

## Section 1 / Lecture 3 – Keep the Ball Rolling

### What makes learning German easier?

Now you understand that German is not something you should be afraid of. And there are at least two reasons for that, which we discussed in the previous lecture:

**First:** English and German are close relatives. Well, maybe not twins, but they do have a lot in common: many similar words, some grammatical rules, many lexical structures.

**Second:** German spelling is regular and easy to learn. You just have to learn some rules and then you will always know how to pronounce any word you come across, even if it's a long word you have never seen before.

Remember the three rules we talked about last time?

Rule number one: **AU** is pronounced **OU**, like in **HAUS, MAUS, BAU, LAUS, LAUT**

Rule number two: **EI** is pronounced **I**, like in **EIS, NEIN, MEIN, BEIN, BEIM**

Rule number three: **W** is pronounced **V**, like in **WEST, WAS, WANN, WORT**

### Two more rules

How about a few more rules before we dive deep into details in the next section? Let's make it two more rules.

First have a look at these familiar-looking words:

#### **WIND, WILD, MILD**

They are pronounced *vint*, *vilt*, *milt* (with *i* like in *hit*) and mean *wind*, *wild* and *mild* respectively. They all include the letter **I**, which in German is always pronounced like *i* in *bit*, *sit* or *tip*.

## EXERCISE

Now, try and read the following words:

**KITT, MIT, IST**

Did you say *kit*, *mit* (like in *comm**it***) and *ist* (like in *special**ist***)? That's correct.

Now look at these:

**WEILE, MEILE, WESPE**

They are pronounced *vileh*, *mileh*, *vespeh* and mean *while*, *mile* and *wasp* respectively. So what rule does apply here? Look at the **E**'s at the end of each word. In German they're always pronounced, unlike in English. If you see an **E** at the end, just pronounce it like the weak sound in many English words (*umbrella*, *better*).

Here are some more examples:

**WEIDE, KREIDE, BITTE**

Well, this was just a warm-up. You are now able to read a lot of German words correctly. Before we proceed, let's have a look at how to get the most out of this course. There are some helpful hints in the next lecture.