

Workbook



German

False beginners



230
exercises
+
answer
key

Workbook



German

False beginners



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Adapted for English speakers
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About this workbook

The 21 lessons in this workbook, which contain some 240 exercises, will allow you to progressively review and practice the fundamentals of German, from pronunciation and grammar through to useful vocabulary and expressions.

Each lesson deals with a key grammatical point such as verb conjugation, declension or sentence structure (yellow panels), as well as giving pronunciation and spelling tips (pink panels). Key vocabulary and expressions are also included (green panels). The exercises allow active and contextual reinforcement of the points covered, calling upon your knowledge of the language. Verb conjugation and declension tables are found before the answer section at the back. The aim of the workbook is to provide a fun and systematic way to consolidate your German skills.

If it has been over a decade since you last studied German, you may notice certain spelling differences (e.g. **wie viel** instead of **wieviel** or **dass** instead of **daß**). These are the result of a series of spelling reforms, the latest of which took effect in 2006.

As you work through the lessons, you can self-assess your results by selecting the appropriate icon after each exercise (😊 if the majority of your answers were correct, 😐 if around half your answers were correct, or 😞 if less than half were correct). After a lesson, enter the number of icons of each type you received in the exercises, and then enter these totals into the final score table at the end of the workbook so you can tally your final results after completing all the exercises.

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1

The present tense

The present tense

- The present tense is used in the same way as in English, with two notable differences. German does not have progressive/continuous tenses (*to be + ...-ing*), so the present tense is used to express a current continuous action: **Ich komme.** *I am coming* ('I come'). The present tense is also very often used to express a future event: **Er kommt morgen zurück.** *He is coming* ('comes') *back tomorrow*.
- Regular conjugation endings: **kommen** *to come* (infinitives end in **-en** or **-n**) → **ich komme, du kommst, er/sie/es kommt, wir kommen, ihr kommt, sie/Sie kommen.**
- The subject pronouns are **ich** *I*, **du** *you* (informal sing.), **er** *he*, *it* (m.), **sie** *she*, *it* (f.), **es** *it* (n.), **wir** *we*, **ihr** *you* (informal pl.), **sie** *they*, **Sie** *you* (formal).
- One of the main changes from the regular conjugation pattern in most irregular (or 'strong') verbs is a vowel change in the second- and third-person singular present tense (typically **a → ä** or **e → i / ie**): **schlafen** *to sleep* → **du schläfst, er/sie/es schläft;** **geben** *to give* → **du gibst, er/sie/es gibt.**
- The conjugations of **haben** *to have*, **sein** *to be* and **werden** *to become* are irregular.

Complete this table with the correct present tense forms.

	ich	du	er/sie/es	wir	ihr	sie/Sie
wohnen		wohnst				
beginnen			beginnt			
fragen						fährst
fahren		fährst				
laufen				laufen		
nehmen					nehmt	

- 2** Indicate whether these verbs are regular (R), i.e. no vowel change, or irregular (IR). For the irregular verbs, give the third-person singular form of the present tense.

E.g. sprechen → (IR) er/sie/es spricht

- a. sehen → e. glauben →
 b. hoffen → f. gehen →
 c. schlafen → g. sagen →
 d. fallen → h. treffen →

REGULAR

Irregular Irregular

- 3** Complete this table with the correct present tense forms.

ich	du	er/sie/es	wir	ihr	sie/Sie
bin	.....	.....	sind	.....	.....
.....	hast	.....	.....	habt	.....
werde	.....	wird	.....	.....	werden

- 4** Complete the following sentences using these verbs in the present tense.

empfehlen sprechen
grüßen lesen finden bitten

- a. Ich meine Brille nicht. Weißt du, wo sie ist?
 b. Welche Zeitung Sie da?
 c. Ich dich um deine Hilfe.
 d. Er ist schon seit einer Stunde am Telefon. Mit wem er denn so lange?
 e. Dieser Mann ist so unfreundlich. Er mich nie.
 f. Was du mir? Fisch oder Fleisch?



- 5** Turn these nouns into verbs and conjugate them in the third-person singular present tense. E.g. die Miete → mieten → er/sie/es mietet

- a. die Sprache →
 b. die Schrift →
 c. das Getränk →
 d. die Liebe →
 e. der Flug →
 f. die Reparatur →

Some spelling and pronunciation tips

- In the present tense, verb stems (i.e. after the removal of the infinitive -en/-n ending) that end in -d or -t or certain other consonant groups such as -chn or -tm have a spelling change from the regular conjugation. In these verbs, an e is inserted before the conjugation ending in the second- and third-person singular and the second-person plural to make the pronunciation easier: **arbeiten** to work → **du arbeitest**, **er/sie/es arbeitet**, **ihr arbeitet**. If the verb has a vowel change, only the second-person plural takes an e: **halten** to hold → **du hältst**, **er/sie/es hält**, **ihr haltet**.
- Verb stems ending in -s, -ss, -ß, -tz or -z take only a -t (rather than -st) in the second-person singular: **blasen** to blow → **du bläst**.
- Infinitives ending in -eln or -ern take only an -n (rather than -en) in the first- and third-person plural: **sammeln** to gather → **wir sammeln**, **sie/Sie sammeln**. In these verbs, the e of the verb stem in the first-person singular is often omitted, although this is not obligatory: **ich samm(e)le**.

- 6** Complete the table with the correct present tense forms.

	ich	du	er/sie/es	wir	ihr	sie/Sie
baden						
reisen						
wechseln						

- 7** Conjugate these verbs in the present for the persons indicated.

- a. antworten (second-person plural) →
 b. zeichnen (third-person singular) →
 c. verändern (third-person plural) →
 d. lesen (second-person singular) →

Formal and informal address

- German has different ways to say *you* depending on who is being addressed. With children, friends and family, the informal *you* is used: **du** for one person (second-person singular) or **ihr** for more than one person (second-person plural). In most other cases, it is polite to use the formal **Sie** (capitalized) for addressing one or more people. The formal *you* always conjugates in the third-person plural.
- Certain forms of greeting vary depending on whether the context is informal or formal. **Hallo! Hi!** and **Tschüss! See you!** are more friendly and casual, while **Guten Tag! Hello!** ('Good day!') and **Auf Wiedersehen! Goodbye!** are more formal (however, this is not a hard and fast rule – you might hear any of these greetings in a variety of contexts).
- In German-speaking countries, titles still matter, so they need to be included in formal contexts: **Herr Professor Bachmann, Frau Doktor Schmidt.**

8 Translate these questions using Zeit haben.

- a. Do you have time? (formal) →
- b. Do you have time? (informal sing.) →
- c. Do you have time? (informal pl.) →
- d. Do they have time? →



9 Rewrite these greetings for two different contexts: addressing a couple of close friends and addressing an older stranger.

Informal singular	Informal plural	Formal
Hallo, wer bist du?		
Wie heißt du?		
– Paul, und du?		
Woher kommst du?		
Wo wohnst du?		
Wie lange bist du schon in Berlin?		
Schön, dass du gekommen bist.		
Tschüss!		

10 Complete the greetings with these words.



- a. Bis! (See you soon!)
- b. Bis! (See you tomorrow!)
- c. Bis! (See you later!)
- d. Gute! (Good night!)
- e. Bis! (See you in a minute!)

The case of pronouns

In German, a pronoun declines (changes form) depending on its function in the sentence. If it is the subject of the sentence, it is in the **nominative** case; if it is a direct object, it is in the **accusative**; and if it is an indirect object, it is in the **dative**. If the pronoun is used in a short phrase, the case depends on the implied full sentence.

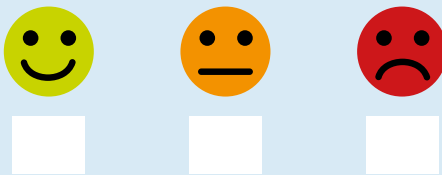
- **Ich habe Hunger. – Ich auch! I'm hungry. – Me too!**
Implied: **Ich habe auch Hunger!** → nominative
- **Es ärgert mich! – Mich auch! That annoys me. – Me too!**
Implied: **Es ärgert mich auch!** → accusative
- **Mir gefällt es. – Mir nicht! That appeals to me. – Not to me!**
Implied: **Mir gefällt es nicht!** → dative



11 Complete the sentences with the appropriate pronoun (for personal pronoun declensions, see p. 120).

- a. *I come from Munich. And you?* (informal plural)
→ Ich komme aus München. Und?
- b. *I'm glad. – Me too!*
→ Es freut mich! – auch!
- c. *I like the taste. Don't you?* (informal singular)
→ Mir schmeckt es. nicht!
- d. *I'm coming. You too?* (informal singular)
→ Ich komme mit. auch!
- e. *I like it very much. And you?* (formal)
→ Es hat mir sehr gut gefallen. Und?

Well done! You've reached the end of Lesson 1. It's time to count up how many of each type of icon you received. Then record your results in the final self-assessment table on page 128.



The imperative

The imperative

- The imperative is the verb form used for commands or requests. In German, there are different forms depending on whether you are addressing someone informally (**du** for one person or **ihr** for more than one person) or formally (**Sie**). There is also a **wir** (first-person plural) form, which translates in English to *Let's ...!*
- Here are the regular conjugation endings: **tanzen** to dance → **Tanz(e)!** (informal sing.) **Tanzen wir!** *Let's dance!* **Tanz!** (informal pl.) **Tanzen Sie!** (formal). Note that the **-e** of the **du** command is optional: **Tanz!** or **Tanze!** are both correct. The **wir** and **Sie** commands must include the subject pronouns after the verb.
- One common irregular verb is **sein** to be → **Sei!** **Seien wir!** **Seid!** **Seien Sie!** **Sei ruhig!** *Be quiet!* (informal sing.)
- Irregular verbs whose vowel changes from **e** → **i** / **ie** in the present tense also have this change in the **du** command: **geben** to give → **du gibst** you give → **Gib!** *Give!*
- In separable-prefix verbs (see Lesson 15), the prefix goes to the end of the command, e.g. **losfahren** to drive off → **Fahr los!** / **Fahr jetzt los!** *Drive off now!*
- In negative commands (prohibitions), **nicht** comes after the verb, or after the subject pronoun for **wir** and **Sie** commands: **Komm nicht zu spät nach Hause!** / **Kommen Sie nicht zu spät nach Hause!** *Don't come home too late!*

1 Turn these verbs or phrases into commands.

- kommen (informal pl.) →
- nicht zu laut singen (informal sing.) →
- an/rufen* (first-person plural) →
- das Buch lesen (informal pl.) →
- spazieren gehen (first-person plural) →
- da bleiben (formal) →
- mit/kommen* (informal pl.) →
- Blumen kaufen (informal sing.) →

*separable-prefix verb

2 Use the following verb phrases to form these commands.

bitte pünktlich sein
nett zu ihr sein
ehrlich sein
nicht traurig sein
vorsichtig sein

- Please be on time! (informal singular) →
- Let's be honest! →
- Be nice to her! (informal plural) →
- Don't be sad! (formal) →
- Be careful! (informal singular) →

3 Connect these commands to their translations.

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Pass auf! | • | • a. Stop! |
| 2. Fahr weiter! | • | • b. Come with [me/us]! |
| 3. Geh weg! | • | • c. Go away! |
| 4. Sprich leiser! | • | • d. Speak more quietly! |
| 5. Komm mit! | • | • e. Continue driving! |
| 6. Hör auf! | • | • f. Watch out! |
| 7. Halt an! | • | • g. Stop [the car]! |



4 Complete the opposite of each command using the appropriate prefix/adverb: rückwärts, weniger, runter, zu, aus. Then connect each to its translation.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Steig ein! ≠ Steig | • | • a. Eat more! ≠ Eat less! |
| 2. Fahr vorwärts! ≠ Fahr | • | • b. Get in! ≠ Get out! (car, bus, etc.) |
| 3. Komm hoch! ≠ Komm | • | • c. Open the door! ≠ Close the door! |
| 4. Iss mehr! ≠ Iss | • | • d. Come up! ≠ Come down! |
| 5. Mach die Tür auf! | | • e. Go forward! ≠ Go back! |
| ≠ Mach die Tür | • | |

Some spelling and pronunciation tips

- In the imperative, verb stems that end in **-d** or **-t** or certain other consonant groups such as **-chn** or **-tm** generally insert an **e** before the conjugation ending in the second-person plural (**ihr**) command: **zeichnen** to draw → **Zeichnet einen Hund!** In the second-person singular (**du**) command, the **-e** that is optional in other verbs is typically included: **Zeichne einen Hund!** (However, in strong verbs, this **e** is optional whatever the verb stem, e.g. **Lad(e) ihn ein!** Invite him!)
- Infinitives ending in **-ern** or **-eln** always include the **-e** in the second-person singular (**du**) command: **wackeln** to wiggle → **Wack(e)le nicht so!** In most cases, the **e** of the stem is omitted (e.g. **Wackle!**), although this is not obligatory.

5 Complete this table with the correct imperative forms.

Informal sing. (<i>du</i>)	Informal plural (<i>ihr</i>)
.....	Arbeitet schneller!
Verändere nichts!	.....
Bade nicht jetzt!	.....
.....	Ärgert mich nicht!
.....	Wechselt 100 Euro!
Lad(e) ihn ein!	.....

6 Change these formal *Sie* commands to informal *du* and *ihr* commands. Keep in mind the spelling tips!

- Finden Sie es sofort! →
- Schreiben Sie es auf! →
- Lassen Sie mich in Ruhe! →
- Schneiden Sie es in zwei! →
- Steigen Sie bitte ein! →
- Haben Sie etwas Geduld! →

Zu Befehl!
Yes, sir!