

>> 1. Subject pronouns (Pronomen)



Tutorial Quiz

die Grammatik = Grammar

Emphasize stress: Grammatik.

DEFINITION

What is a pronoun?

A **pronoun** is a word such as *er*, *es*, or *sie* that can be substituted for the name of a person or thing: *Maria ist eine Studentin. Sie ist sehr intelligent. Wo ist mein Buch? Es ist da.*

What is a subject?

The **subject** of a sentence is usually a person or thing performing the action shown by the verb: *Ich liege nach Wien.*

The following German pronouns are used as the subject of a sentence.

Singular		Plural	
1st person	ich	I	wir
2nd person	du	you (familiar)	ihr
	Sie	you (formal)	Sie
	er	he, it	sie
3rd person	es	it	sie
	sie	she, it	they

The three ways to say you in German: *du*, *ihr*, and *Sie*

Use the familiar pronouns **du** (*singular*) and **ihr** (*plural*) when addressing fellow students, children, family members, close friends, animals, and God. Members of certain groups (students, soldiers, athletes, and often colleagues and co-workers) converse among themselves almost exclusively with **du** and **ihr**. People on a first-name basis usually use **du** with each other.

Use the formal **Sie** when addressing one or more adults who are not close friends of yours. To be safe, always allow native German speakers to be the ones who establish which form will be used.

When writing, always capitalize the pronoun **Sie** when it means *you*. Do not capitalize *sie* when it means *she* or *they* unless it is the first word of the sentence. (The pronoun **ich** is not capitalized unless it is the first word of a sentence.)



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>> 2. Verbs (Verben): Infinitive and present tense

The infinitive (*der Infinitiv*)

German dictionaries list verbs in the infinitive form.

The infinitive consists of the verb stem plus the ending *-en* or *-n*.

spiel-	spielen	to play
wander-	wandern	to hike

English infinitives are usually preceded by *to*: *to play*, *to hike*.

The present tense (*das Präsens*)

DEFINITION

What is tense?

Tense is a feature of verbs that reflects the time level: past, present, or future: *I run, I run, I will run.*

A German verb in the present tense has various endings, depending on its subject.

Das Kind spielt draußen.	The child plays outside.
Die Kinder spielen draußen.	The children play outside.

To use a verb in the present tense, drop the infinitive ending *-en* or *-n*:

komm-**en**

Then add the personal ending.

Stem + ending		Present tense	
ich	komm-e	ich	komme
du	komm-st	du	kommst
er, es, sie	komm-t	er, es, sie	kommt
wir	komm-en	wir	kommen
ihr	komm-t	ihr	kommt
sie, Sie	komm-en	sie	kommen
		you come (formal singular and plural)	

The verb ending helps you determine whether *sie* means *she* (*sie kommt*) or *they* (*sie kommen*).

The third-person plural (*sie kommen* = *they come*) and the polite second-person (*Sie kommen* = *you come*) are identical except for capitalization. From now on they will be listed together in verb paradigms: *sie, Sie kommen*.

DEFINITION

What is a verb?

A **verb** is a word that expresses an action or state of being: *Ich gehe zu Alex. Frau Hauser ist im Eile.*

Lab Manual Kap. 1, Var. (Variation) zu Gruppenarbeit 1, A
Workbook Kap. 1, A