

Deutsch 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 written in that example.

2.1 Document Structure

Document follows:

- Section 3: Pronunciation. This section explains the pronunciation of the german words.

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 Phonetic Review

/a:/ means long a

3.2 Pronunciation

Table 1 presents pronunciation of basic letters and Table 2 presents pronunciation by combining letters.

3.2.1 Others

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

sehen /se:n/

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 1: 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:/ long e sound	lieben (to love)
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 2: German Pronunciation Combining Letters