

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.

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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	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

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	/aɪ/ as in “eye”	nein (no)
ie	/i:/ when it is a stressed syllable /i:/ else syllable	lieben (to love) Italien (Italy)
au	/aʊ/ as in “house”	Haus (house)
äu, eu	/ɔɪ/ 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 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

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.

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