf' (but your lips are more closed and pointed when you pronounce it);

'a' in *Hamburg* sounds like 'u' in 'hum' (in Standard English);

'ei' in *Österreich* sounds like 'I';

'w' in *Wien* sounds like 'v' in 'Vienna';

'ie' in *Wien* sounds like 'ee' in 'see';

'z' in *Zürich* sounds like 'tz' in 'Switzerland'.

1.3 Location

In the previous activities you have been looking at the location of places in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. If you had to give this information in German, this is the vocabulary you would need:

Vokabeln

das ist ... that is ... / this is ...

in Deutschland in Germany

in Norddeutschland in northern Germany

in Süddeutschland in southern Germany

in Österreich in Austria

in der Schweiz in Switzerland

Übung 4

Listen to the names of some places and say, in German, where they all are. Repeat this activity until you are happy with your pronunciation.

Bitte hören Sie und sprechen Sie. Hier ist ein Beispiel.

You hear: Hamburg

You say: Hamburg? Das ist in Norddeutschland.

You hear: Hamburg? Hm, das ist in Norddeutschland!

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 4

Answer

As is the case in English, countries in German in general do not have articles (for example you would say 'Germany' not 'the Germany'). There are a few exceptions though and *Schweiz* is one of them. That's why you had to say *Das ist in der Schweiz.*)

Übung 5

Now listen to people saying who they are and where they come from. Then, complete the sentences below.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 5

1. Claudia Grothe kommt aus ...

Provide your answer...

2. Jasmin kommt aus ...

Provide your answer...

3. Ulf kommt aus ...

Provide your answer...

4. Dieter Hoffmann kommt aus ...

Provide your answer...

5. Bärbel Kleingarn kommt aus ...

Provide your answer...

6. Peter Neißendorfer kommt aus ...

Provide your answer...

Answer

This is where the people come from:

1. Claudia Grothe kommt aus **Norddeutschland**.
2. Jasmin kommt aus **Innsbruck**.
3. Ulf kommt aus **Rostock**.
4. Dieter Hoffmann kommt aus **Köln**.
5. Bärbel Kleingarn kommt aus **Hamburg**.
6. Peter Neißendorfer kommt aus **München**.

Apart from *ich komme aus ...* (I come from ...), people were also saying *ich bin in ... geboren* (I was born in ...).

So far you have been talking about places, but what about the people who come from these places? You already know *Das ist ...* which you can use for introducing them. And then you could say:

er kommt aus ... he comes from ...

sie kommt aus ... she comes from ...

And you may also want to introduce yourself:

mein Name ist ... my name is ...

ich komme aus ... I come from ...

Übung 6

Click the following link and complete the activity. Then, move on to the question below.

[Open the quiz now.](#)

Und Sie? (*Introduce yourself. You can look up the name of your country in a dictionary, if you like.*)

Provide your answer...

Answer

These are the answers to the activity, showing how each person should be introduced:

1. Das ist Sigmund Freud. Er kommt aus Österreich.
(*The Austrian neurologist and founder of psychoanalysis lived from 1856 to 1939.*)
2. Das ist Steffi Graf. Sie kommt aus Deutschland.
(*Tennis player Steffi Graf was born in 1969.*)
3. Das ist Wilhelm Tell. Er kommt aus der Schweiz.
(*The semi-legendary Swiss patriot was first mentioned in a chronicle in 1470.*)
4. Das ist Michael Schumacher. Er kommt aus Deutschland.
(*The German racing driver was born in 1969.*)
5. Das ist Königin Silvia. Sie kommt aus Deutschland.
(*Silvia, Queen of Sweden, was born in Heidelberg in 1943 as Silvia Renate Sommerlath, the daughter of a West German businessman and his Brazilian wife.*)
6. Das ist Nastassja Kinski. Sie kommt aus Deutschland.
(*The actress – and daughter of actor Klaus Kinski – was born in 1960.*)
7. Das ist Helmut Kohl. Er kommt aus Deutschland.
(*The former German chancellor was born in 1930.*)
8. Das ist Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Er kommt aus Österreich.
(*The Austrian composer lived from 1756 to 1791.*)

This is how you could have introduced yourself:

Mein Name ist _____. Ich komme aus _____ (England, Schottland, Wales, Irland, usw.).

1.4 Numbers 0–10

Before you can complete the final activity in this section, you need to understand numbers up to ten. Here they are in writing:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
null	eins	zwei	drei	vier	fünf	sechs	sieben	acht	neun	zehn

Übung 7

Listen to the audio extract and read the numbers, paying close attention to pronunciation. Then listen again and repeat out loud until you are happy with your own pronunciation.

Bitte hören Sie und sprechen Sie nach.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 7

Übung 8

Now listen to the audio and look at the pictures below for some more practice in presenting people and pronouncing names. Listen out for the numbers, and then name the relevant person. Here's an example.

Bitte hören Sie und sprechen Sie. Hier ist ein Beispiel.

You hear: Nummer eins

(picture number 1 shows Sigmund Freud)

You say: Das ist Sigmund Freud.

You hear: Das ist Sigmund Freud.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 8



2 Understanding information about countries and languages

In this section, you have a look at countries all over the world and meet some of the people who live there. You learn to recognise more names for countries, understand some information about the German language as well as basic personal information. You also learn to use regular verbs and pronouns such as 'I', 'you', 'he' and 'she'.

2.1 Where is German spoken?

So far, this course has looked at places in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. In this activity, you'll learn about other countries around the world where you might hear German being spoken.

Übung 9

The countries listed below (among many others) have German minorities living within their borders who speak either standard German or a German dialect, or both. Before reading more about why this is the case, decide which continent they belong to by arranging the countries in the blank table below. One has been done as an example.

Bitte ordnen Sie.

Australian • Brasilien • Dänemark • Frankreich • Italien • Kanada • Kasachstan • Namibia
• Polen • Rumänien • Russland • USA

Afrika	Asien	Australian/Ozeanien	Europa	Südamerika
Provide your answer...	Provide your answer...	Provide your answer...	Dänemark	Provide your answer...
	Provide your answer...		Provide your answer...	
			Provide your answer...	
			Provide your answer...	
			Provide your answer...	
			Provide your answer...	

Now listen to this audio clip, which will help you check your answers above. Listen out for the pronunciation of the different countries in German.

Bitte hören Sie.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 9

Answer

Here is a completed table for you to check.

Afrika	Asien	Australian/Ozeanien	Europa	Südamerika	Nordamerika
Namibia	Kasachstan	Australien	Dänemark	Brasilien	Kanada
	Russland		Frankreich		USA
			Italien		
			Polen		
			Rumänien		
			Russland		

2.2 Useful expressions

Here are some useful expressions for you to understand when reading about the German language.

Vokabeln

Deutsch German

Hochdeutsch standard German

Deutsche Germans

Land, länder country, countries

Staat, staaten state, states

Sprache language

Muttersprache mother tongue

Minderheitensprache minority language

Landessprache national language

offizielle Sprache official language

sprechen, spricht speak, speaks

Übung 10

Look at the extracts below to learn more about places where German is spoken. You will probably not understand all of it yet, but keep a look out for the countries mentioned in each paragraph. You may like to make some notes.

Bitte markieren Sie.

- 1 In Deutschland, im deutschen Teil der Schweiz, in Österreich, Luxemburg und Liechtenstein ist die Landessprache Deutsch. Insgesamt sprechen dort rund 95 Millionen Menschen Deutsch.
- 2 Aber außerdem gibt es noch mehr als 60 Staaten auf der Welt, wo Deutsch Minderheitensprache ist.
- 3 Viele Länder in Europa haben eine Grenze mit Deutschland oder Österreich. Dort gibt es oft Regionen, wo man auch Deutsch spricht, zum Beispiel in Dänemark, Italien und Frankreich.
- 4 Vor 1918 hatte Deutschland einige Kolonien. Dazu gehört Namibia, das damals den Namen Deutsch-Südwest-Afrika hatte. Dort ist Deutsch heute noch offizielle Sprache (neben Englisch, Afrikaans und mehreren afrikanischen Sprachen). 92% der Einwohner von Namibia sprechen Deutsch.
- 5 Im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert sind viele Deutsche nach Osteuropa emigriert – oft wegen ihrer Religion. In Polen, Russland, Rumänien und anderen Ländern gibt es viele deutsche Familien.
- 6 Andere Gruppen sind nach Übersee emigriert – nach Nord- und Südamerika. Schon 1683 ließen die ersten deutschen Familien in Philadelphia. Sie gaben ihrer neuen Heimat den Namen Germantown. Viele der Emigrierten waren Mennoniten. In Kenosha (Wisconsin) heute zum Beispiel die Amish. Sie sprechen einen deutschen Dialekt und auch Hochdeutsch. Auch in Kanada gibt es Mennoniten, vor allem in Kitchener-Waterloo. Dasselbe gilt für Blumenfeld in Süd-Brazilien.
- 7 In Australien ist vor allem das Barossa-Tal bekannt. Auch hierher sind im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert viele Deutsche emigriert. Heute lebt man dort von Tourismus und vom Wein.

Discussion

Translating some sentences, these are the countries mentioned in each text.

1. Germany, (the German part of) Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein
2. more than 60 countries where German is a minority language
3. Germany, Austria, Denmark, Italy, France
4. Germany, Namibia
5. Poland, Russia, Romania
6. places in the USA, Canada, (Southern) Brazil
7. Australia

Übung 11

Now go through the extracts again. Even without understanding much German, can you guess what kind of information is given in each of them? Read the English summaries below and decide which one represents each of the German extracts.

Bitte ordnen Sie zu.

- Extract 1
- Extract 2
- Extract 5
- Extract 6
- Extract 7
- Extract 4
- Extract 3

Match each of the items above to an item below.

German is the national language in a number of European countries.

There are also countries all over the world where German is spoken as a minority language.

Many Germans left their home, for example for religious reasons, and went to live in Eastern Europe.

Germans also went overseas. For example, you can find a large number of Mennonites in both North and South America.

German emigration to Australia concentrated in the Barossa Valley, a famous wine-growing area which attracts many tourists.

Germany used to have some colonies, where German is still spoken today.

German is also spoken by some of the people who live in regions that share a border with Germany.

Discussion

If you found the correct English extracts for some or all of the texts, you will have understood the most important information given. When reading in a foreign language it's important not to be scared by the number of new words and structures that are being used, but to concentrate on what you can understand.

Übung 12

The following audio clip contains five short dialogues in which people talk about their origins. Listen and read the sentences below. They each contain one error. Rewrite the sentences correctly.

Hören Sie und korrigieren Sie die Sätze.

Vokabeln

Herr Mr

Frau Mrs, Miss, Ms

meine Familie my family

meine Mutter my mother

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 12

1. Marcos Schneider kommt aus Deutschland.

Provide your answer...

2(a). Frau Lahn kommt aus Hahndorf. Das ist in Namibia.

Provide your answer...

2(b). Frau Lahns Familie kommt aus Österreich.

Provide your answer...

3. Frau Lengfelder kommt aus der Schweiz.

Provide your answer...

4. Herr Söder kommt aus Norddeutschland.

Provide your answer...

5. Frau Schweigert kommt aus Kanada.

Provide your answer...

Answer

Here are the corrected versions of the sentences:

1. Marcos Schneider kommt aus **Brasilien**.
- 2(a). Frau Lahn kommt aus Hahndorf. Das ist in **Australien**.
- 2(b). Frau Lahns Familie kommt aus **Deutschland**.
3. Frau Lengenfelder kommt aus **Russland**.
4. Herr Söder kommt aus **Dänemark**.
5. Frau Schweigert kommt aus **Kasachstan**.

In the dialogues the question word *woher* was used several times. It means 'where from'.

2.3 Personal pronouns

In order to talk about yourself and other people you need the German for 'I', 'you', 'he', 'she' and 'it' (personal pronouns).

ich – I

du – you (when talking to a close friend, a relative or a child)

er – he

sie – she

es – it

Sie – you (when talking to an adult who is not a very close friend or relative)

Note that *sie* with a small letter means 'she', whereas *Sie* with a capital letter means 'you'.

Using *kommen*

While listening to the interviews you may have noticed the different forms of the verb *kommen* (to come). The form *kommen* – which is the one you will find in a dictionary – is called the infinitive. In the infinitive almost all German verbs end in *-en*, but when used in a

sentence, *-en* is replaced by another ending depending on the person you are talking about. Here are the forms of *kommen* in the singular.

kommen

ich **komme**

du **kommst**

er, sie, es **kommt**

Sie **kommen**

Übung 13

Listen to this audio again:

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 13

Now fill in the gaps in the following quiz by dragging the different forms of *kommen* to their correct positions.

[Open the quiz now.](#)

Answer

These are the forms of *kommen* which fit into the sentences:

1. Hallo, mein Name ist Marcos Schneider. – Hallo. **Kommst** du aus Deutschland?
2. Ich **komme** aus Hahndorf im Barossa-Tal. Meine Familie **kommt** aus Deutschland.
3. Woher **kommen** Sie? – Ich bin in Sibirien geboren, in Russland.
4. Guten Tag, Herr Söder. **Kommen** Sie aus Norddeutschland? – Nein, ich **komme** aus Dänemark.
5. Woher **kommen** Sie? – Ich bin auch Deutscher, also Nationalität Deutsch.

Übung 14

Complete the sentences in this quiz with the grammatically correct personal pronouns.

[Open the quiz now](#)

Answer

Here are the sentences with the correct personal pronouns:

1. Hallo, mein Name ist Sam Schmidt – ich komme aus Namibia.
2. Dein Deutsch ist perfekt! Kommst du aus Deutschland?
3. Das ist Peter Neißendorfer – er kommt aus München.
4. Das ist Claudia Grothe – sie kommt aus Norddeutschland.
5. Frau Lengfelder – kommen Sie hier aus München? Nein, ich komme aus Russland.

3 Giving and understanding personal information

In this section, you will get more practice in answering questions and giving basic personal information. You'll also learn to use more personal pronouns and regular verbs.

3.1 Where do you come from?

Start this section by listening to conversations about various countries. You may find this vocabulary useful:

Vokabeln

Entschuldigung excuse me

Entschuldigung, woher kommen Sie? excuse me, where do you come from?

bitte please

wohnen to live

Übung 15

Listen to people being asked where they come from, paying particular attention to which countries are mentioned. After listening, complete the activity below, organising the countries in the order they were mentioned.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 15

der Schweiz
Großbritannien
England
Schottland
Wales
Deutschland
Russland
Irland
Brasilien
Italien (Norditalien)
Frankreich

Match each of the items above to an item below.

- 1
- 2
- 3

- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11

Übung 16

Below is a map with arrows pointing to different countries. Listen to the audio and look at the map at the same time. When asked where you come from, answer as indicated by the arrows.

Bitte hören Sie und sprechen Sie. Hier ist ein Beispiel.

Sie hören: Woher kommen Sie?

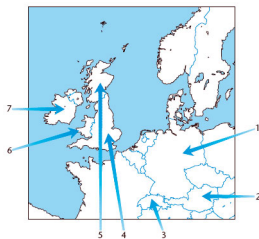
Sie sagen: Ich komme aus Deutschland.

(because arrow no. 1 is pointing to Germany)

Sie hören: Ich komme aus Deutschland.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 16



Übung 17

Below is some information about eight people who all have German as their mother tongue, but they come from and live in different countries. You were introduced to some of them in the previous sections. Fill in the gaps in the table below, noting where they live and which country they come from.

Bitte lesen Sie und schreiben Sie.

Hallo, ich heiße Marcos Schneider und komme aus Brasilien. Meine Familie kommt ursprünglich aus Deutschland. Wir wohnen in Blumenau. Wir spielen von Brasilien.

Zita Schweigert und ihr Sohn Michael wohnen in München. Michael ist in Deutschland geboren, aber Zita Schweigert kommt aus Kasachstan. Michael möchte im Oktober an die Universität gehen.

Das ist Frau Lengenfelder. Sie wohnt seit 1980 in München, aber sie ist in Russland geboren. Sie ist in einer Organisation für Russlanddeutsche aktiv.

Das ist Frank Börner. Er kommt aus Berlin und er wohnt im Sommer auf der Insel Rügen und im Winter in Berlin. Er hat auf Rügen ein Internethotel.

Wir heißen Melanie und Christian. Wir sind Studenten an der Uni Rostock und wir kommen aus Norddeutschland. Wir wohnen im Moment zusammen in einer Wohnung in Rostock.

Mein Name ist Helga Adams. Ich komme aus Österreich, aber ich wohne jetzt in Norddeutschland. In meiner Uni arbeitet bei der Open University.

Name	wohnt in	kommt aus
Marcos Schneider	<i>Provide your answer...</i>	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
Zita Schweigert	<i>Provide your answer...</i>	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
Michael Schweigert	<i>Provide your answer...</i>	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
Frau Lengenfelder	<i>Provide your answer...</i>	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
Frank Börner	<i>Provide your answer...</i>	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
Melanie	<i>Provide your answer...</i>	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
Christian	<i>Provide your answer...</i>	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
Helga Adams	<i>Provide your answer...</i>	<i>Provide your answer...</i>

Answer

Here's the table correctly filled out:

Name	wohnt in	kommt aus
Marcos Schneider	Blumenau (Brasilien)	Brasilien
Zita Schweigert	München	Kasachstan
Michael Schweigert	München	Deutschland
Frau Lengenfelder	München	Russland
Frank Börner	Rügen/Berlin	Berlin
Melanie	Rostock	Norddeutschland
Christian	Rostock	Norddeutschland

Helga Adams Leeds (Nordengland) Österreich

3.2 Where do you live?

In the previous sections, you learned about personal pronouns when talking about one person or one thing only (the singular). Below is a list of all pronouns, singular and plural. You came across some of them in the audio extracts and when reading the introductions in *Übung 17*.

Personal pronouns

Singular	Plural	Singular and plural
<i>ich</i> – I	<i>wir</i> – we	<i>Sie</i> – (when talking to one or more adults who are not very close friends or relatives of yours)
<i>du</i> – you (when talking to a close friend, a relative or a child)	<i>ihr</i> – you (when talking to two or more close friends, relatives or children)	
<i>er</i> – he	<i>sie</i> – they	
<i>sie</i> – she		
<i>es</i> – it		

Note that *sie* with a small 's' means 'she' and also 'they'.

You will have noticed that there are different ways of saying 'you' in German. *Sie* is the most useful when you meet German-speaking people. You mainly use *Sie* throughout this course, but you also learn more about the different ways of addressing people later on.

Übung 18

You also need to know how to use verbs with pronouns in the plural. The table below shows all the forms for *kommen*. '*komm-*' is the stem of the verb that is always the same. Endings are then added according to who you are talking about. Like *kommen* the verb *wohnen* is regular. They both work in the same way. Write down the forms for *wohnen*. The first one has been done for you.

Bitte schreiben Sie die Formen von „wohnen“ in die Tabelle.

		kommen	wohnen
singular	ich	komme	wohne
	du	kommst	Provide your answer...

	er/ sie/ es	kommt	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
plural	wir	kommen	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
	ihr	kommt	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
	sie	kommen	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
singular and plural	Sie	kommen	<i>Provide your answer...</i>

Answer

Here are the forms of *wohnen*:

wohnen

ich wohne

du wohnst

er/sie/es wohnt

wir wohnen

ihr wohnt

sie wohnen

Sie wohnen

Übung 19

Listen to the audio extracts and practise the different forms of *wohnen*.

Hören Sie und sprechen Sie. Hier ist ein Beispiel.

Sie hören: ich

Sie sagen: ich wohne

Sie hören: ich wohne

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Übung 19](#)

Übung 20

Use the information from [Übung 17](#) (repeated below), to match the answers with the questions in the following activity.



Hallo, ich heiße Marcos Schneider und komme aus Brasilien. Meine Familie kommt ursprünglich aus Deutschland. Wir wohnen in Blumenau im Süden von Brasilien.

Zia Schweigert und ihr Sohn Michael wohnen in München. Michael ist in Deutschland geboren, aber Zia Schweigert kommt aus Kaschmir. Michael möchte im Oktober an die Universität gehen.

Das ist Frau Lengenfelder. Sie wohnt seit 1980 in München, aber sie ist in Russland geboren. Sie ist in einer Organisation für Russlanddeutsche aktiv.

Das ist Frank Börner. Er kommt aus Berlin und er wohnt im Sommer auf der Insel Rügen und im Winter in Berlin. Er hat auf Rügen ein Internat.

Wir heißen Melanie und Christian. Wir sind Studenten an der Uni Rostock und wir kommen aus Norddeutschland. Wir wohnen im Moment zusammen in einer Wohnung in Rostock.

Mein Name ist: Heide Adams. Ich komme aus Österreich, aber ich wohne jetzt in Nordengland, in Leeds. Ich arbeite bei der Open University.

Vokabeln

Wo wohnen Sie? Where do you live?

Wo wohnt er/sie? Where does he/she live?

Er wohnt in Blumenau.

Sie kommen aus Norddeutschland.

Sie kommt aus Russland.

Er wohnt in Berlin und auf der Insel Rügen.

Sie wohnt in München.

Sie wohnt in Leeds.

Match each of the items above to an item below.

Wo wohnt Marcos Schneider?

Woher kommen Melanie und Christian?

Woher kommt Frau Lengenfelder?

Wo wohnt Herr Börner?

Wo wohnt Frau Schweigert?

Wo wohnt Frau Adams?

Übung 21

Match the questions and answers below. You will need to look closely at both the grammar and the content.

Er kommt aus der Schweiz.

Er kommt aus Österreich.

Sie kommt aus Österreich.

Sie wohnen in Pennsylvania.

Sie wohnt in München.

Sie wohnen in Rostock.

Sie wohnen in München.

Er kommt aus Brasilien

Match each of the items above to an item below.

Woher kommt Wilhelm Tell?

Woher kommt Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart?

Woher kommt Frau Adams?
Wo wohnen die Amish?
Wo wohnt Frau Lengenfelder?
Wo wohnen Melanie und Christian?
Wo wohnen Zita und Michael Schweigert?
Woher kommt Marcos Schneider?

Übung 22

In this activity, listen to the audio to practise giving some personal information about the people you have come across in this section. Make sure you are familiar with the information given in the extracts in *Übung 17*, then answer the questions.

Bitte hören Sie und sprechen Sie. Hier ist ein Beispiel.

Sie hören: Entschuldigen Sie bitte, wie ist Ihr Name? (Lengenfelder)

Sie sagen: Mein Name ist Lengenfelder.

Sie hören: Wo wohnen Sie?

Sie sagen: Ich wohne in München.

Sie hören: Und woher kommen Sie?

Sie sagen: Ich komme aus Russland.

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Übung 22](#)

4 Ordering and paying for things

You will now visit the island of Rügen, off Germany's Baltic coast. You'll learn to use the pronoun *man* to talk about the things you can do.

4.1 Using 'man'

Making generalisations using 'man'

When you are talking about people in general in English, you might say 'you', 'they' or 'people' rather than the formal-sounding 'one'. But *man* doesn't have the same formal ring to it in German. *Man* takes the same verb form as *er/sie/es*. Compare the following sentences, for example:

Was kann man hier essen? What can you eat here? (literally: What can one eat here?)

Was trinkt man hier? What do people drink here?

Man bekommt überall Wein You (can) get wine anywhere

Übung 23

You can buy food and drink in many different places. In the activity below, match the descriptions with the right picture numbers.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

Photo 3

Photo 6

Photo 4

Photo 2

Photo 5

Photo 1

Match each of the items above to an item below.

Hier kann man japanisch essen.

Hier kann man Kaffee trinken.

Hier kann man Bratwurst kaufen.

Hier kann man ein Schinkenbrötchen kaufen.

Hier kann man Obst und Gemüse kaufen.

Hier kann man Brot kaufen.

Übung 24

On the island of Rügen, you might hear someone asking about what you can eat and drink there. Listen for the key words and fill in the gaps in the following sentences. You don't need to understand everything.

Hören Sie und schreiben Sie.

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Übung 24](#)

Vokabeln

aus der Umgebung from the surrounding area

wer Fisch mag, der ist hier genau richtig anyone who likes fish feels at home here



1. Was kann man auf Rügen essen?

Man kann _____ essen.

Provide your answer...

2. Was trinkt man?

Man trinkt _____.

Provide your answer...

3. Was bekommt man auch?

Man bekommt überall auch _____.

Provide your answer...

Answer

These were the key words.

1. Man kann **Fisch** essen.

2. Man trinkt **Bier**.
3. Man bekommt überall auch **Wein**.

4.2 Café conversations

Übung 25

Listen to this conversation in a café. Try to work out the meanings from the context without using a dictionary. Then do the quiz below.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 25

stimmt so
sonst noch etwas
zwei Stück Apfelkuchen
ein Glas Tee
Ich möchte zahlen, bitte
das macht
mit Sahne
ein Kännchen Kaffee
mit Zitrone
zusammen oder getrennt
entschuldigung
wir möchten

Match each of the items above to an item below.

keep the change
anything else?
two pieces of apple cake
a glass of tea
I'd like to pay, please
that comes to
with cream
a pot of coffee
with lemon
together or separately
excuse me
we'd like

Übung 26

Listen to the audio again (and look at the transcript if you'd like). The waitress says *bitte schön* twice. Can you guess from the context what the phrase means in each case (two different meanings)? Write down what you think the different meanings are.
Lesen Sie und schreiben Sie.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 26

Provide your answer...

Answer

Bitte schön? – Yes, please? (How can I help you?)

Bitte schön. – Here you are. (When handing something over.)

There is a third situation where *bitte schön* commonly occurs – in response to *danke schön* it means 'don't mention it' or 'you're welcome'.

Übung 27

Here are some extracts from everyday café conversations with a few key words missing.

Use some of the phrases you have learned to fill in the gaps.

Lesen Sie und schreiben Sie.

GAST: Entschuldigung! Die Speisekarte, bitte!

KELLNER: Ja, sofort. ... Bitte ____.

(*später*)

KELLNER: Möchten ____ bestellen?

GAST: Ja, ich ____ einen Kaffee, bitte.

KELLNER: Eine Tasse oder ein ____ ?

GAST: Eine Tasse, bitte.

KELLNER: Sonst noch ____ ?

GAST: Nein, danke.

(*später*)

KELLNER: Bitte schön?

GAST: ____, bitte.

KELLNER: Das ____ €2,50, bitte.

GAST: €3,00 – ____ so.

KELLNER: Vielen _____. Auf Wiedersehen.

Answer

The full text is given below. Check that you used capital letters in the right places.

GAST: Entschuldigung! Die Speisekarte, bitte!

KELLNER: Ja, sofort. ... Bitte schön.

(später)

KELLNER: Möchten Sie bestellen?

GAST: Ja, ich möchte einen Kaffee, bitte.

KELLNER: Eine Tasse oder ein Kännchen?

GAST: Eine Tasse, bitte.

KELLNER: Sonst noch etwas?

GAST: Nein, danke.

(später)

KELLNER: Bitte schön?

GAST: Zahlen, bitte.

KELLNER: Das macht €2,50, bitte.

GAST: €3,00 – stimmt so.

KELLNER: Vielen Dank. Auf Wiedersehen.

Having coffee and cakes with friends in a café or at home is a very popular way to take a late afternoon break in Germany.

Übung 28

Now it's your turn to play the customer's part, using your script from *Übung 27*. Speak aloud as you play the audio.

Hören Sie und sprechen Sie. Sie sind der Gast. Hier ist ein Beispiel.

Sie sagen: Entschuldigung! Die Speisekarte, bitte.

Sie hören: Entschuldigung! Die Speisekarte, bitte.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 28

Answer

4.3 What the customer wants

Übung 29

Look at this drawing of a busy restaurant. The customers are trying to attract the waiter's attention. What does each group want?



Group 5

Group 3

Group 1

Group 2

Group 4

Group 6

Match each of the items above to an item below.

This group wants a table they have reserved

This group wants to attract the waiter's attention

This group wants the menu

This group wants to order

This group wants to pay

This group wants to query the bill

4.4 Your turn to order

Übung 30

Here is the menu at a restaurant:



Zur Quelle


Heiße Getränke

Tasse Kaffee	€1,10
Kännchen Kaffee	€2,00
Cappuccino	€1,50
Glas Schwarzer Tee	€1,00

Biere

Div. Biere vom Fass 0,3l	€1,50
Lübzer vom Fass 0,5l	€2,50
Erdinger Weißbier, Flasche, 0,5l	€2,25

Alkoholfreie Getränke (2cl)

Coca Cola	€1,45
Sprite	€1,45
Fanta	€1,45
Schweppes Bitter Lemon	€1,45
Schweppes Tonic Water	€1,45
Glashäger Brunnen	€1,45
Apfelsaft	€1,50
Orangensaft	€1,50
Kirschsaft	€1,50
Alkoholfreies Bier (0,33l Flasche)	€1,75

Fischgerichte

Heringsfilet „Hausfrauen Art“	€6,95
(Matjesfilets in Sahnesauce mit Äpfeln, Zwiebeln, Gewürzgurken und Kräuterkartoffeln)	

Bratheringe	€6,45
(sauer eingelegt mit Zwiebelscheiben und Bratkartoffeln)	

Lachssteak „Leuchtfeuer“	€8,75
(in Butter gebraten, Champignons in Rahm und Petersilienkartoffeln)	

Gedünstetes Zanderfilet	€9,45
(in Schaumwein gargezogenes Zanderfilet mit einem Ragout von Pilzen, Krabben und Gemüsestreifen in eigener Sauce, dazu reichen wir Schwenkkartoffeln)	

You decide to order fish at this restaurant. Begin by calling the waiter, then follow the cues in the audio extract.

Hören Sie und sprechen Sie. Hier ist ein Beispiel.

Sie hören: Rufen Sie den Kellner.

Sie sagen: Entschuldigung!

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 30

Übung 31

Did you enjoy your meal? The waiter seems to have disappeared, so you ask the waitress (*die Kellnerin*) for your bill. You only hear the first cue in the audio, so use the notes below to guide you through the rest of the dialogue.

Hier ist ein Beispiel.

Sie hören: Rufen Sie die Kellnerin.

Sie sagen: Bedienung, bitte!

Audio content is not available in this format.

Übung 31

- I'd like to pay, please.
- Excuse me, is this right?
- But I had (*ich hatte*) fried herring!
- OK, €10 – keep the change.

Conclusion

This free course provided an introduction to studying Languages. It took you through a series of exercises designed to develop your approach to study and learning at a distance and helped to improve your confidence as an independent learner.

This OpenLearn course is an adapted extract from a previous edition of the Open University course [L193 Rundblick: beginners' German](#).

If you enjoyed this course, you might be interested in studying the Open University module [L193 Rundblick: beginners' German](#). Or, if you are interested in other language short courses, rather than studying languages for a degree, you may want to have a look at what else is on offer [here](#).

Take the next step



If you enjoyed this course, why not explore the subject further with our paid-for short course, *Beginners German 1: fang an!?*

[Find out more about *Beginners German 1: fang an!*](#)

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