

# Beginners' German: Food and drink

## About this free course

This free course is an adapted extract from the Open University course L193 *Rundblick: beginners' German* <http://www.open.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/course/l193.htm> .

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# Introduction

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This course focuses on expressing your own food and drink preferences, and explores meal times and eating habits in German-speaking countries. You will read and hear about a range of types of food and drink.

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

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.

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

# Learning Outcomes

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After studying this course, you should be able to:

- speak about personal preferences with regard to food and drink
- order and pay for food and drink in a restaurant
- use the verbs *essen* and *trinken*
- demonstrate an awareness of different types of snacks, different meal times and different places to eat in German-speaking countries
- recognise the distinct pronunciation of German native speakers from Austria.

# 1 Breakfast foods

## Activity 1

This is a picture of a breakfast table with typical German breakfast foods. Look at the image and then match the label numbers to the correct food names.

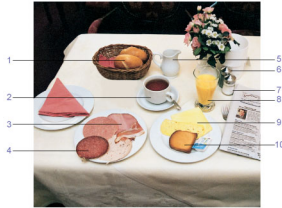


Figure 1

das Brötchen

der Kaffee

der Schinken

die Wurst

die Milch

der Pfeffer

das Salz

der Orangensaft

der Käse

der Toast

Match each of the items above to an item below.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

## Skills: Memorising nouns with pictures

A useful strategy for memorising nouns is to learn the words in connection with pictures until you can cover the words and name each of the items with its correct article using just the picture.

## Language: Using *der, die, das* and *ein, eine*

In the first activity you came across some of the German articles *der, die, das* (the). Here is how they work:

These articles identify the grammatical gender of a noun. All German nouns have a grammatical gender. They are either masculine, feminine or neuter. Sometimes the gender is predictable, for example the word for man, *Mann*, is masculine and the word for woman, *Frau*, is feminine. But this is not true for a lot of nouns. They just happen to be either masculine or feminine or neuter. The article for each gender is different. The German for 'the' can be either *der, die* or *das* depending on the gender of the noun. Similarly, the German for 'a/an' can be *ein* or *eine* depending on the gender.

**Table 1**

	'the'		'a'	
masculine (m.) nouns	<i>der</i>	<b><i>der Kaffee</i></b>	<i>ein</i>	<b><i>ein Kaffee</i></b>
feminine (f.) nouns	<i>die</i>	<b><i>die Wurst</i></b>	<i>eine</i>	<b><i>eine Wurst</i></b>
neuter (nt.) nouns	<i>das</i>	<b><i>das Brötchen</i></b>	<i>ein</i>	<b><i>ein Brötchen</i></b>
all nouns in the plural	<i>die</i>	<b><i>die Eier</i></b>	–	–

You can also see that all German nouns begin with a capital letter. Note that you may come across articles other than the ones above.

## Activity 2

Now listen to three people talking about what they usually eat (*essen*) and drink (*trinken*) for breakfast (*Frühstück*). Don't reach for the dictionary yet – see how much you can understand first. Note down the breakfast items you hear each person mention.

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 1](#)

### **Mann 1:**

*Provide your answer...*

### **Mann 2:**

Provide your answer...

**Frau:**

Provide your answer...

Answer

This table demonstrates who mentioned which items:

**Table 2**

	Mann 1	Mann 2	Frau
Kaffee		X	X
Milch	X		
Müsli	X		X
Ei			X
Toast	X	X	X
Brot	X		X
Brötchen		X	X
Schinken			X
Käse	X	X	X
Marmelade	X	X	X
Jogurt			X



## Culture: Traditional German breakfast foods



Figure 2

Did you notice that none of the interviewees in the audio clip mentioned a cup of tea? Although the couple pictured here are drinking tea, coffee is much more popular at breakfast time. Slices of cold meat or slicing sausage (*Aufschnitt, Wurst*), ham (*Schinken*) and cheese (*Käse*) are also very common breakfast foods, as well as hard-boiled eggs (*gekochte Eier*) and *Marmelade*, which is not just marmalade (*Orangemarmelade*) but any kind of jam.

## Language: Personal pronouns

Here is a list of German pronouns.

Table 3

singular		plural		singular and plural	
ich	<i>I</i>	wir	<i>we</i>	Sie	<i>you (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</i>				

Note that *sie* with a small 's' means 'she' and also 'they'. *Sie* with a capital 'S' means 'you'. There are several ways of saying 'you' in German (*du*, *ihr* and *Sie*) but *Sie* is the most useful for talking to German-speaking people when you meet them.

## Language: The verbs *essen* and *trinken*

Here is the present tense of the irregular verb *essen* (to eat) and the regular verb *trinken* (to drink). You will see that the ending of the verb changes depending on whether it follows *ich*, *du* etc. Only the second and third person singular (*du* and *er/sie/es*) forms of *essen* are irregular, with a change in the vowel sound.

**Table 4**

essen	trinken
ich esse	ich trinke
du isst / Sie essen	du trinkst / Sie trinken
er/sie/es isst	er/sie/es trinkt
wir essen	wir trinken
ihr esst / Sie essen	ihr trinkt / Sie trinken
sie essen	sie trinken

### Vokabeln (vocabulary)

Cornflakes (pl.) *cornflakes*

### Activity 3

Listen to the clip below, with five recorded questions about what various people have for breakfast. In the gap after the questions, answer according to the picture prompts below, replacing the person's name each time with the appropriate personal pronoun. You may want to use the transcript to help you.

#### Beispiel (example)

You hear: *Was isst Sara zum Frühstück?*

You say: *Sie isst Brötchen.*

You hear: *Sie isst Brötchen.*



Figure 3

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 2](#)

## 2 Ordering breakfast

### Activity 4

Here is a chance to practise the forms of *essen* you learned in the previous section. Write down the missing forms of the verbs to complete the sentences. Try it from memory first – but you can check back if you need.

1. Was \_\_\_\_\_ Sie zum Frühstück?

*Provide your answer...*

2. Ich \_\_\_\_\_ Brötchen mit Schinken.

*Provide your answer...*

3. Was \_\_\_\_\_ du zum Frühstück?

*Provide your answer...*

4. Ich \_\_\_\_\_ Müsli und Jogurt.

*Provide your answer...*

5. Was \_\_\_\_\_ ihr zum Frühstück?

*Provide your answer...*

6. Wir \_\_\_\_\_ Brot mit Butter und Käse.

*Provide your answer...*

7. Und was \_\_\_\_\_ Andreas?

*Provide your answer...*

8. Er \_\_\_\_\_ Toast mit Marmelade.

*Provide your answer...*

### Answer

1. Was **essen** Sie zum Frühstück?
2. Ich **esse** Brötchen mit Schinken.
3. Was **isst** du zum Frühstück?
4. Ich **esse** Müsli und Jogurt.
5. Was **esst** ihr zum Frühstück?
6. Wir **essen** Brot mit Butter und Käse.
7. Und was **isst** Andreas?
8. Er **isst** Toast mit Marmelade.

### Vokabeln

Sorten (f. pl.) *kinds, sorts*

### Activity 5

It's breakfast time at a hotel in Munich. Listen to the recording, then list the following items in the order in which the restaurant supervisor, Frau Vogt, mentions them. You don't need to understand everything she says. Just focus on the items listed below.

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 3](#)

Brot  
Obst  
Käse  
Wurst  
Jogurt  
Marmeladen  
Kaffee  
Vollkornbrötchen

Match each of the items above to an item below.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

**Answer**

Note: One of the words, *Marmeladen* (jams), is a plural.

**Culture: German bread**

You may have heard Frau Vogt say that she liked to eat *Vollkornbrötchen* (wholemeal rolls). She also said, ' *Bei uns gibt es verschiedene Brotsorten.*' Over 300 different varieties of bread are produced in Germany, with many regional specialities. These include various types of *Schwarzbrot* (wholegrain rye bread), crusty bread from the Black Forest (*Schwarzwälder Krustenbrot*), dark rye bread from Westphalia (*Westfälischer Pumpernickel*), and many varieties of bread roll (*Brötchen*), which are known as *Schrippen* in and around Berlin, *Semmeln* or *Weckerl* in southern Germany and Austria, and *Rundstücke* in northern Germany.



Figure 4

**Activity 6**

Now see how much of the new vocabulary you remember. In the audio clip below, you'll hear two hotel guests being asked what they are having for breakfast. Notice the use of the verb *frühstücken* (to have breakfast). Then list the pictures (a)–(d) beneath the audio clip, in the order in which they are mentioned.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Audio 4

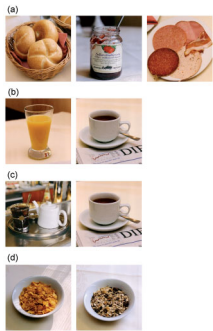


Figure 5

Picture (a)

Picture (c)

Picture (d)

Picture (b)

Match each of the items above to an item below.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

#### Answer

1. (a) Brötchen, Marmelade, verschiedene Wurstsorten
2. (c) Tee, Kaffee
3. (d) Cornflakes, Müsli
4. (b) Orangensaft, Kaffee

### Skills: Learning vocabulary by saying it out loud

You might like to try the following strategy for learning new words and phrases:

1. Look at the word or phrase.
2. Check its pronunciation using recordings, if available.
3. Speak it out loud.
4. Cover the text.
5. Speak it out loud again.
6. Write it down from memory.
7. Check your spelling.

If you want a really challenging word to learn, try *Frühstücksbüffet!*

### Activity 7

Here you review the expressions you have come across so far. You are playing the part of a member of the hotel staff. Listen to the questions and answers, and practise saying the answers yourself. You may want to use the transcript to help you.

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 5](#)

How would you have answered the last two questions? Practise giving your own answers out loud.



## 3 Likes and dislikes

### Language: Expressing likes and dislikes

If you want to say what you like to do in German, you just add *gern* after the verb (you may also hear people say *gerne*), and the verb (*essen*, *trinken*) stays the same. Think of *gern* as meaning 'with pleasure'.

---

Florian isst Fleisch.      *Florian eats meat.*

Florian isst **gern** Fleisch.      *Florian likes to eat meat. (lit. 'Florian eats **with pleasure** meat.')*

Anna trinkt Kakao.      *Anna drinks cocoa.*

Anna trinkt **gern** Kakao.      *Anna likes to drink cocoa.*

---

To say you like it very much, add *sehr gern*; to say you don't like something, add *nicht gern*.

---

Ich trinke sehr gern Wein.      *I like (to drink) wine very much.*

Er isst nicht gern Gemüse.      *He doesn't like (to eat) vegetables.*

---

### Activity 8

In this activity you will practise talking about the food and drink you like or dislike.

There are four audio questions below. Each clip is followed by a text prompt to use in your answer. Use these prompts to answer aloud in a full sentence, before playing the model answer. You may want to use the transcript to help you. If you like, you can repeat the exercise, giving your own personal answers instead of the ones suggested.



Figure 6

**Question 1:**

Audio content is not available in this format.

Prompt: *Sachertorte*

Model answer:

Audio content is not available in this format.

**Question 2:**

Audio content is not available in this format.

Prompt: *Käse*

Model answer:

Audio content is not available in this format.

**Question 3:**

Audio content is not available in this format.

Prompt: *Kaffee*

Model answer:

Audio content is not available in this format.

**Question 4:**

Audio content is not available in this format.

Prompt: *Tee mit Zitrone*

Model answer:

Audio content is not available in this format.

## Skills: Recording yourself

To practise and improve your German fluency and pronunciation you can try recording yourself and comparing your way of speaking with that of the speakers you hear in these materials. There are a number of free online recording tools available – you may have recording software on your computer, or you could use a mobile phone. The best approach to this kind of practice is that you do the speaking activities in these materials and record your responses. Then listen again to your response and re-record until you are happy with it. Finally, listen again to the recording in the activity and compare it with your own recording.

### Activity 9

Listen to Herr Schuster and Frau Georg talking about what they like to eat and drink. Make some notes about what they each like/dislike, and how much they like/dislike it. You can check the transcript for any wording.

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 6](#)

Provide your answer...

### Answer

	überhaupt nicht gern <sup>⊖</sup>	gar nicht gern	nicht gern	gern	sehr gern	besonders gern <sup>⊕</sup>
<b>Herr Schuster</b>	Müsli essen			Apfelsaft trinken	Käse essen	
<b>Frau Georg</b>		im Restaurant arbeiten	Kaffee trinken			griechisch kochen

### Vokabeln

das Gemüse *vegetables*

### Activity 10

Practise what you have learned about expressing likes and dislikes by writing sentences to say what you and other people like or don't like, using the cues below. Then write a few more sentences about your own personal preferences.

- <sup>⊕</sup> gern                      <sup>⊖</sup> nicht so gern  
<sup>⊕⊕</sup> sehr gern                <sup>⊖⊖</sup> nicht gern  
<sup>⊕⊕⊕</sup> besonders gern        <sup>⊖⊖⊖</sup> überhaupt nicht gern

### Beispiel

(Thomas/essen) Gemüse <sup>⊖</sup> ; Obst <sup>⊕⊕</sup> ; Pfirsiche <sup>⊕⊕⊕</sup>

Thomas isst nicht gern Gemüse.

Er isst sehr gern Obst.

Er isst besonders gern Pfirsiche.

1. (Frau Meyer/trinken) Saft <sup>⊕⊕</sup> ; Wein <sup>⊖</sup> ; Rotwein <sup>⊕⊕⊕</sup>

Provide your answer...

2. (ich/kochen) italienisch <sup>Ⓜ</sup> ; mexikanisch <sup>ⓂⓂ</sup> ; chinesisches <sup>Ⓜ</sup>

Provide your answer...

3. (wir/essen) Weißbrot <sup>ⓂⓂ</sup> ; Krustenbrot <sup>Ⓜ</sup> ; Vollkornbrot <sup>ⓂⓂ</sup>

Provide your answer...

4. Und Sie ... ? Was essen Sie gern? Was trinken Sie gern? Was kochen Sie gern?

Provide your answer...

### Answer

1. Frau Meyer trinkt sehr gern Saft. Sie trinkt gern Wein. Sie trinkt überhaupt nicht gern Rotwein.
2. Ich koche gern italienisch. Ich koche besonders gern mexikanisch. Ich koche nicht so gern chinesisches.
3. Wir essen nicht gern Weißbrot. Wir essen gern Krustenbrot. Wir essen sehr gern Vollkornbrot.
4. Make sure your own sentences have the right verb forms: *ich esse, ich trinke, ich koche*.

### Comment

Notice the letter *ß* in *Weißbrot*. This is pronounced like *s* and is used instead of double-*s* after long vowel sounds in words like *Weißbrot* (white bread) and *Straße* (street).

### Activity 11

You have come across quite a few words containing *ch* in the previous activities, such as *Milch* and *Brötchen*. This *ch* should sound like the 'h' in 'human'. Practise your pronunciation as you listen and repeat what you hear in the recording. You may find it useful to record yourself in order to check that you are distinguishing the German *ch* from the English sounds 'sh' and 'ck'.

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 7](#)

## 4 Where to eat

### Culture: Meals and snacks in German-speaking countries

The three main meals (*Hauptmahlzeiten*) are *das Frühstück*, *das Mittagessen* and *das Abendessen*. Although some working patterns make it more convenient to have a hot meal in the evening, traditionally the main cooked meal in Germany, Austria and Switzerland is taken at lunchtime, with the evening meal often consisting of bread with a selection of cheeses, cold cooked meats and salads, hence the alternative name of *das Abendbrot*.

There are many different regional names for snack times between meals (*Zwischenmahlzeiten*). These include *die Brotzeit* in Bavaria, *die Jause* in Austria and *das z'Nüni* in Switzerland.

In many parts of Germany there is a tradition known as *der Frühschoppen*, where locals get together in a bar or inn (*das Wirtshaus*) after church on a Sunday morning for a chat over a glass of beer or wine. As regular customers, they will often have a table (*der Stammtisch*) which is always reserved for them.

### Activity 12

You can buy food and drink in many different places. Match photos 1–6 to the descriptions beneath.



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.

### Language: Making generalisations using *man*

*Man* is often translated into English as 'one'. 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. Compare the following sentences, for example:

Was isst man hier? What do people eat here? / What do they eat here?



To talk about what is on offer at certain places, you can combine *man* with *kann*:

*Was kann man hier trinken?* What can you drink here? (lit. 'What can one drink here?')

The verb used with *man* takes the same verb form as with *er/sie/es* (e.g. *man isst, man kann*).

### Activity 13

Read the following list of words for places to eat, and say them out loud. Then, watch the video clip beneath the list, in which three people recommend places to eat out in Graz. Then, looking at the list again, select all of the locations named by the speakers. (Note that in the list, the plural form is given in brackets.)

- die Bar (-s)
- das Café (-s)
- das Gasthaus (die Gasthäuser)
- der Gasthof (die Gasthöfe)
- die Gaststätte (-n)
- das Hotel (-s)
- die Imbissstube (-n)
- die Kneipe (-n)
- das Lokal (-e)
- das Restaurant (-s)

Video content is not available in this format.

[Video 1](#)



### Activity 14

Read the following list of adjectives referring to various international foods, and repeat them out loud. Then watch the video again, and select all the adjectives used.

- chinesis
- deutsch
- französisch
- griechisch
- indisch
- italienisch
- österreichisch
- spanisch
- thailändisch

Video content is not available in this format.

[Video 1 \(repeated\)](#)



### Language: Saying what you would like

You may be asked *Möchten Sie ...?* (Would you like ...?) to establish what you would like. To respond, use the verb form *ich möchte* (I would like) or *wir möchten* (we would like).

*Möchten Sie etwas zu essen bestellen? Would you like to order something to eat?*

As you listen to these expressions in the recordings, pay particular attention to the *ö* and *ch* sounds and try to copy them.

#### Vokabeln

bestellt etwas zu essen *orders something to eat*

### Activity 15

Read the introduction to the recording below and then listen to the conversation between Thomas and a waitress. Then match the German and English phrases underneath – if you don't know all the words, try to work out the meanings from the context.

*Thomas und Heike sitzen im Café. Thomas bestellt etwas zu essen und zu trinken.*

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 11](#)

Excuse me!

we'd like

a pot of coffee

a glass of tea

with lemon

with cream

Anything else?

two pieces of apple cake

Match each of the items above to an item below.

Entschuldigung!

wir möchten

ein Kännchen Kaffee

ein Glas Tee

mit Zitrone

mit Sahne

Sonst noch etwas?

zwei Stück Apfelkuchen

**Answer**

Notice that Thomas asks for *ein Glas Tee* – tea is often served in a glass.



Figure 8

**Culture: *Kaffee und Kuchen***

Having coffee and cakes (*Kaffee und Kuchen*) with friends in a café or at home is a very popular way to take a late afternoon break in German-speaking countries. Some cafés specialise in what could be called the fourth meal of the day, serving coffee and a range of delicious cakes, such as cheesecake (*Käsekuchen*) or Austrian chocolate cake (*Sachertorte*). When visiting friends in the afternoon you may be offered a cup of coffee (*eine Tasse Kaffee*) and a piece of cake (*ein Stück Kuchen*). Notice that in these expressions there is no German equivalent for the English 'of'.



Figure 9



## 5 Placing an order

### Activity 16

When visiting friends or colleagues in Germany, you will normally be offered something to drink. In this audio clip, you will hear people offering a number of things to drink. Practice your responses out loud. It is up to you to choose whether to accept (*ja, bitte*) or decline (*nein, danke*) based on your preferences, so there are no right or wrong answers to this activity.

#### Beispiel

You hear: *Möchten Sie eine Tasse Kaffee?*

You say: *Ja, bitte. / Nein, danke.*

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 12](#)

### Language: Speaking politely

When you are offered something you tend to say more than just *ja* and *nein*, for example 'yes, please' (*ja, bitte*) or 'no, thank you' (*nein, danke*). *Danke* on its own in this context is usually understood to mean *nein, danke*.

In the audio clip in Activity 15 you may have noticed that the waitress used *bitte schön* in two different ways. First she used the phrase as a question: *Bitte schön?* meaning 'Yes, please?' to ask what the customers wanted. Later she said *Bitte schön* meaning 'Here you are' as she served the items.

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'. Listen out for these three uses of *Bitte schön* and take particular note of the intonation used in each case.

#### Vokabeln

die Speisekarte *menu*

die Kellnerin *waitress*

### Activity 17

Here is a written extract from a café conversation with a few key words missing. Use some of the language you have just learned to fill in the gaps. You can note your answers in the box beneath the text.

In the previous activity you might have noticed the change of the indefinite article *ein* to *einen*. This is an indication of the use of the accusative case with masculine nouns that functions as an object in a sentence. The same happens when the definite article *der* becomes *den*.

**Gast** Entschuldigung! Die Speisekarte, bitte!

**Kellnerin** Ja, sofort. ... Bitte \_\_\_\_\_.

**(später)**

**Kellnerin** Möchten \_\_\_\_\_ bestellen?

**Gast** Ja, ich \_\_\_\_\_ einen Kaffee, bitte.

**Kellnerin** Eine Tasse oder ein \_\_\_\_\_?

**Gast** Eine Tasse, bitte.

**Kellnerin** Sonst noch \_\_\_\_\_?

**Gast** Nein, danke.

Note: make sure you use capital letters in the right places.

Gap 1: Gap 2: Gap 3: Gap 4: Gap 5:

### Answer

**Gast** Entschuldigung! Die Speisekarte, bitte!

**Kellnerin** Ja, sofort. ... Bitte **schön**.

**(später)**

**Kellnerin** Möchten **Sie** bestellen?

**Gast** Ja, ich **möchte** einen Kaffee, bitte.

**Kellnerin** Eine Tasse oder ein **Kännchen**?

**Gast** Eine Tasse, bitte.

**Kellnerin** Sonst noch **etwas**?

**Gast** Nein, danke.

### Activity 18

Now it's your turn to play the customer's part, using the script put together in the previous activity. You may want to refer to the audio transcript below to guide you, or just to help recall some of the phrases. You will start the dialogue by calling for the menu.

#### Beispiel

You say: *Entschuldigung! Die Speisekarte, bitte.*

You hear: *Entschuldigung! Die Speisekarte, bitte.*

Audio content is not available in this format.

## Audio 13

## Activity 19

Here is a menu from a specialist fish restaurant. Read this menu, which will be used in the second part of this activity. You don't need to understand every word but try to get a rough idea of what the items mean.



Zur Quelle		
<i>Heiße Getränke</i>		
Tasse Kaffee	€2.00	
Kleinchen Kaffee	€3.60	
Cappuccino	€2.20	
Glas schwarzer Tee	€1.00	
<i>Biere</i>		
Div. Biere vom Fass 0.3l	€2.30	
Lübzer vom Fass 0.3l	€3.50	
Erdinger Weißbier 0.5l (Flasche)	€3.25	
<i>Alkoholfreie Getränke (2er)</i>		
Cola/Sprite/Fanta	€1.80	
Apfelsaft/Orangensaft	€2.20	
Stilles Wasser	€1.35	
Sprudel	€1.35	
Alkoholfreies Bier 0.33l (Flasche)	€2.35	
<i>Fischgerichte</i>		
Heringfilet in Sahnesauce	€8.50	
(mit Äpfeln, Zwiebeln und Kräuterkartoffeln)		
Bratheringe	€9.25	
(mit Zwiebelscheiben und Bratkartoffeln)		
Lachssteak mit Champignons	€10.75	
(in Butter gebraten mit Petersiliendressings)		
Gedünstetes Zanderfilet	€12.50	
(mit einem Ragout von Krabben und Gemüsescheiben, dazu reichen wir Schwenkkartoffeln)		

Figure 10

Now listen to the audio clip below, and practise ordering a main course by following the whispered prompts you hear. You will start by calling (*rufen*) the waitress.

## Beispiel

You hear: *Rufen Sie die Kellnerin.*

You say: *Entschuldigung!*

You hear: *Entschuldigung!*

Audio content is not available in this format.

## Audio 14



## 6 Paying the bill

### Activity 20

Listen to this customer paying his bill, then use the vocabulary below to write four German phrases corresponding to the English prompts. Each word should only be used once.

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 15](#)

das • getrennt • ich • macht • möchte • oder • so • stimmt • zahlen • zusammen

1. I'd like to pay. (3 words)

*Provide your answer...*

2. Together or separately? (3 words)

*Provide your answer...*

3. That comes to ... (2 words)

*Provide your answer...*

4. Keep the change. (2 words)

*Provide your answer...*

### Answer

1. Ich möchte zahlen.
2. Zusammen oder getrennt?
3. Das macht ...
4. Stimmt so. (literally 'It's correct like that.')

### Vokabeln

ich hatte *I had*

kosten *cost*

## Activity 21

Listen to this conversation between a diner and the waitress. Pay particular attention to the prices mentioned, then answer the questions below.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Audio 16

1. What is the price of the salmon steak?

*Provide your answer...*

Answer

€10.75

2. Which item costs €3.25?

*Provide your answer...*

Answer

the beer

3. How much is the herring?

*Provide your answer...*

Answer

€9.25

4. What does the corrected bill come to?

*Provide your answer...*

Answer

€12.50

5. How much does the diner give the waitress altogether?

*Provide your answer...*

### Answer

€13.00

Now listen again, concentrating on the language used by the customer querying the bill. Practise using this language by reading aloud the customer's part from the transcript as you play the clip.

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 16](#)

### Activity 22

Use some of the language you have been learning by taking part in a dialogue that might take place at the end of a meal with a colleague in a restaurant. You want to pay separately, and you round your own bill up to €20. Begin by calling the waiter and follow the other prompts in the recording. Again, you may want to use the transcript to guide you.

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 17](#)

### Activity 23

Now listen to some customers paying separately, and note down the price of each item listed below.

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 19](#)

Tee mit  
Zitrone

*Provide your answer...*

Tasse  
Kaffee

*Provide your answer...*

Kännchen  
Kaffee

*Provide your answer...*

Kuchen

*Provide your answer...*

Wasser

*Provide your answer...*

### Answer

Tee mit Zitrone	€2,20
Tasse Kaffee	€2,50
Kännchen Kaffee	€3,80
Kuchen	€2,50
Wasser	nichts

### Language: Numbers 1–100

You have heard some of the numbers from 1 to 100 in the recordings. Here are the numbers 1–10 in writing:

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

The numbers from 11 to 20 are very similar to English:

11 – elf	15 – fünfzehn	19 – neunzehn
12 – zwölf	16 – sechzehn	20 – zwanzig
13 – dreizehn	17 – siebzehn	
14 – vierzehn	18 – achtzehn	

From 20 onwards, numbers follow a regular pattern:

21 – einundzwanzig	30 – dreißig	70 – siebzig
22 – zweiundzwanzig	40 – vierzig	80 – achtzig
23 – dreiundzwanzig	50 – fünfzig	90 – neunzig
24 – vierundzwanzig	60 – sechzig	100 – hundert or einhundert

Note how you say 'one-and-twenty' in German rather than 'twenty-one'.

## 7 Snack foods

### Culture: *Imbissbuden*



Figure 11

You can buy different sausages, such as *Bockwurst*, *Bratwurst* and *Currywurst*, throughout the German-speaking countries in snack bars (*Imbissbuden*), and there are over 40 different regional varieties of *Bockwurst* alone. The sausages may be served in a bread roll (*Brötchen*), with potato salad (*Kartoffelsalat*), *Sauerkraut* or chips (*Pommes frites* or *Fritten*), and of course a little mustard (*Senf*).

Snack bars may be located in a mobile stand, a kiosk or a small shop, and many take the form of a *Stehcafé* or *Stehimbiss*, which provides no seating, just a few tall tables that customers can stand at while they eat their snacks. The Austrian *Würstlstand* pictured here is in Vienna (*Wien*).

### Vokabeln

ihr zu Ehren *in its honour*

hat ... erfunden *invented*

hat ... angeboten *offered*

nicht nur *not only*

### Activity 24

This is a text about two of the most popular snacks in Germany: the *Currywurst* and the *Döner*. You do not have to understand every word but try to get the gist of the two

paragraphs. Then decide whether the six statements beneath are *richtig* (true) or *falsch* (false) according to the text.

### Täglich lockt die Currywurst



Figure 12

Die Berliner Imbiss-Spezialität gibt es in vielen Variationen. In Berlin gibt es sogar ein Museum ihr zu Ehren: die „Currywurst“. Man sagt, Herta Heuwer hat die Currywurst am 4. September 1949 erfunden. An ihrem Imbissstand an der Ecke Kant-/Kaiser-Friedrich-Straße in Charlottenburg hat sie gebratene Brühwurst mit einer Soße aus Tomatenmark, Currypulver, Worcestershiresauce und weiteren Zutaten angeboten. Heute gibt es viele traditionelle Imbisse, wo man die Spezialität kaufen kann.

### Döner + Falafel: Der Berliner Kultsnack



Figure 13

Was ist fast noch typischer für Berlin als die Currywurst? Der Döner! Der Döner ist das beliebteste Fast Food-Gericht in Deutschland, und wo kann man das besser essen als Berlin? Nicht nur in Kreuzberg findet man an jeder Ecke einen Imbiss mit Döner und Falafel. Einige haben Kultstatus wie das Habibi am Winterfeldtplatz.

1. Es gibt nur wenige Sorten Currywurst.

richtig

There are actually many varieties of *Currywurst*.

falsch

2. In München gibt es ein Currywurst-Museum.

richtig

The museum is in Berlin. You can go to [www.currywurstmuseum.de](http://www.currywurstmuseum.de) to find out more!

falsch

3. Man sagt, Herta Heuwer hat die Currywurst erfunden.

richtig

falsch

4. Man sagt, die erste Currywurst war an einem Imbissstand in Berlin-Charlottenburg.

richtig

falsch

5. Der Döner ist in Berlin auch sehr beliebt.

richtig

falsch

6. Döner kann man nur in Kreuzberg kaufen.

richtig

You can find the *Döner* practically anywhere you go in Germany.

falsch

## Comment

*Brühwurst* is not a specific type of sausage, but a category of uncooked sausage, usually of finely minced pork or beef, which has undergone some kind of heat treatment during the manufacturing process. Further cooking is then necessary prior to serving. 60% of all sausages in Germany fall into this category.

### Vokabeln

einmal *once, one portion*

zweimal *twice, two portions*

dreimal *three times, three portions*

das Grillhähnchen *grilled chicken*

Pommes frites (pl.) *chips*

eine Portion Pommes *one portion of chips (colloquial)*

## Activity 25

Now practise ordering some items at an *Imbissstube*. The items you want are indicated on the following price list. Ask for each item separately in response to the questions you hear in the recording.

**Imbiss Preisliste**

Bratwurst	2,00 €	μ2
Currywurst	2,20 €	
Jägerschnitzel	4,80 €	
Grillhähnchen	4,50 €	
Seelachsfilet	3,50 €	
Brathering	3,00 €	μ1
Portion Pommes	1,80 €	μ2
Portion Kartoffelsalat	1,90 €	
Wurstleber Pils	1,50 €	
Mineralwasser	1,50 €	μ3
Cola, Fanta, Sprite	1,70 €	
Tasse Kaffee	1,20 €	

Figure 14

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 29](#)

**Vokabeln**

beliebteste *most popular*

bevorzugen *prefer*

**Activity 26**

Here is a chance to practise using some numbers. Read the following statistical information collected in a *Süddeutsche Zeitung* survey about people's favourite snacks, and then answer the questions you hear in the recording. There is no need for complete sentences here; just answer in short phrases.

**Was für Snacks essen die Deutschen gern?**

Wenn der kleine Hunger kommt, ist die Pizza für viele der beliebteste Snack. 71 Prozent der Deutschen bevorzugen das italienische Gericht, wenn sie sich unterwegs etwas zu essen kaufen.

Auf Platz zwei ist mit 61 Prozent der Befragten ganz klassisch das belegte Brötchen.

59 Prozent der Deutschen kaufen am Imbissstand Grillhähnchen.

Auf Platz vier mit 54 Prozent kommt der Klassiker an der Imbissbude – die Bratwurst.

Vor allem die 14- bis 29-Jährigen essen besonders gern Hamburger mit Pommes. Wenn man aber das Ergebnis nach Frauen und Männern trennt, ist es ganz anders. Frauen essen mehr fleischlose Speisen, besonders Sushi. Und auch mal einen vegetarischen Burger.

(shortened and adapted from:

<http://www.sueddeutsche.de/leben/fastfood-die-beliebtesten-snacks-der-deutschen-1.534483>)

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Audio 33](#)



### Activity 27

Look at the following image which demonstrates the various terms shown on a typical German wine label. Some of the vocabulary is quite specialised, but before reaching for your dictionary, see how many of them you can match to the English translations below.



Figure 15

Producer

Year

Location

Grape variety

Quality

Flavour

Grade

Official control number

Bottler

Wine-producing region (1 of 13)

Volume

Alcohol content

Producer's address

Wine-producing area

Match each of the items above to an item below.

1 - Erzeuger

2 - Jahrgang

3 - Ort, Lage

4 - Rebsorte

5 - Qualitätsstufe

6 - Geschmacksrichtung

7 - Prädikat

- 8 - offizielle A.P.-Nummer
- 9 - Abfüller
- 10 - Weinbaugebiet (1 von 13)
- 11 - Füllvolumen
- 12 - Alkoholgehalt
- 13 - Erzeugeradresse
- 14 - Weinbaubereich

#### Answer

1. Producer
2. Year
3. Location
4. Grape variety
5. Quality
6. Flavour
7. Quality
8. Official control number
9. Bottler
10. Wine-producing region (1 of 13)
11. Volume
12. Alcohol content
13. Producer's address
14. Wine-producing area

### Skills: Developing confidence in using numbers

Continue to review numbers until you feel confident to use and understand them. Whenever you see phone numbers, statistics, and so on, try to say the number to yourself in German. Write down some large numbers, record yourself saying them out loud, come back later to listen and write them down, then compare what you've written with the original list.

### Comment

German bureaucracy requires many things to have an official number, and that includes bottles of wine. Therefore every German quality wine has a control number or *A.P.Nr* (*Amtliche Prüfungsnummer*) on the label. This shows that the wine has been officially tested against legal minimum standards. The various components of the number identify the testing station (*die Prüfstation*), location (*Ort*) of the producer, the producer (*der Erzeuger*), the batch (*die geprüfte Partie*) and the year (*das Jahr*) when it was tested.

Source of information:

<http://weinverkostungen.de/die-amtliche-prufungsnummer-bei-wein-a-p-nr> (Accessed December 2019)

## Skills: Making connections with German

The German and the English languages are very closely related. You will notice this in the large number of words that are either spelled the same, as in *Computer, Radio, Taxi* or *Institution*, or where words are very similar in spelling and pronunciation, as in *Wein, Glas, Haus, Lampe, trinken*.

However, there are also many other cultural parallels which can help you understand written German. Using the example of the wine label you will see that wine labels are very similar in German speaking countries and many other countries, with the items printed in identical positions etc. Such similarities also apply to many other contexts in everyday life. Just think of conventions for signs at train or bus stations, road signs, telephone books, emails etc.

So do trust your instincts and look for connections to support your understanding of the German language.

## Conclusion

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We hope you have enjoyed this course. Now that you know how to talk about what food you like and dislike, and you have learned how to order food and pay for it, you may wish to try this language out on your next visit to a German-speaking country!

If you enjoyed this OpenLearn course, you might be interested in the Open University course [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

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If you enjoyed this course, why not explore the subject further with our paid-for short course, *Beginners German 2: mit Vergnügen!?*

[Find out more about \*Beginners German 2: mit Vergnügen!\*](#)

## Acknowledgements

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