

Deutsch notes

Tomás Pelayo Benedet

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1 Introduction

These notes compile my journey of learning German through a combination of self-study and formal education at the Official School of Languages (Escuela Oficial de Idiomas) in Zaragoza, Spain. They represent a blend of classroom instruction and independent learning, organized to help fellow German language learners.

The content combines standard coursework material with additional insights, tips, and explanations I've gathered through my personal study methods. While these notes align with the curriculum of the Official School of Languages, they also incorporate supplementary resources and learning strategies that I found particularly helpful during my self-study sessions.

Please note that these materials, while comprehensive, reflect my personal learning experience and understanding of the German language. Any errors or misinterpretations are my own, and I encourage readers to verify information with official sources when in doubt.

Feel free to use these notes as a complementary resource in your German language learning journey. *Viel Glück!* (Good luck!)

2 Preliminary

This section establishes the basic concepts and terminology needed to understand the rest of these German language notes. These fundamentals will serve as a foundation and will be referenced frequently throughout the document, so it's essential to familiarize yourself with them before proceeding.

Nouns must always begin with a capital letter, and in certain cases, when letters appear in this document in parentheses next to the noun, this indicates how the plural is formed. E.g.: Siete(n). If there is no parentheses don't mean that there isn't plural, means that is not written in that example.

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3 Pronunciation

This section introduces the fundamentals of German pronunciation, including key sounds and rules that will help you speak German correctly and confidently.

3.1 Alphabet (Das Alphabet)

The German alphabet is defined in Table 1.

Letter	Name	Letter	Name
A a	ah	N n	en
B b	beh	O o	oh
C c	tseh	P p	peh
D d	deh	Q q	kuh
E e	eh	R r	er
F f	ef	S s	es
G g	geh	T t	teh
H h	hah	U u	uh
I i	ih	V v	fau
J j	yot	W w	veh
K k	kah	X x	iks
L l	el	Y y	psilon
M m	em	Z z	tset
Ä ä	a-Umlaut	Ö ö	o-Umlaut
Ü ü	u-Umlaut	ß	eszet

Table 1: German alphabet with letter names

Kannst du das buchstabieren? — *Can you spell that?*

Other symbols are written in Table 2.

Letter	Name	Letter	Name
@	ät	—	Unterstrich
-	minus	.	Punkt

Table 2: Other symbols with names

3.2 Phonetic Review

/a:/ means long a

3.3 Pronunciation

Table 3 presents pronunciation of basic letters and Table 4 presents pronunciation by combining letters.

Letter	Pronunciation	Example
A a	/a/ as in “father”	Apfel (apple)
B b	/b/ as in “book”	Buch (book)
C c	/ts/ before e,i,ä,ö /k/ in other cases	Cent (cent) Computer
D d	/d/ as in “dog”	Danke (thank you)
E e	/e/ as in “bed”	Erde (earth)
F f	/f/ as in “fish”	Fisch (fish)
G g	/g/ as in “go”	Garten (garden)
H h	/h/ aspirated at start silent after vowels	Haus (house) sehen (to see)
I i	/i/ as in “see”	Igel (hedgehog)
J j	/y/ as in “yes”	Jahr (year)
K k	/k/ as in “key”	Kind (child)
L l	/l/ as in “light”	Leben (life)
M m	/m/ as in “mother”	Mutter (mother)
N n	/n/ as in “no”	Nacht (night)
O o	/o/ as in “more”	Ort (place)
P p	/p/ as in “pen”	Post (mail)
Q q	/k/ always with u	Quelle (source)
R r	/ʀ/ guttural R	Rot (red)
S s	/z/ before vowels /s/ at the end	Sonne (sun) Haus (house)
T t	/t/ as in “time”	Tag (day)
U u	/u/ as in “boot”	Uhr (clock)
V v	/f/ in native words /v/ in foreign words	Vater (father) Vase (vase)
W w	/v/ as in “vine”	Wasser (water)
X x	/ks/ as in “box”	Box (box)
Y y	/y/ like ü	System
Z z	/ts/ as in “pizza”	Zeit (time)
Ä ä	/ɛ/ as in “fair”	Äpfel (apples)
Ö ö	/ø/ like 'e' with rounded lips	öffnen (to open)
Ü ü	/y/ like 'ee' with rounded lips	über (over)
ß	/s/ long s sound	Straße (street)

Table 3: German Pronunciation Basic Letters

Combination	Pronunciation	Example
ch	/x/ after a,o,u /ç/ after e,i,ä,ö,ü	Bach (stream) ich (I)
sch	/ʃ/ as in “ship”	Schule (school)
st	/ft/ at beginning /st/ elsewhere	Stadt (city) fast (almost)
sp	/fp/ at beginning /sp/ elsewhere	Sprache (language) Wespe (wasp)
ei, ai	/aI/ as in “eye”	nein (no)
ie	/i:/ when it is a stressed syllable /i:/ else syllable	lieben (to love) Italien (Italy)
au	/aU/ as in “house”	Haus (house)
äu, eu	/ɔI/ as in “boy”	neu (new)
er	/ea/ final unstressed like a weak a “ah”	Bruder (brother)
ss	/s/ a regular s	Wasser (water)

Table 4: German Pronunciation Combining Letters

3.3.1 Others

Intervocalic H in german means to extend the sound, e.g.:

sehen /se:n/

4 Numbers (Die Zahlen)

In this section, we will explore how numbers work in German, looking at their distinctive patterns and rules. Understanding the German number system is a key step in mastering this language, as it differs from English in several interesting ways.

In german number 0 is *null* and from 1 to 20 are written in Table 5. For the rest of the numbers we can follow specific patterns to create the name of the numbers. These will be present in the following paragraphs.

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

Table 5: Numbers from 1 to 20 and their names in German

Explain complex numbers

5 Verbs

In this section, we will explore how verb conjugation works in German, looking at its systematic patterns and rules. Understanding the German verb system is a crucial step in mastering this language, as it differs from English in several important ways, particularly in its structured approach to verb endings and tenses.

In declarative sentences, the verb ALWAYS goes in the second position. E.g.:

Ich **gehe** am Montag mit Pedro ins Stadium

Am Montag **gehe** ich mit Pedro ins Stadium

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

Heißen	
ich	heiße
du	heißt
er/sie/es	heißt
wir	heißen
ihr	heißt
sie/Sie	heißen

6 Thematic Vocabulary (Thematischer Wortschatz)

In this section, we will delve into thematic vocabulary and its application in various situations, focusing on how specific word groups can enhance communication and comprehension. Thematic vocabulary is essential for developing fluency, as it allows learners to navigate real-world contexts more effectively, from casual conversations to professional settings. By understanding the nuances of words and expressions tied to particular themes, you can expand your linguistic repertoire and communicate with greater precision and confidence.

The following sub-sections provide some particular vocabulary applied or about some specific situation or topic.

6.1 Greetings and Introductions (Grüße und Vorstellungen)

Add pages from 8 to 10

Add little box from the right down of the page 11 (Gut gesagt: Wie bitte?)

Add also vocabulary from the page 12 to 15

Also review Alberto's photos from Whatsapp

Er lernt keine Sprache -> He doesn't learn any language.

Ja, das stimmt -> Yes, that's correct

ist das richtig so? -> Is that correct like this?

Wie ist dein Name/Vorname? Wie alt bist du? Was ist dein Alter? Woher kommst du? Was ist dein Land? Wo wohnst du? Wie ist dein Wohnort? Wie ist deine Adresse? Wie ist dein Telefon?

6.2 Activities You Do (Aktivitäten, die du machst)

Some examples of questions to ask for someone activities:

Was machst du gern am Wochenende? —
What do you like to do at weekend?

Kochst du gern? — *Do you like cooking?*

Gehst du gern ins Kino? — *Do you like going to the cinema?*

Liest du gern? — *Do you like reading?*

Schwimmst du gern? — *Do you like swimming?*

Tanzt du gern? — *Do you like dancing?*

Reist du gern? — *Do you like traveling?*

Singst du gern? — *Do you like singing?*

Jagst du gern? — *Do you like running (as an sport)?*

Fotografierst du gern? — *Do you like photographing?*

Hörst du gern Musik? — *Do you like listening to music?*

Some answers to express your likes:

Ich schwimme gern samstags morgens —
I like to swimming Saturday mornings

Ich gehe gern sonntags ins Kino —
I like going to the cinema on Saturdays

Some answers for the previous questions to answer if you like something or not:

Gern — *I like it*

Nicht gern — *I don't like it*

Es geht so — *It's okay, so-so*

Sehr gern — *I like it a lot*

Nicht so gern — *I don't like to much*

Some activities of interest are listed in Table 6.

Aktivität	Activity
fotografieren	to phorograph
singen	to sign
kochen	to cook
schwimmen	to swim
reisen	to travel (enjoy)
fahren	to travel (work)
tanzen	to dance
joggen	to running (as an sport)
Music hören	to listen to music
ins Kino gehen	to go to the cinema
lessen	to read

Table 6: List of activities to do with their translation

6.3 Getting Around the City

Add notes from the day 12/11

6.4 Conversation Helpers

There are some helpers to use in case that the conversation is not clear or directly you don't understand what the other people is saying.

6.4.1 Understanding (Verstehen)

German	English
Verzeihung, ich verstehe nicht	Sorry, I don't understand
Ich verstehe das nicht	I don't understand it
Ich verstehe dich/Sie nicht	I didn't understand you
Entschuldigung, ich habe leider nichts	Sorry, I unfortunately have nothing
Ich habe das Wort nicht verstanden	I didn't understand the word
Ich habe das Satz nicht verstanden	I didn't understand the sentence
Ich habe das Ausdruck nicht verstanden	I didn't understand the expression
Gibt es noch Fragen?	Are there any questions?

Table 7: Helpers for when you don't understand the conversation

6.4.2 Pronouncing (Aussprechen)

German	English
Kannst du das bitte wiederholen?	Could you repeat it?
Kannst du das bitte noch einmal sagen?	Could you say it again?
Kannst du das bitte vorlesen?	Could you read it aloud?
Kannst du das bitte aussprechen?	Could you pronounce it?
Kannst du das bitte etwas langsamer sagen?	Could you say it slowly?
Kannst du das bitte genauer sagen?	Could you be more specific?
Kannst du das bitte noch einmal erklären?	Could you explain it again?
Kannst du das bitte buchstabieren/an die Tagel schreiben?	Can you please spell that?
Kannst du bitte etwas lauter sprechen?	Can you please speak a little louder?

Table 8: Helpers for when you don't understand because of the pronunciation in the conversation

6.4.3 Writing, Meaning & Knowing (Schreiben, Bedeuten & Wissen)

German	English
Wie sagt man ... auf Deutsch?	How is ... said in German?
Was bedeutet ... "Wohnung"?	What means ... Wohnung?
Wie schreibt man ...?	How is ... said?
Ich weiß es (leider) nicht	I don't know
Ich habe keine Ahnung	I have no idea
Ich kenne die antwoort nich	I don't know the answer

Table 9: Helpers for when you want to understand some specific word or how to write some word in the conversation

7 Sentences

In this section, we will dive into the structure of sentences in German, focusing on their unique word order and grammatical rules. Learning how to construct sentences is an essential step in mastering German, as its syntax differs significantly from English, offering both challenges and opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of the language.

In declarative sentences, the verb ALWAYS goes in the second position. E.g.:

Ich gehe am Montag mit Pedro ins Stadium

Am Montag gehe ich mit Pedro ins Stadium

7.1 Temporal Kausal Modal Lokal

This is the order to create sentences:

Temporal Kausal Modal Lokal

e.g.:

<u>Ich</u>	<u>gehe</u>	<u>am Montag</u>	<u>mit Pedro</u>	<u>ins Stadium</u>
Subject	Verb	Temporal	Modal	Lokal

<u>Am Montag</u>	<u>gehe</u>	<u>ich</u>	<u>mit Pedro</u>	<u>ins Stadium</u>	?
Temporal	Verb	Subject	Modal	Lokal	

[Review this section and look for complete it](#)