Deustch notes

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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 writen in that example.

Contents

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

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	ypsilon
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

3.2 Phonetic Review

/a:/ means long a

3.3 Pronunciation

Table 2 presents pronunciation of basic letters and Table 3 presents pronunciation by combinating letters.

3.3.1 Others

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

$$\text{sehen /se:n/}$$

Author: Tomás Pelayo

4 Numbers

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.

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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.

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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	Cent (cent)
	/k/ in other cases	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	Haus (house)
	silent after vowels	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	/ʁ/ guttural R	Rot (red)
S s	/z/ before vowels	Sonne (sun)
	/s/ at the end	Haus (house)
T t	/t/ as in "time"	Tag (day)
U u	/u/ as in "boot"	Uhr (clock)
V v	/f/ in native words	Vater (father)
	/v/ in foreign words	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 2: German Pronunciation Basic Letters

Combination	Pronunciation	Example
ch	/x/ after a,o,u	Bach (stream)
	/ç/ after e,i,ä,ö,ü	ich (I)
sch	/ʃ/ as in "ship"	Schule (school)
st	/ʃt/ at beginning	Stadt (city)
	/st/ elsewhere	fast (almost)
sp	/ʃp/ at beginning	Sprache (language)
	/sp/ elsewhere	Wespe (wasp)
ei, ai	/aI/ as in "eye"	nein (no)
ie	/i:/ when it is a stressed syllable	lieben (to love)
	/i:/ else syllable	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 3: German Pronunciation Combinating Letters

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