

We build your car. It leaves you the choice. Either shift yourself - in sport fashion with the shift lever.

Or have the shifting done - comfortably, with automatic.

Opel. Fresh thinking for better cars.

The equivalents of "lassen" in English:

The verbs "to leave" and "to let" correspond to "lassen," which explains the existence of "leave him be" beside the more standard "let him be." Note that both English verbs combine with an infinitive without "to."

"lassen" in German has several distinct functions.

1) "lassen" means "to leave (behind); to allow to remain in a place or condition." This action can be on purpose or accidental. It always requires an object or other complement (as opposed to the English "let's leave"):

Ich lasse das Kind bei meinen Eltern. I am leaving the child with my parents.

Lässt du den Wagen hier? Are you leaving the car here?
Sie ließ ihre Brille im Wagen.
Lassen Sie einfach alles auf.

Are you leaving the car here?

She left her glasses in the car.

Just leave everything open.

Lassen Sie mich in Ruhe.

Leave me in peace.

Sie hat ihr Buch im Büro gelassen. She left her book at the office. Sie lässt die Stadt hinter sich. She is leaving the city behind.

Wir lassen alles beim Alten. Der Film ließ mich kalt.

We're leaving everything as it was. The film left me cold.

In this meaning, it can also be combined with other verbs as if it were a modal auxiliary. Often special meanings result:

Ich ließ den Wagen in der Garage stehen.

I left my car (standing) in the garage ["stehen lassen" is often used in this sense for things that

cannot be carried1.

Sie lässt alles liegen.

She's leaving everything as is [in order to do something

else]

Er hat sie sitzen lassen.

Sie ließen mich im Regen stehen. They left me in the rain [abandoned me; left me stranded] He jilted her.

Du hast mich mit den Kindern

sitzen lassen.

You left me to take care of the children.



Ahrensburg

Donnerstag, 16. Dezember 2004

Wie lange lässt die Bahn ihre Kunden im Regen stehen?

Ahrensburg: Niemand weiß, wann das Dach über den Bahnsteigen endlich kommt.

How long is the railroad going to leave its customers out in the rain [stranded]?

Ahrensburg [name of a town]: No one knows when there will finally be a roof over the train platforms.

2)"lassen" also means: "to let, permit, or cause someone else to do something:"

Wir lassen ihn fahren.

Ich ließ sie etwas anderes machen.

Sollen wir ein Taxi rufen lassen?

Lässt du ein Haus bauen?.

Er hat sein Referat von einem anderen Studenten

schreiben lassen.

We're letting him drive.

I let her do something else.

Should we have someone call a taxi?

Are you having a house built?

He had his paper written by another

student.

3. "sich lassen" can be used instead of the passive voice, often implying "können:"

Der Wagen lässt sich leicht reparieren.

Das Problem ließ sich nur schwer

erkennen.

Das lässt sich hoffen.

The car is easy to repair/can be repaired easily.

The problem could be recognized only with

difficulty.

That is to be hoped.

With money you can arrange anything.

4. It is also possible to use "lassen" for <u>imperatives</u> that combine the first and second person, corresponding in structure to the English "let's...." The form of "lassen" reflects whether one other person is being addressed or more than one, as well as whether or not the speaker uses the familiar or formal pronouns with the addressee(s):

Lass uns gehen. Let's go.
Lasst uns beten. Let us pray.

Lassen Sie uns morgen schwimmen gehen. Let's go swimming tomorrow.

5. Some other special uses of "lassen:"

Das lasse ich mir nicht gefallen.

I won't put up with that.

Er lässt sich alles gefallen.

He'll put up with anything.

Er lässt gerne auf sich warten.

He doesn't mind making you wait (It's typical of him to keep us waiting).

Lass dir das eine Warnung sein.

Let that be a warning to you.

Mein Vater lässt grüßen. My father sends his greetings.

Er hat sich nicht anmerken lassen, was er denkt.

He didn't let show what he thinks.

Lassen Sie uns wissen, wie es Ihnen geht. Let us know how you're doing.

Lass ihn nur kommen.

Just let him come [I'll deal with him].

Lassen Sie mal von sich hören. Get in touch sometime.

Dein Vorschlag lässt viel zu wünschen übrig. Your suggestion leaves a lot to be desired.

Wir ließen den Arzt kommen. We sent for the doctor.

Lassen Sie mal sehen.

Let's have a look.

Her answer leads me to believe that she didn't

nichts verstanden hat.

understand anything.

Der Professor lässt das Buch herumgehen.

The professor passes the book around (the table/the room).





In der Villa Rosa entspannen – lassen Sie sich fürstlich verwöhnen!

Relax in the Villa Rosa - let yourself be pampered in princely fashion!