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BEGINNERS

→ B2



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German *Deutsch*



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- grammatical appendix

WITH EASE SERIES

 German
With Ease Series

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Before you begin your first lesson, be sure to read the introduction, which gives some important background information to the course. In the English translations, the words in brackets () give the literal

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Erste Lektion [erstuh lektsiohn]



Deutsch lernen ¹

- 1 – Hallo Peter! Lernst du ² Deutsch? ³
 2 – Ja.
 3 – Und?
 4 – Ich verstehe nichts.
 5 – Mmh ... Kennst du „Deutsch Ohne Mühe“? □



Pronunciation

doytsh **lern'n** 1 **Hallo Pehter!** lehrnst doo doytsch 2 ya 3 oont 4 ich fehrshtehuh nichts 5 mh... kennst doo doytsch ohnuh müuh

Pronunciation notes

The numbers indicate the line in the dialogue to which the note refers.
 (Title), (1), (5) **Deutsch**: the **eu** is pronounced [oy] as in *boy* → [doytsh].
 (Title), (4), (5) The final **e** [uh] as well as the **e** of the **en** ending [n] are pronounced only slightly → **lernen** [lehrr'n]; **verstehe** [fehrshtehuh]; **Mühe** [müuh].
 (1), (2) Slightly lengthen the vowels **a**, **o** and **u** when they are at the end of a word → **Hallo** [Halluh]; **du** [doo]; **ja** [yah]. **Hallo** can also be pronounced with a short **o** [Halla].
 (1), (5) Note that **du** is pronounced [doo] and that **ü** is pronounced like an [oo] but with tightly pursed lips.
 (4) The **ch** [ch] in **ich** is pronounced with the lips slightly parted → **ich** [ich]; **nichts** [nichts].
 (4), (5) An **h** after a vowel is usually silent and serves to lengthen it: **verstehe** [fehrshtehuh]; **ohne** [ohnuh]; **Mühe** [müuh].

translation of the German. The words in square brackets [] do not appear in German, but are needed in English.

1

First lesson

Learn German (German to-learn)

- 1 – Hi Peter! Are you learning (learn you [informal]) German?
 2 – Yes.
 3 – And?
 4 – I don't understand anything (I understand nothing).
 5 – Hmm ... Do you know (know you [informal]) German with Ease?



Notes

- 1 **Deutsch lernen** to learn German. Notice how the object comes before the infinitive here (the verb, or action word, comes after the thing that has the verb done to it), unlike in English (**Deutsch lernen** to learn German, **Suppe essen** to eat soup, **Sarah sehen** to see Sarah). Almost all German infinitives end in **-en**: **lernen** to learn; **verstehen** to understand; **kennen** to know.
- 2 The personal pronoun **ich** corresponds to *I* and **du** to *you* (informal singular – we'll come back to this later). In the present tense, the conjugated ending of the verb is usually an **-e** in the 1st-person singular (**ich**) and an **-st** in the 2nd-person singular (**du**): **ich verstehe** *I understand* (line 4); **du lernst** *you learn*; **du kennst** *you know* (line 5).
- 3 A question usually starts with the conjugated verb, followed by the subject: **Lernst du Deutsch?** (*"Learn you German?"*) **Kennst du Deutsch Ohne Mühe?** (*"Know you German Without Effort?"*). The subject of a sentence is the person or thing performing the action (**Sarah isst Suppe**. *Sarah eats soup*. Sarah is the subject, soup is the object.). But it is also possible not to invert the subject and verb, using the same structure as for a statement. In this case, the question implies a level

of astonishment on the part of the speaker: **Du lernst Deutsch?** *You are learning German?* implies *What a surprise!* Note that in English we would use the present continuous "you are learning" in this context,

Übung 1 – Übersetzen Sie bitte!

Exercise 1 - Please translate!

① Hallo! ② Ich kenne "Deutsch Ohne Mühe". ③ Verstehst du? ④ Ja! Und? ⑤ Ich lerne nichts.

Übung 2 – Ergänzen Sie bitte!

Exercise 2 - Please fill in the blanks!

① Are you learning German? (*Learn you German?*)
..... Deutsch?

② Yes, I know *German with Ease*.

..., "Deutsch Ohne Mühe".

③ You don't understand anything. (*You understand nothing.*)
Du

④ learn and understand
lernen

⑤ Yes, I understand.
Ja,

2

Zweite Lektion [tsvytuh lektsiohn]



Die neue Russischlehrerin ^{1 2}

1 – Oh! Wer ist das ³?

2 – Das ist Anastasia, die **neue Russischlehrerin**.

3 – **Woher** ⁴ kommt sie ⁵?

4 – Aus Sankt **Petersburg**.

5 – **Schöne Frau!** Ist sie neu hier? □

but the German uses the simple present tense "you learn". German also doesn't require using "Do ...?" with a verb when forming a question.

Answers to Exercise 1

① Hi! ② I know *German with Ease*. ③ Do you understand? ④ Yes! And? ⑤ I'm not learning anything.

Answers to Exercise 2

① Lernst du – ② Ja, ich kenne – ③ – verstehst nichts ④ – und verstehen ⑤ – ich verstehe



2

Second lesson

The new Russian teacher

1 – Oh! Who is that?

2 – That's Anastasia, the new Russian teacher (f.).

3 – **Where** does she come from? (*Where-from comes she?*)

4 – From Saint Petersburg.

5 – Beautiful woman! Is she new here?

Pronunciation

dee **noyuh** roossish-**lehrerin** 1 oh **vehuh** ist dass 2 dass ist anasstahzia dee **noyuh** roossish-**lehrerin** 3 vo**Hehuh** kommt zee 4 owss zankt **pehtuhsboork** 5 **shœnuh** frow! ist zee noy **heehuh**

Pronunciation notes

(Title), (1), (3) Be sure to distinguish between the long i [ee] (as in *bee*) in *die* or *sie* and the short i [ɪ] (as in *kit*) in *ist* or *Russischlehrerin*.

(Title), (5) Note that *sch* is pronounced [sh]: *Russischlehrerin* [roossish-lehrerin]; *schöne* [shœnuh].

(1), (3) Careful! In German, *w* is pronounced like *v*: *wer* [vehuh]; *woher* [voHehuh]. For words of foreign origin, however, *w* and *v* keep their original pronunciation.

(1), (3), (4) An *-er* ending is pronounced like a neutral unstressed vowel, which we transcribe as [uh]: *wer* [vehuh]; *woher* [voHehuh]; *Sankt Petersburg* [zankt pehtuhsboork].

Notes

1 An important difference with English is that German nouns are capitalized: **der Lehrer** teacher (m.); **die Lehrerin** teacher (f.). Using a lower-case letter is considered a spelling error. Another difference is that every noun has a gender – in German, a noun is either masculine, feminine or neuter. If the noun refers to a person, it usually has a different masculine and feminine form, as here. There are also different forms of definite article (*the*): **die** is used with a feminine singular noun. When you learn a new noun, it is a good idea to try to remember its gender.

Übung 1 – Übersetzen Sie bitte! Exercise 1 - Please translate!

1 Woher kommt die Russischlehrerin? 2 Sie ist verheiratet.
3 Sie ist schön. 4 Ich komme aus Sankt Petersburg. 5 Das ist die neue Russischlehrerin.

- When an adjective is used before a noun, its ending changes depending on the gender and number (singular or plural) of the noun. For example, with a feminine singular noun, the adjective takes an *-e*: *neu* *new* → **die neue** Russischlehrerin; *schön* *beautiful* → **schöne** Frau (line 5). The good news is that when an adjective comes after a noun it does not change: *verheiratet* [fehrHyrahtuht] → **Sie ist verheiratet**. *She is married*. **Peter ist verheiratet**. *Peter is married*.
- To designate a person or a thing, use **das ist** *that is* (line 2), or **ist das** *is that* in a question.
- The question word **Woher?** *Where from?* is used to ask where someone comes from, and the preposition **aus** *from* (line 4) is used to indicate the place of origin: **Woher kommt sie?** – **Aus Sankt Petersburg**. *Where does she come from? – From St. Petersburg*.
- This lesson introduces the 3rd-person singular present tense (with the feminine **sie** *she*). This usually takes the conjugated ending **-t** except for some very irregular verbs such as **sein** *to be* for which the stem changes: **kommen** *to come* → **sie kommt** *she comes* (regular); **sein** *to be* → **sie ist** *she is* (irregular) (line 5). The very irregular **sein** is one of the few verbs whose infinitive does not end in *-en*.



Answers to Exercise 1

1 Where does the Russian teacher come from? 2 She is married.
3 She is beautiful. 4 I am from St. Petersburg. 5 She is the new Russian teacher.

German

Deutsch

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