



# THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GERMAN

EVERYDAY VOCABULARY AND GRAMMAR TO HELP YOU  
SURVIVE IN GERMAN (AND THEN SOME!)

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## CHAPTER ONE

# PRONUNCIATION

# PRONUNCIATION

The German alphabet is quite similar to the English alphabet, with a few notable additions, known as the Umlauts: ä, ö, and ü. Umlaut literally means ‘altered sound’—you can hear and practice these altered sounds in this handy [pronunciation video](#).

German has another letter that does not appear in its alphabet: ß (the Eszett, or scharfes S, as it is also known).

Unfortunately, the misconception exists that the letter ß is interchangeable with a double-s. It is true that you can spell a word with a double-s instead of an ß whenever and wherever it is suitable, such as in a crossword puzzle or when you do not have an ß-key on your keyboard. Nevertheless, you should avoid overusing it because there is a clear rule when a word has to be spelled with an ß and when with a double-s.

The letter ß has a particular function in the German language. Firstly, it represents a sharp s-sound – just like a double-s. And secondly, it indicates that we have to utter a **long** vowel before the ß, whereas we utter a **short** vowel before a double-s. Thus, the spelling of a word can affect both the pronunciation and even the meaning of a word.

We’ve put together this helpful [pronunciation video](#) to help you understand the different uses of the Eszett and the double s.

# PRONUNCIATION

While the rest of the German alphabet will look familiar to you, you'll want to pay close attention to the pronunciation rules.

When it comes to **consonants**, beware that:

- When **b, d, or g** is at the end of the syllable it changes to p, t, or k respectively.

Examples:

b to p: abheben is pronounced as apheben

d to t: sind is pronounced as sint

g to k: tag is pronounced as tak

- When an **h** follows a vowel it's silent. You can see this in words like gehen and sehen.
- German **v** is pronounced like an English f : der Vater is pronounced as der Fater
- German **w** is pronounced like an English v : das Wunder is pronounced as das Vunder
- German **z** is pronounced like a ts : die Zeit is pronounced as die Tsite

You may also come across some unfamiliar **consonant clusters** in German:

- **ck** is pronounced as k : the ck in der Schock is pronounced as the k in dark
- **ch** is pronounced as the ch in the word loch, as in the loch ness monster: mich
- **pf** is pronounced with both consonants : das Pferd
- **ph** is pronounced as f : das Alphabet is pronounced as das Alfabet
- **qu** is pronounced as kv : die Qual is pronounced as die Kval
- **sch** is pronounced as sh : die Schule is pronounced as die Shule
- **sp** is pronounced as shp: sprechen is pronounced as shprechen
- **st** is pronounced as sht: der Stephanstag is pronounced as der Shtephanstag
- **th** is pronounced as an English t : das Theater is pronounced as das Teater



## CHAPTER TWO

# GREETINGS

# GREETINGS

## FORMAL GREETINGS

German	English
Guten Tag.	Hello/Good day.
Ich heiße ...	My name is ...
Wie heißen Sie?	What is your name?
Danke, sehr gut.	Thank you, very well.
Danke, nicht schlecht.	Thank you, not bad.
Danke, es geht so.	Thank you, so so.
Mir geht's gut.	I'm fine.

## INFORMAL GREETINGS

German	English
Hallo!	Hi!
Ich heiße ...	My name is ...
Wie heißt du?	What is your name?
Wie geht's?	How's it going?
Wie geht's dir?	How is it going with you?
Was machst du so?	What are you up to?
Ganz gut.	Very good.
Ich kann nicht klagen.	I can't complain.

Americans often ask "How are you?" as an extension of a greeting. But when you ask a German "Wie geht es Ihnen?" (formal) or "Wie geht es dir?" (informal) they may take that question literally and tell you the story of their life. Fortunately, many Germans will now respond with a simple "Mir geht's gut".



## CHAPTER THREE

# NOUN GENDER



# NOUN GENDER

In German, all nouns have a particular grammatical gender. They can either be masculine (männlich), feminine (weiblich), or neuter (sächlich). The gender of a noun is indicated by its preceding article: “der” (for masculine nouns), “die” (for feminine nouns), and “das” (for neuter nouns). Note that it is the word itself that has a gender, not necessarily the meaning of the word. For example, “der Rock” (skirt) is masculine, even though you might think of a “skirt” as something feminine.

Getting the gender correct matters in German, as some words exist in many genders. For example, the German word “der See” (masculine) means “the lake” but “die See” (feminine) means “the sea”.

Unfortunately noun gender is something you just have to memorize, but we’ll provide some guidelines that will make it easier.

## **Nouns that are usually masculine:**

- days of the week, months, and seasons
- points of the compass (der Norden – north, der Süden – south, der Westen – west, der Osten – east)
- precipitation (der Regen – rain, der Schnee – snow, der Nebel – fog/mist)
- names of cars (der Mercedes, der BMW, der VW) and trains (der ICE)
- words ending in **–ismus** (der Journalismus – journalism, der Kapitalismus – capitalism)
- words ending in **–ner** (der Rentner – pensioner; der Schaffner – conductor)

# NOUN GENDER

## Nouns which are usually feminine:

- nouns that are ending in
  - **-heit** (die Schönheit – the beauty)
  - **-keit** (die Tätigkeit – the activity)
  - **-tät** (die Universität – university)
  - **-ung** (die Überraschung – surprise)
  - **-schaft** (die Freundschaft – friendship)
  - **-ie** (Industrie – industry; Komödie – comedy)
  - **-ik** (die Musik – music, die Panik – panic)
- nouns of aircraft (die Boeing 747), ships (die Titanic), motorbikes (die Harley Davidson)
- nouns ending in cardinal numbers (die Eins – one, die Zwei – two, etc.)

## Nouns which are usually neuter:

- nouns ending in **-chen** (das Mädchen – girl) and **-lein** (das Fräulein = unmarried woman)
- infinitives used as nouns (gerunds): das Essen – the eating/food; das Schreiben – writing)
- names of hotels, cafés and theaters
- names of colors which are used as nouns: das Blau, Das Rot, das Grün



## CHAPTER FOUR

# CAPITALIZATION

# CAPITALIZATION

One aspect of German that bewilders many learners is the importance of capitalization. In German, capitalization isn't just for the beginning of a sentence or a proper noun—it actually makes a big difference throughout a sentence! Take the following pairs, for example:

**Die Spinnen.**

**Die spinnen.**

*The spiders.*

*They're nuts.*

**Der gefangene Floh.**

**Der Gefangene floh.**

*The captured flea.*

*The prisoner escaped.*

**Er hat in Berlin liebe Genossen.**

**Er hat in Berlin Liebe genossen.**

*He has nice comrades in Berlin.*

*He enjoyed love in Berlin.*

**As you may have noticed, all nouns are capitalized in German, even when they appear in the middle of a sentence.** While this may seem strange, it is actually quite helpful for learners in the long run. Using capitals, you can quickly identify nouns and then use the corresponding article (der, die, das, ein, eine—more on these later!) to determine the noun's case (another tricky German concept that we'll cover in the next chapter.)



## CHAPTER FIVE

# CONJUGATING VERBS

# CONJUGATION

First, let's review the personal pronouns (nominative):

Singular		Plural	
<b>I</b>	ich	<b>we</b>	wir
<b>you</b>	du	<b>you</b>	ihr
<b>him/her/it</b> <b>you (formal)</b>	er/sie/es Sie	<b>them</b>	sie

Conjugating verbs in German involves removing the verb ending (to create a verb stem) and adding the appropriate ending to the stem. Below are the present-tense endings for regular verbs (known as weak verbs).

Singular		Plural	
<b>ich</b>	-e	<b>wir</b>	-en
<b>du</b>	-st	<b>ihr</b>	-t
<b>er/sie/es</b>	-t	<b>sie/Sie</b>	-en

Example: **singen (to see)** → Drop the “en” to form the stem “sing”.

ich singe (I sing)

du sing**st** (you sing) – singular “you”

er/sie/es sing**t** (he/she/it sings)

wir sing**en** (we sing)

ihr sing**t** (you sing) – plural “you”

sie sing**en** (they sing)

Sie sing**en** (you sing) – formal “you”

# CONJUGATION

It's important to memorize the conjugations, as they apply to the majority of German verbs. Of course, there are exceptions, which you'll also need to memorize:

- For verbs whose stem ends in d, t, m, or n, the du form ends with "est" and the er/sie/es form ends in "et". This is practical for pronunciation.

Example: **warten (to wait)**

ich warte  
du warte**st**  
er/sie/es warte**t**  
wir wart**e**n  
ihr wart**e**t  
sie wart**e**n  
Sie wart**e**n

- For verbs whose stem ends in s, ss, ß, or z, the du form ends with "t".

Example: **sitzen (to sit)**

ich sitze  
du sitzt  
er/sie/es sitz**t**  
wir sitz**e**n  
ihr sitz**t**  
sie sitz**e**n  
Sie sitz**e**n

# CONJUGATION

Review the example sentences below to see conjugation in action:

- **Ich höre** dir zu. — **I'm listening** to you.
- **Wir hören** Radio. — **We listen/are listening** to the radio.
- **Gibst du** mir bitte das Salz? — **Could you pass** me the salt, please?
- **Martin und Robert geben** Unterricht in Deutsch. — **Martin and Robert give** lessons in German.
- **Wir sagen** niemals nie. — **We never say** never.
- **Annika sagt**, sie hat den Klempner heute Morgen angerufen. — **Annika says** that she called the plumber this morning.
- Woher **kommen Sie**? — Where **do you come** from? (formal)
- Woher **kommst du**? — Where **do you come** from? (informal)
- **Ich komme** aus Deutschland. — **I come** from Germany.\*

\*Keep in mind that most countries, towns, and cities are neuter in German. Therefore, they take the article *das*. But all countries, towns, and cities which take *das* are never used with the articles. That is, you **do not** say “Ich komme aus dem Deutschland” but simply “Ich komme aus Deutschland.”

An article is only used when a country, town, or city is either feminine or masculine in the nominative case. For example, “die USA” (feminine) would thus be “Ich komme aus **den** USA.”



# IRREGULAR VERBS

Remember how we mentioned “weak” verbs? German also has “strong” verbs, which are conjugated irregularly. Unfortunately these verbs do not follow the pattern laid out in the previous chapter, so you’ll have to memorize their conjugations.

Below is a sample of strong verbs that have irregular conjugations in the present tense.

## **sein (to be)**

ich bin  
du bist  
er/sie/es ist  
wir sind  
ihr seid  
sie sind  
Sie sind

## **essen (to eat)**

ich esse  
du *isst*  
er/sie/es *isst*  
wir essen  
ihr esst  
sie essen  
Sie essen

## **sehen (to see)**

ich sehe  
du *siehst*  
er/sie/es *sieht*  
wir sehen  
ihr seht  
sie sehen  
Sie sehen

## **haben (to have)**

ich habe  
du *hast*  
er/sie/es *hat*  
wir haben  
ihr habt  
sie haben  
Sie haben

## **geben (to give)**

ich gebe  
du *gibst*  
er/sie/es *gibt*  
wir geben  
ihr gebt  
sie geben  
Sie geben

## **sprechen (to speak)**

ich spreche  
du *sprichst*  
er/sie/es *spricht*  
wir sprechen  
ihr sprecht  
sie sprechen  
Sie sprechen

## **wissen (to know)**

ich *weiß*  
du *weißt*  
er/sie/es *weiß*  
wir wissen  
ihr wisst  
sie wissen  
Sie wissen

## **fahren (to drive)**

ich fahre  
du *fährst*  
er/sie/es *fährt*  
wir fahren  
ihr fahrt  
sie fahren  
Sie fahren

## **lesen (to read)**

ich lese  
du *liest*  
er/sie/es *liest*  
wir lesen  
ihr lest  
sie lesen  
Sie lesen

# IRREGULAR VERBS

Of course there are other irregular verbs in the present tense, including those in the list below. A good German dictionary or verb conjugation tool will help you memorize all of the irregular conjugations.

Empfehlen (to suggest)

Fallen (to fall)

Geschehen (to happen)

Halten (to stop/hold)

Helfen (to help)

Laden (to load)

Lassen (to leave/let)

Laufen (to run)

Nehmen (to take)

Schlagen (to hit)

Stoßen (to push)

Tragen (to carry)

Treffen (to meet)

Vergessen (to forget)



## CHAPTER SIX

# CASE

# CASE

This chapter is going to be a doozy, but stick with us. In German, each noun, pronoun, and article has four cases. These cases indicate the word's role in the sentence: subject, possessive, indirect object, or direct object. The words' spelling and pronunciation will change to reflect the case.

## Nominative Case

The nominative case is used to mark the subject of a sentence. It is also known as “der Werfall”, or “the who case”.

## Genitive Case

The genitive case is used to mark possession. It plays the same role as the English apostrophe-s or “of”.

## Dative Case

The dative case is used to mark an indirect object. An indirect object is the recipient of the direct object (such as the word “her” in the sentence “Give her a cookie.”)

## Accusative Case

The accusative case is used to mark a direct object, such as the word “cookie” in the example above.

<b>Nominative = DOER</b>	indicates who or what carries out the action
<b>Genitive = POSSESSION</b>	indicates that something belongs to the doer, instrument, or target of an action
<b>Dative = INSTRUMENT</b>	indicates with what the action is carried out
<b>Accusative = TARGET</b>	indicates who or what receives the action

# CASE

## DEFINITE ARTICLES

	Singular			Plural
	masculine	feminine	neuter	
Nominative	der	die	das	die
Genitive	des	der	des	der
Dative	dem	der	dem	den
Accusative	den	die	das	die

Example:

**Die Frau** schreibt **den Brief** mit **dem Stift** **des Chefs**.

The woman is writing the letter with the pen of the boss.

Let's break that down:

- The woman is the subject of the sentence, thus we will use the nominative article "die" as Frau is a feminine noun.
- The letter is the direct object, or the object receiving the action (which in this case is "writing") so we use the accusative article "den", as Brief is a masculine noun.
- The pen is the indirect object, or the object with which the action is carried out, so we use the dative article "dem", as Stift is neuter.
- The pen *belongs to* the boss, so we use the genitive article "des", as "Chefs" is masculine.

# CASE

## INDEFINITE ARTICLES

	Singular		
	masculine	feminine	neuter
Nominative	ein	eine	ein
Genitive	eines	einer	eines
Dative	einem	einer	einem
Accusative	einen	eine	ein

**Example:** Here is the example sentence from the ‘definite articles’ section used with the indefinite article, instead:

**Eine Frau** schreibt **einen Brief** mit **einem Stift** **eines Chefs**  
**A woman** writes **a letter** with **a pen** belonging to **a boss**

Let’s break that down:

- **A woman** is the subject of the sentence, thus we will use the nominative article “eine” as Frau is a feminine noun.
- **A letter** is the direct object, or the object receiving the action (which in this case is “writing”) so we use the accusative article “einen”, as Brief is a masculine noun.
- **A pen** is the indirect object, or the object with which the action is carried out, so we use the dative article “einem”, as Stift is neuter.
- The pen *belongs* to **a boss**, so we use the genitive article “eines”, as “Chefs” is masculine.

# CASE

## PERSONAL PRONOUNS

	Singular			Plural			
	me	you	him/her/it	we/us	you	them	you (formal)
Nominative	ich	du	er/sie/es	wir	ihr	sie	Sie
Genitive*	meiner	deiner	seiner/ihre r/seiner	unser	euer	ihrer	Ihrer
Dative	mir	dir	ihm/ihr/ih m	uns	euch	ihnen	Ihnen
Accusative	mich	dich	ihn/sie/es	uns	euch	sie	Sie

\*The genitive is rarely used as a personal pronoun anymore. It is more common to use the dative, so don't worry too much about it at this stage!

**Wir** gehen heute ins Kino. (**We** are going to the cinema today.)

**Er** ist total verliebt. (**He** is completely in love.)

Ich bin **deiner** Meinung. (I have the same opinion as **you**.)

Ich erinnere mich **seiner**. (I remember **him**.)

Ein Fluch liegt auf **mir**. (A curse rests on **me**.)

Eine Last liegt auf **ihr**. (A burden rests on **her**.)

Sie nimmt Rücksicht auf **dich**. (She is considerate of **you**.)

Wir trinken auf **ihn**. (A toast to **him**.)



## CHAPTER SEVEN

# NUMBERS



# CARDINAL NUMBERS

0	null
1	eins
2	zwei
3	drei
4	vier
5	fünf
6	sechs
7	sieben
8	acht
9	neun
10	zehn
11	elf
12	zwölf
13	dreizehn
14	vierzehn
15	fünfzehn
16	sechzehn
17	siebzehn
18	achtzehn
19	neunzehn
20	zwanzig

Hear the pronunciation for numbers 1-20 [here](#).

# CARDINAL NUMBERS

21	einundzwanzig	41	einundvierzig
22	zweiundzwanzig	42	zweiundvierzig
23	dreiundzwanzig	43	dreiundvierzig
24	vierundzwanzig	44	vierundvierzig
25	fünfundzwanzig	45	fünfundvierzig
26	sechszwanzig	46	sechszwanzig
27	siebenundzwanzig	47	siebenundvierzig
28	achtundzwanzig	48	achtundvierzig
29	neunundzwanzig	49	neunundvierzig
30	dreiig	50	fnfzig
31	einunddreiig	51	einundfnfzig
32	zweiunddreiig	52	zweiundfnfzig
33	dreiunddreiig	53	dreiundfnfzig
34	vierunddreiig	54	vierundfnfzig
35	fnfunddreiig	55	fnfundfnfzig
36	sechszunddreiig	56	sechszundfnfzig
37	siebenunddreiig	57	siebenundfnfzig
38	achtunddreiig	58	achtundfnfzig
39	neununddreiig	59	neunundfnfzig
40	vierzig	60	sechzig

# CARDINAL NUMBERS

61	einundsechzig	81	einundachtzig
62	zweiundsechzig	82	zweiundachtzig
63	dreiundsechzig	83	dreiundachtzig
64	vierundsechzig	84	vierundachtzig
65	fünfundsechzig	85	fünfundachtzig
66	sechsunndsechzig	86	sechsunndachtzig
67	siebenundsechzig	87	siebenundachtzig
68	achtundsechzig	88	achtundachtzig
69	neunundsechzig	89	neunundachtzig
70	siebzig	90	neunzig
71	einundsiebzig	91	einundneunzig
72	zweiundsiebzig	92	zweiundneunzig
73	dreiundsiebzig	93	dreiundneunzig
74	vierundsiebzig	94	vierundneunzig
75	fünfundsiebzig	95	fünfundneunzig
76	sechsunndsiebzig	96	sechsunndneunzig
77	siebenundsiebzig	97	siebenundneunzig
78	achtundsiebzig	98	achtundneunzig
79	neunundsiebzig	99	neunundneunzig
80	achtzig	100	(ein)hundert

# ORDINAL NUMBERS

As you will see, in German, ordinal numbers are abbreviated with a dot after the number, whereas English uses the auxiliaries X<sup>st</sup>, X<sup>nd</sup>, X<sup>rd</sup>, and X<sup>th</sup>.

1. erstens	1st first
2. zweitens	2nd second
3. drittens	3rd third
4. viertens	4th fourth
5. fünftens	5th fifth
6. sechstens	6th sixth
7. siebtens / siebentens	7th seventh
8. achtens	8th eighth
9. neuntens	9th ninth
10. zehntens	10th tenth
11. elftens	11th eleventh
12. zwölftens	12th twelfth
13. dreizehtens	13th thirteenth
14. vierzehntens	14th fourteenth
15. fünfzehntens	15th fifteenth
16. sechzehntens	16th sixteenth
17. siebzehntens	17th seventeenth
18. achtzehntens	18th eighteenth
19. neunzehntens	19th nineteenth
20. zwanzigstens	20th twentieth



## CHAPTER EIGHT

# ASKING QUESTIONS

# QUESTIONS

There are a few different ways to ask questions in German. The easiest way to ask a question is simply to change your intonation. Just like in English, you can simply indicate that you are asking a question by raising your voice slightly at the end of a sentence (statement), instead of lowering it.

Du denkst an die Reise. – You are thinking about the trip.

Du denkst an *die Reise*? – Are you thinking about the trip?

If you're worried your intonation will be off, you can also add "nicht wahr" which serves the same function as "don't you?" or "right?" in English.

Du denkst an die Reise, **nicht wahr?** – You are thinking about the trip, aren't you?

Du willst schlafen, **nicht wahr?** – You want to sleep, don't you?

A third and easy way to form questions on German is inversion. All you have to do is to reverse the word order of the subject noun/pronoun and the conjugated form of the verb.

**Sie spricht** Deutsch. – She speaks German.

**Spricht sie** Deutsch? – Does she speak German?

**Du gehst** nach Hause. – You are going home.

**Gehst du** nach Hause? – Are you going home?

# QUESTIONS

Of course, you might have a question that requires more than a yes or no answer. For those, it's important to learn the question words.

Question Words	
wer	who
was	what
wie	how
wann	when
warum	why
wieviel	how much
wie viele	how many
mit wem	with who
woher	where (from)
wohin	where (to)

You can also create question words with “wo-” in order to ask for objects. You simply add the prefix *wo-* to a preposition, e.g. *wo+für* = *wofür* (for what) or *wo+mit* = *womit* (with what). Alternatively, you can ask “für was” instead of “wofür” and “mit was” instead of “womit”.

Example:

**Wofür** lernst du? / **Für was** lernst du? (For what are you studying?)

**Womit** bereitest du dich auf den Test vor? / **Mit was** bereitest du dich auf den Test vor? (With what are you preparing yourself for the test?)

# ANSWERS

What good is knowing how to ask a question if you don't know how to answer one?

## **Positive Responses:**

Das wäre... gut/toll – That would be ... (good/great)

Gerne – Gladly

Natürlich – Of course

Natürlich mache ich das – Of course I'll do that

Natürlich gehe ich – Of course I'll go

Auf jeden Fall – Definitely

Ich freue mich (schon) – I'm looking forward to it (already)

Das klingt gut – That sounds good

Das wird sicher Spaß machen – I'm sure that'll be fun

## **Negative Responses:**

Es tut mir Leid, aber... – I'm sorry, but...

Danke, aber... – Thanks, but...

Ich kann nicht – I can't

Ich habe keine Zeit – I don't have time

Das geht (momentan) nicht – It's not possible (at the moment)

Vielleicht nächstes Mal – Maybe next time

## **Maybe Responses:**

Ich weiß noch nicht – I don't know yet

Ich überlege es – I'll think about it

Ich muss zuerst darüber nachdenken – I need to think about it first

Ich muss zuerst checken – I need to check first

Ich sag es dir morgen/später/am Dienstag/nächste Woche – I'll tell you tomorrow/later/on Tuesday/next week

Hoffentlich – Hopefully





## CHAPTER NINE

# NEGATION

# NEGATION

Nouns without a definite article are negated by the use of **kein**. When someone is asking you in German for a particular noun, for example, when you are asked if you have or possess something, e.g. time, a brother, a pen, etc., you have to use a declined form of the word **kein** in order to negate your statement.

Please note, that you can only negate your statement with **kein** when the noun you are talking about is either used without articles or with indefinite articles.

In the singular **kein** is declined like the indefinite articles.

In the plural **kein** is declined like the definite articles.

	Singular			Plural
	masculine	feminine	neuter	
<b>Nominative</b>	ein <b>kein</b>	eine <b>keine</b>	ein <b>kein</b>	die <b>keine</b>
<b>Genitive</b>	eines <b>keines</b>	einer <b>keiner</b>	eines <b>keines</b>	der <b>keiner</b>
<b>Dative</b>	einem <b>keinem</b>	einer <b>keiner</b>	einem <b>keinem</b>	den <b>keinen</b>
<b>Accusative</b>	einen <b>keinen</b>	eine <b>keine</b>	ein <b>kein</b>	die <b>keine</b>

Example: (with no article)

Sie isst Äpfel. – She eats apples.

Sie isst **keine** Äpfel. – She **doesn't** eat apples. (She eats **no** apples.)

Example: (with indefinite article)

Sie isst einen Apfel. – She is eating an apple.

Sie isst **keinen** Apfel. – She isn't eating an apple. (She is eating no apple.)

# NEGATION

In other situations, you'll want to use the word **nicht** (not), though it's not always clear where in the sentence nicht should fall.

Here are a few rules for using the word **nicht**:

Nicht usually precedes an adverb or adjective or falls behind a conjugated verb (which is opposite to what you're used to in English.)

Example:

Ich trinke **nicht** meine Limonade. (I'm **not** drinking my lemonade.)

Nicht also likes to creep to the end of a sentence sometimes, particularly in declarative sentences and yes/no questions.

Example:

Irgendetwas stimmt **nicht**. (Something is **not** right.)

Das interessiert mich **nicht**. (That does **not** interest me.)

Notice how 'nicht' is added to these simple sentences to say you don't like/want something:

**Das freut mich. (That makes me happy.)**

*Das freut mich nicht. (That does not make me happy.)*

**Ich will es. (I want it.)**

*Ich will es nicht. (I do not want it.)*

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