

## The Verbs (die Verben)

We know from school days that verbs are "*action words*". That means they help you to *run, jump, throw*, and a lot of other very active-sounding things.

Eventually all the verbs in German have a common ending 'en'. That is why it becomes easier to have a rule to conjugate a verb according to its subject. The verbs in German are conjugated according to the subject of the sentence unlike English. We conjugate (change) verbs by removing their -en ending and adding a new, conjugated ending.

There are different types of German verbs: **weak**, **strong** and **mixed** verbs:

- weak; their forms follow a set pattern. These verbs may also be called regular.
- strong and irregular; their forms change according to different patterns.
- mixed; their forms follow a mixture of the patterns for weak and strong verbs.

German verb endings change, depending on who or what you are talking about: **ich** (I), **du** (you (informal)), **er/sie/es** (he/she/it), **Sie** (you (formal)) in the singular, or **wir** (we), **ihr** (you (informal)), **Sie** (you (formal)) and **sie** (they) in the plural.

Verbs conjugation: when we conjugate a verb the stem of the verb(i.e. 'en') is removed. Consider for example the verb 'kommen' so by removing the stem of the verb it becomes 'komm", so now to this stem we just have to add the endings from the table to make the verb in its conjugated form.

For eg. : **kommen (to come):**

<b>Pronouns</b>	<b>endings</b>	<b>conj. form</b>
ich	-e	komme
du	-st	kommst
er/sie/es	-t	kommt
wir	-en	kommen
ihr	-t	kommt
Sie/sie	-en	kommen

For the regular verbs the same endings are added. Let us consider another example.

machen(to do) :

<b>Pronouns</b>	<b>endings</b>	<b>conj. form</b>
ich	-e	mache
du	-st	machst
er/sie/es	-t	macht
wir	-en	machen
ihr	-t	macht
Sie/sie	-en	machen

Similarly let us conjugate following verbs:

trinken(to drink),kochen(to cook),wohnen(to live/stay),singen(to sing),spielen(to play),fragen(to ask/question),reisen(to travel).

- There are few verbs who end with **t/d** in the stem form for such verbs there is a slight change in the endings in the conjugated forms. Consider for example 'arbeiten' which ends with '**t**' and 'finden' which ends with '**d**' the stem form .

arbeiten (to work) :

<b>Pronouns</b>	<b>Endings</b>	<b>conj. form</b>
ich	-e	arbeite
du	-est	arbeitest
er/sie/es	-et	arbeitet
wir	-en	arbeiten
ihr	-et	arbeitet
Sie/sie	-en	arbeiten

As we can see there's just a slight change in the conjugation as compared to the other verbs. The tables help you remember the rules.

Let's have a few more examples:

antworten(to answer), finden(to find), bedeuten(to mean), warten(to wait), schneiden(to cut), baden(to bath), öffnen(to open).

The verb 'öffnen' is an exception. Being a regular verb it takes the 't/d' rule for the conjugation.

Conjugate the following verbs:

sagen(to say), gehen(to go), denken(to think), stehen(to stand), glauben(to believe), bringen(to bring), leben(to live), brauchen(to need), lernen(to learn), bekommen(to receive),

beginnen(to begin/to start), hören(to hear/to listen), suchen(to find/to search), studieren(to study)

Complete the following sentences by writing the correct conjugations of the verbs provided in the brackets:

1. Ihr \_\_\_\_\_ Musik und \_\_\_\_\_ einen Brief.  
(hören/schreiben)
2. Du \_\_\_\_\_ im Supermarkt und \_\_\_\_\_ das Abendessen. (kaufen/kochen)
3. Er \_\_\_\_\_ mit dem Hund und \_\_\_\_\_ danach.  
(spielen/studieren)
4. Meine Eltern \_\_\_\_\_ morgen und \_\_\_\_\_ etwas zum Essen. (kommen/bringen)
5. Ich \_\_\_\_\_ Wasser und \_\_\_\_\_ Brot mit Käse.  
(trinken/essen)
6. Die Lehrerin \_\_\_\_\_ und die Kinder \_\_\_\_\_.  
(fragen/antworten)
7. Meine Mutter \_\_\_\_\_ einkaufen und \_\_\_\_\_ für das Auto. (gehen/warten)
8. Heute \_\_\_\_\_ ich und dann \_\_\_\_\_ ich.  
(schwimmen/lernen)
9. Meine Freunde \_\_\_\_\_ im Park zum \_\_\_\_\_.  
(gehen/spielen)
10. Sie \_\_\_\_\_ ein Bier und \_\_\_\_\_ ins Restaurant.  
(trinken/kommen)