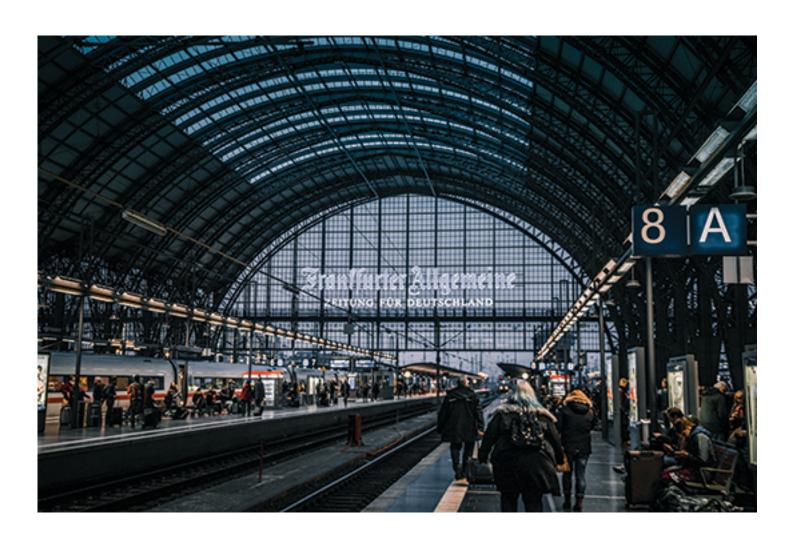
OpenLearn



Getting started with German 2



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Getting started with German 2

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Contents

Introduction	4
Introduction	4
Open Centre for Languages and Cultures	5
Week 1: Frühstück!	7
Introduction	7
1 At the breakfast table	8
2 Let's have breakfast!	9
3 Practising the irregular verb essen	11
4 Was essen Sie zum Frühstück?	12
5 Was essen Sie zum Frühstück?	17
6 The irregular verb <i>nehmen</i>	18
6.1 Checking verb forms in your dictionary	19
7 Wurstsorten, Brotsorten	21
8 Food vocabulary	23
9 This week's quiz	24
10 Summary of Week 1	25
Week 2: Ich esse gern	27
Introduction	27
1 The adverb gern	28
2 gern, sehr gern, nicht gern	29
3 What do you like to eat?	31
4 My favourite cuisine	32
5 More likes and dislikes	33
6 Pronunciation	34
7 Writing about likes and dislikes	36
8 This week's quiz	39
9 Summary of Week 2	40
Next steps	41
Acknowledgements	41



Introduction

Introduction

Almost 100 million people speak German as their main language. Most of them live in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, making German one of the most widely used languages in Europe. Now associated with economic success, science and technology, German also has a long-standing reputation as language of poets and thinkers.



In this course you will journey to Germany, Austria and Switzerland and further progress your linguistic skills needed for understanding and using the German language. Studying 3-4 hours a week, the course offers the perfect opportunity to continue the development of skills needed to communicate effectively in German in everyday contexts.

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- understand how to use regular and irregular verbs in the present tense
- use the adverb gern or gerne in a sentence
- discuss food and drink likes and dislikes and talk about a typical breakfast table in German-speaking countries
- appreciate the different strategies for learning vocabulary and using a dictionary to help with verb forms
- understand word order in sentences.



Open Centre for Languages and Cultures

This course has been developed from extract parts of

<u>LXG002 - Beginners German 2: mit Vergnügen!</u>. The Open University has launched a dedicated learning centre called <u>The Open Centre for Languages and Cultures</u>. OpenLearn is supporting this project and is providing extracted units of all courses on The Open Centre in our dedicated Language and Cultures Hub.

The Open Centre for Languages and Cultures is the exciting new home for non-accredited language and intercultural communication short courses. You can study a wide range of language and language related subjects with us anywhere in the world, in any time zone, whatever your motivation – leisure, professional development or academic.

It's the one stop shop for engaging with languages, professional communication and intercultural dialogue.

Our short courses allow us to be agile and responsive to the needs of learners who want to be part of a global society. We offer non-accredited short courses in a range of subjects including modern languages and languages for business and the workplace. We are also leading the way in developing short courses for academic research methods and presessional English with IELTS, which will be available for registration in due course.

The Open Centre for Languages and Cultures is an international leader in online language learning and intercultural communications, built on our pioneering pedagogy and research.

What makes the Open Centre different?

- The OU is the leader in online learning and teaching with a heritage of more than 50 years helping students achieve their learning ambitions.
- The short courses are underpinned by academic rigour and designed by native speakers experienced in producing engaging materials for online learning of languages and cultures.
- The graduating nature of the courses means that learners can build up their language and skills over time.
- Learners will also gain a better understanding of the culture(s) associated with the language(s) they study enabling the development of intercultural communication skills
- Learners can mix and match the short courses and study more than one course at a time.

Once this course is complete you will be directed to OpenLearn's hub for language content where you will be able to build on your newly found language skills.

Now that you're fully prepared, it's time to start on Week 1.





Week 1: Frühstück!

Introduction

You'll start this week by looking at a typical breakfast table you could expect to find at many cafés or homes in German-speaking countries.

During the working week, people might be more rushed in the morning, but at weekends breakfast is taken quite seriously. Traditionally, you would often find a range of fresh bread rolls, a boiled egg, ham, cheese and something sweet, like jam, honey and maybe a slice of brioche or a croissant. Cereals, yogurt, fruit and fruit juices are becoming increasingly popular, and there usually is plenty of coffee or tea, too.

While learning about various breakfast options, you will practise using regular and irregular verbs in the present tense. You will also learn new vocabulary to help you to talk about food and drink. To help you memorise these new words, you will look at strategies for learning vocabulary and find out how your dictionary can help you with verb forms.

This OpenLearn course is an adapted extract from the Open University course LXG002 - Beginners German 2: mit Vergnügen!

Viel Spaß!



1 At the breakfast table

In this first activity you'll test to see what vocabulary you already know for German food and drink, in particular those items you would find around the breakfast table.

Activity 1

Part 1

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Part 2

Would you eat any of these food items first thing in the morning or does your breakfast look quite different? Take a minute to think about what a typical breakfast in your country looks like. What food or drink is the most popular?

Write down in German your five top breakfast items in the box below. In order to do that, you might need to check some words in a dictionary first.

Provide your answer...



2 Let's have breakfast!

Now have a go at Activity 2, in which you'll hear people describing what they usually eat for breakfast.

Activity 2	
Listen to three people saying what they usually eat for breakfast. From the list below,	
select all words you can hear. Some words are mentioned more than once.	
Audio content is not available in this format.	
□ Kaffee	
□ Honig	
□ Milch	
□ Müsli	
□ Orangensaft	
□ Ei	
□ Eier	
□ Toast	
□ Tee	
□ Croissant	
□ Brot	
□ Brötchen	
□ Schinken	
□ Wurst	
□ Tomaten	
□ Käse	
□ Oliven	
□ Marmelade	
□ Jogurt	
Answer	
The correct answers were: Brot, Toast, Marmelade, Käse, Milch, Müsli, Ei, Schinken Brötchen, Kaffee, Jogurt.	

In Activity 2, apart from German words for certain food and drink, you also heard two important verbs: *essen* (to eat) and *trinken* (to drink). *Trinken* is a regular verb. You might already be familiar with the verb forms in the present tense, but in Table 1, there is a quick reminder.



Table 1 The present tense of the regular verb *trinken*

trinken	
ich trinke	wir trink en
du trink st	ihr trink t
er/sie/es trinkt	Sie/sie trinken

The verb *essen*, however, is slightly irregular. Like some other irregular verbs – for example *sprechen* (to speak) or *fahren* (to travel) – you can see that there is a vowel change in the 2nd and 3rd person singular.

Table 2 The present tense of the irregular verb essen

essen	
ich esse	wir ess en
du iss t	ihr ess t
er/sie/es isst	Sie/sie essen



3 Practising the irregular verb essen

You'll now practise using the irregular, but very common verb *essen* that was introduced in the last section.

Activity 3	
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Interactive content is not available in this format.	



4 Was essen Sie zum Frühstück?

In this section you are going to practise the verb *essen* again, but also try out a new way to memorise vocabulary.

So far, several new nouns connected to food have been introduced. How many food items can you remember spontaneously? Try to say them out loud – without going back to the previous sections – and see how many new words you can list.

Can you also remember the gender of all those new nouns? Was it *der*, *die* or *das*? It is good to know that the definite article (*der/die/das*) is not needed when you refer to a food item in general terms. For example, you would say: *Ich esse Brot und Käse zum Frühstück. Ich trinke Kaffee.*

However, if you refer to a 'unit' of food, you would use the indefinite article. For example: *Ich esse ein Ei und trinke ein Glas Orangensaft* (one egg, one glass of orange juice). Therefore, you will need to know the gender of the noun you want to use such as *ein Ei* (nt.) but *eine Banane* (f.).

So, as always, it is important to memorise the article with any new noun you learn. But how to remember all those new words? Images can be a great help. Try this: First, start learning new words in connection with pictures – word and image together. The next step is to cover the words and, just using the pictures, name the German word that is depicted with its correct article.

Activity 4

Try this method with the following six food items.

1.



Figure 1 die (or das) Jogurt





Figure 2 das Müsli

3.



Figure 3 die Marmelade

4.



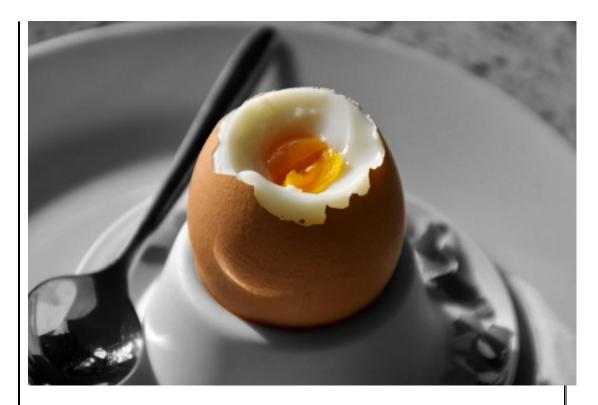


Figure 4 das Ei

5.



Figure 5 das Brötchen / die Brötchen (pl)

6.



Figure 6 der Käse

How did you get on with learning those new words? If you like this method and if it works for you, you could print off the photo of the breakfast table in Section 1 and write in the words for the food and drink featured. Alternatively, you can make your own mind map or posters in your notebook to help you learn new vocabulary. Like in Activity 4, start with a few words (five or six) and then build up your list slowly.

Now, remembering the new vocabulary you have just learny, have a go at Activity 5.

Activity 5

In this activity you will only see the picture clues to answer a question and test your vocabulary. It is important that in your answer, you use the same form of the verb as is used in the question. For example, if the verb in the question is used in the 3rd person singular (*er* or *sie*), use the same form in the answer. If the plural form is used in the question, your answer will also use a plural form. Replace any names with personal pronouns. For example, *die Familie* becomes *sie* (because *die Familie* is a feminine noun) but *Herr König* becomes *er*: The clue is in the title *Herr* (Mister).

Here is an example:

Question: Was isst die Familie Grünberg zum Frühstück?





Figure 7

Answer: Sie isst Jogurt.

Now you have a go.

Please note that case is important for each of the question parts below.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Und Sie? Was essen Sie zum Frühstück?

Write your answer in the notebook. In the next section, you'll practise talking about breakfast.



5 Was essen Sie zum Frühstück?

Now you are equipped with a lot of new vocabulary and know the forms of the verb *essen*, you can focus on speaking about breakfast. Use the audio in Activity 6 to practise asking questions and responding to them.

Focus in particular on the pronunciation of any new words. Do this activity several times until you are happy with the pronunciation and you feel your answer sounds natural. Then record yourself using a mobile device and check the recording to see if you need to keep working on your pronunciation.

Activity 6

Part 1

Listen to the questions and answers on the audio and repeat what you hear.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Part 2

Now go back to your notes from the previous section. There you answered the question:

Was essen Sie zum Frühstück?

Record your answer. Why not talk about other people too? What about your partner, siblings, parents, friends or children? What do they have for breakfast? Say out loud a few sentences about their eating habits and then record yourself. You might want to take a few notes first (in particular to remind yourself of the correct forms of essen you will need.)

Here is an example for how you could start.

Ich esse Toast mit Marmelade zum Frühstück und ich trinke Tee. Aber meine Kinder essen Cornflakes mit Milch und trinken Orangensaft. Mein Mann isst....



6 The irregular verb *nehmen*

You'll now look at another common but slightly irregular verb. Table 3 shows the present tense (*Präsens*) of the verb *nehmen* (to take). As you can see, similar to *essen*, only the second and third person singular (*du* and *er/sie/es*) forms of *nehmen* are irregular.

Table 3 The present tense of the irregular verb nehmen

nehmen	
ich nehme	wir nehmen
du n im mst	ihr nehmt
er/sie/es n im mt	Sie/sie nehmen

You can use the verb *nehmen* to replace the verbs *essen* and *trinken*, especially if there is a choice or you want to refer to drink and food (*essen* can only be used with food, *trinken* only with drinks, but *nehmen* can be used for either or both).

Activity 7

Part 1

Imagine you are having breakfast at a cafe or hotel and can chose any five items from this buffet. What would you choose?



Figure 8 A breakfast table

List your choices, using the verb *nehmen*. Click on 'reveal answer' to see a model response



Was	nehmen	Sie?
-----	--------	------

Provide your answer...

Answer

Here is a model. Please note that your answer might be different from the model given.

Ich nehme Brot, Schinken, Käse, ein Ei und Orangensaft.

Part 2

Now try using other forms of the verb nehmen.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Part 3

Now write your own sentences. Here are two examples for you, but you don't have to stop there. Write some more sentences in your notebook. Or even better, come back to this activity another time, practising the verb *nehmen* to check that you can still remember all its different forms.

Write one sentence saying what Christina is having. Use the verb *nehmen* and the picture clue to help you construct your sentence.

Please note case is important.

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6.1 Checking verb forms in your dictionary

So far this week you have learned two irregular verbs *essen* and *nehmen*. These are very common ones, but of course there are others. So, how would you know whether a new verb you want to use is regular or irregular? Box 1 explains how you can use a dictionary to check not only the meaning of a word, but also some grammar.

Box 1 Using a dictionary to check verb forms

Many dictionaries indicate in the German–English section if a verb is irregular, for example by using the abbreviation *unreg*. (*unregelmäßig*).

This week you have come across the verbs *essen* and *nehmen*, which have irregular *du* (second person singular) and *er/sie/es* (third person singular) forms. You might already



know some others such as *fahren*, *schlafen*, *sprechen* etc. In order to add more verbs to the list you need to find the pages in your dictionary that list irregular (sometimes described as 'strong') verbs. Dictionaries usually contain lists of irregular verbs which give the *er/sie/es* form and the du form.



7 Wurstsorten, Brotsorten

Another useful verb when discussing breakfast is *frühstücken* (to have breakfast). This verb is regular though, so you can say *lch frühstücke im Garten* (I have breakfast in the garden) or *Frau Meyer frühstückt im Hotel* (Ms Meyer has breakfast at the hotel).



Activity 8

In audio below, you will hear *frühstücken* used in the question *Was frühstücken Sie?* Listen to the answer and tick all the food items that are mentioned.

Audio content is not available in this format.

- □ Brötchen
- □ Ei
- □ Wurst
- □ Marmelade
- □ Honig
- □ Käse
- □ Schinken
- □ Tee
- □ Kaffee
- □ Orangensaft



Answer

The correct answers are: Brötchen, Marmelade, Wurst, Tee, Kaffee.

Activity 9

You might have already heard that *Wurst* (thinly sliced cold sausage and other meat cuts) are a popular food item in German-speaking countries. There are many different varieties (*die Sorte; pl: die Sorten*).

The man in the audio in Activity 8 refers to *Wurstsorten* (different types of cold meat) but you can apply this word to other food and drink such as *Brotsorten* (different types of bread, of which there are many in German speaking countries), *Obstsorten* (types of fruit) or *Weinsorten*, *Biersorten* etc.

Interactive content is not available in this format.



8 Food vocabulary

You have been learning so many new words this week, let's see what you can remember.

Activity 10

Listen to the audio – you have heard the first part already in the last section – and place the images of these breakfast items in the correct order, as mentioned in the audio.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Match each of the items above to an item below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

7.



9 This week's quiz

Check what you've learned this week by taking the end-of-week quiz.

Week 1 quiz

Open the quiz in a new window or tab (by holding ctrl [or cmd on a Mac] when you click the link), then return here when you have done it.



10 Summary of Week 1

How did you get on with this first week of the course? You learned about some common but irregular verbs (*essen* and *nehmen*) forms. What about regular verb forms? Can you remember all the endings needed in the present tense or do you need to revise them before moving on?

There was a lot of new vocabulary, too. What about the vocabulary learning strategies you have tried this week. Were they helpful? Make a note in your language notebook. Whichever method you decide to use to memorise vocabulary, remember to always learn the gender (*der/die/das*) with a new noun and any irregular endings with a new verb.

When learning lots of new vocabulary you will find that you can be selective and focus on language that is important to you. For example, if you are a vegetarian, you might be less interested in the varieties of cold meat available at a German breakfast table. Start with what is relevant to you and then build your pool of vocabulary slowly.

Next week, you will start expressing opinions – saying what you like or don't like to eat or drink. You will also be working more on your pronunciation skills. Before moving on though, reflect a little on what you've been learning. In the box below, note down what you've found easy, useful or fun, and what was more difficult this week.

Week 1 Reflection What was easy, useful or fun this week?
Provide your answer
What was more difficult?
Provide your answer

You can now go to Week 2.





Week 2: Ich esse gern...

Introduction

Last week introduced some vocabulary you need when talking about breakfast. This week you will build on that and say what food and drink you actually like and what you are not so keen on.



To express likes and dislikes, the adverb *gern* or *gerne* (both versions are used by native speakers and there is absolutely no difference between them) is extremely useful. To use the adverb in a sentence, you'll need to look at word order and practise constructing your own sentences. In addition, this week you will have an opportunity to work on your speaking skills and pronunciation.

First, you will revise some vocabulary to get you talking.

Guten Appetit! Enjoy your meal!



1 The adverb gern

If you want to say what you like to do in German, you can do so by just adding the word *gern* after the verb (you may also hear people say *gerne*). The verb itself (for example *ich* esse, *ich trinke*) stays the same. Think of *gern* as meaning 'with pleasure'.

Activity 1
Complete the sentences below by following the prompt and adding the correct form of essen or trinken in the gap.
The sentences will also show where in the adverb <i>gern</i> should be placed. Here is an example:
Complete this question using the correct form of essen:
WasSie gern zum Frühstück?
Answer: Was essen Sie gern zum Frühstück?
Please note that case is important when answering the questions below.
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2 gern, sehr gern, nicht gern

Now, some things you will like more than others. How can you say that you like something very much, or a little, or not at all?

Activity 2

Look at these smiley or not so smiley faces. Which variations of *gem* do you think matches which emoji? Please note the words for 'not' (*nicht*) and for 'especially/ particularly' (*besonders*).

Drag and drop the expressions to match the images. If you're unsure whether you're correct, just click on, 'reveal answer' to check.

besonders gern

überhaupt nicht gern

gern

nicht gern

nicht so gern

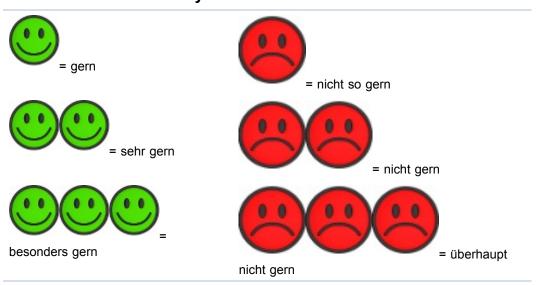
sehr gern

Match each of the items above to an item below.

Answer

The correct answer is:

Table 1 Answer to Activity 2





Box 1 Expressing likes and dislikes

It's worth remembering that *gern* is an adverb. It adds further information about the verb and, therefore, needs to be close to it. In a basic statement, only negations (e.g. *nicht*, *überhaupt nicht*) or graduations (e.g. *sehr*, *total*, *besonders*) should come between the verb and *gern*.

Here are some examples

Table 2 Using gern in a sentence

Florian isst Fleisch.	Florian eats meat.
Florian isst gern Fleisch.	Florian likes to eat 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.

Table 3 Using sehr gern and 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.



3 What do you like to eat?

Now have a go at Activity 3.

Activity 3

Part 1

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Part 2

There were a couple of new words in this activity. Can you guess their meaning?

im Restaurant griechisch

Answer

im Restaurant – in/at a restaurantgriechisch – Greek

Part 3

Now, use your language notebook to write your own answers to the following questions. You will need to decide which of the variations of *gern* that were introduced in the previous secton you wish to use.

You can see a model answer for each question in the feedback. This should help you check that the general structure of your sentences is correct, but your response to the questions might look quite different.

- 1. Essen Sie gern Käse? (Do you like to eat cheese?)
- 2. Trinken Sie gern Kaffee? (Do like to drink coffee?)
- 3. Kochen Sie gern italienisch? (Do you like to cook Italian food?)
- 4. Gehen Sie gern ins Restaurant? (Do you like go to a restaurant?)

Answer

Here are some model answers. Please note that your answers may vary from the models given.

- 1. Ich esse nicht so gern Käse.
- 2. Ich trinke überhaupt nicht gern Kaffee.
- 3. Ich koche gern italienisch.
- 4. Ich gehe sehr gern ins Restaurant.



4 My favourite cuisine

What type of food do you like best? Activity 4 looks at some of the popular cuisines.

Activity 4

Read the sentences and match them with their English translations. Then check your answers.

Some of the words describing popular cuisines you have come across already, others you might be able to guess.

Ich esse gern chinesisch.

Ich esse gern italienisch.

Ich esse gern indisch.

Ich esse gern mexikanisch.

Ich esse gern griechisch.

Ich esse gern französisch.

Match each of the items above to an item below.

I like to eat Chinese.

I like to eat Italian.

I like to eat Indian.

I like to eat Mexican.

I like to eat Greek.

I like to eat French.

What is your favourite cuisine? If it isn't one of the above, you might have to check the word in the dictionary. Write down your answer, then read out the German sentences, including your own answer to practise. Once you feel confident enough, record yourself on a mobile device.



5 More likes and dislikes

You'll now build some more sentences expressing likes and dislikes. You can use the adverb *gern* and all associated expressions with any verb – it does not have to refer to food and drink – but you will need to consider the word order carefully. Remember that the verb usually comes second in a statement. The adverb *gern* then has to be placed close to the verb it refers to. However, if you want to express a dislike, the word *nicht* has to be even closer to the verb.

Activity 5 Place the words in the correct order to create five sentences.
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6 Pronunciation

You have come across quite a few words containing *ch* during the last two weeks. For example, you have used the words *Milch* and *Brötchen*.

Use the audio below several times to practise the German *ch*-sound. Practise your pronunciation as you listen and repeat what you hear in the recording. Then record yourself using a mobile device in order to check that your pronunciation is similar to the one you can hear in the audio.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Activity 6

The figure below shows an image of a famous chocolate cake from Vienna: *die Sachertorte*.



To practise the pronunciation and use of *gern*, *nicht gern* etc, listen and repeat the questions that are asked in the audios below about this cake and other food and drink. Then record yourself answering the questions. Model answers are given in the feedback, although of course your likes and dislike might be different!

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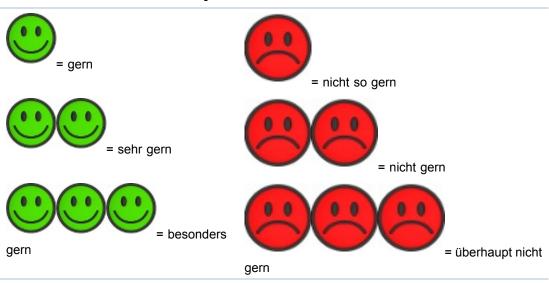
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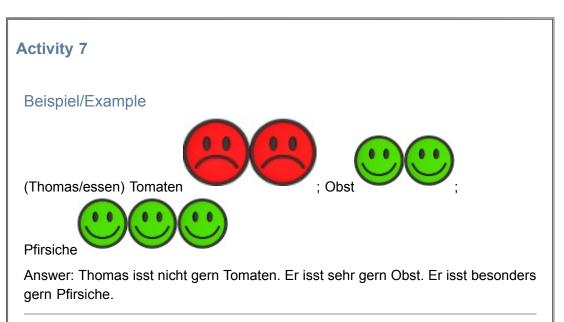


7 Writing about likes and dislikes

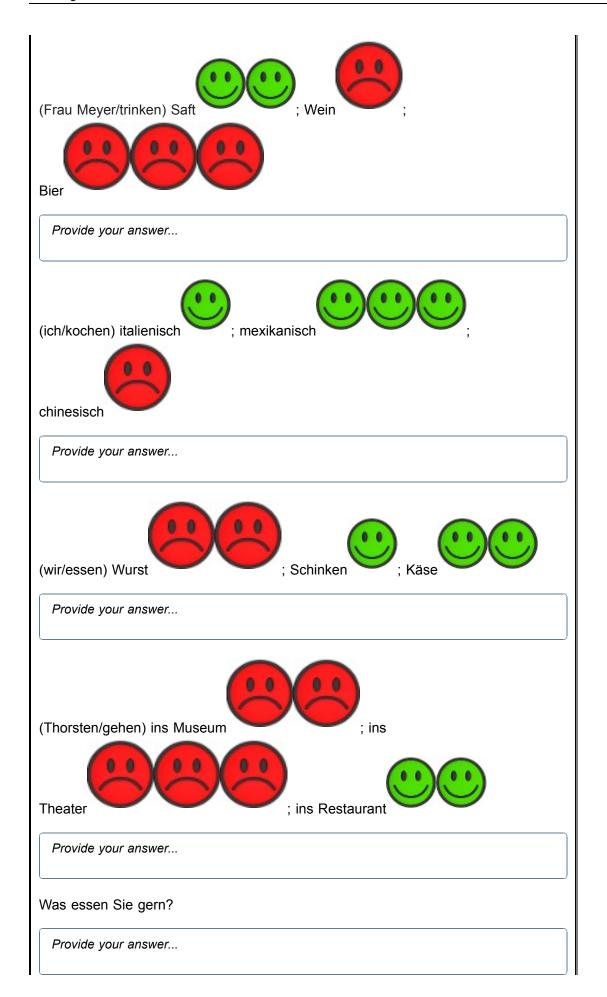
In this final section, you will practise writing about likes and dislikes. Use the key in Table 4 to complete Activity 7 and say what you and other people like or don't like. Then think of a few more sentences about your own personal preferences. Write them down in your language notebook.

Table 4 Like and dislike key











Was trinken Sie gern?
Provide your answer
Was kochen Sie gern?
Provide your answer



8 This week's quiz

Check what you've learned this week by taking the end-of-week quiz.

Week 2 quiz

Open the quiz in a new window or tab (by holding ctrl [or cmd on a Mac] when you click the link), then return here when you have done it.



9 Summary of Week 2

This week you learned how to say what you like and dislike using the adverb *gern* or *gerne*. Combining this with the vocabulary you were introduced to in Week 1 you have been able to practise your speaking, listening and writing skills.

Before you move on, take some time to check that your language notebook is up-to-date, and reflect a little on what you've been doing this week.

What was most difficult this week? Why? You can record your reflections here.

Week 2 Reflection
What was most useful this week? Why?
Provide your answer
Provide your answer
How am I going to practice what I learned this week?
Provide your answer

This OpenLearn course is an adapted extract from the Open University badged course LXG002 - Beginners German 2: mit Vergnügen! !Warning! Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif not supported.



Next steps

Learning German will take you on a fascinating journey as you learn about the language and the society and culture of the people who speak it. We hope that you'll continue your German studies with the Open University on our Beginners German courses:

LXG001 Beginners German 1: fang an!

LXG002 Beginners German 2: mit Vergnügen!

LXG003 Beginners German 3: richtig so!

Or continue your learning adventure on OpenLearn with our free courses in our Languages and Cultures Hub.

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