

Section 1 / Lecture 1 – Introduction to Section 1

Introduction

Hi, my name is Kamil Pakula, I'm a teacher of German. Welcome to my Deutsch Intensiv – Intensive German Course For Beginners.

I'm sure you would love to speak perfect German. It's a very practical skill and well within your reach. Millions of people around the globe speak German and the language is becoming more and more popular. So, why not become part of it?

Maybe you think it's difficult, maybe you've heard the grammar is complex. Don't be afraid, you can definitely master the language and you'll will be amazed at your rapid progress. Whether you need it for your job or for private use, I will lead you from level zero to a point at which you will feel comfortable about the language and will be eager to use your skills in everyday situations. After you finish this course, you will speak correctly, using full, grammatical sentences, you will be able to communicate with other people, as well as read and write in German.

I'm not telling you this will require no effort on your side, and that you will become a fluent speaker of German overnight. I'm not capable of making this happen. But I'm definitely sure you can achieve this goal and I'm here to guide you through this process.

Who is this course for?

This is a course for beginners and false beginners. It is assumed that students have no knowledge of the language at all. But I also created it for those who already have some knowledge but don't feel comfortable about it. If you want to systematize your knowledge and build on it, that's the right place for you.

This course is best suited for students who want to learn German in a systematic way, diving into its grammar and being eager to understand how the language works, how all the inflections, articles, tenses, cases etc. should be used correctly. This is an intensive course, which means you are going to learn quite a lot and make really rapid progress. In this course we're not going to memorize hundreds of ready-made phrases without understanding the underlying principles, instead we're going to learn the principles so that you can build zillions of phrases basing on this knowledge.

This course may not be suitable for students who only want to refresh some everyday vocabulary or expressions but don't care about grammar. If you just want to learn how to order food in a restaurant, book a ticket or just learn some vocabulary that may come in handy on different occasions like that, this course is not necessarily for you.

How is the course organized?

So, how are we going to work? In the first sections you will learn the basics. In each lecture we'll make use of what we already know. Practice, practice, practice – the three crucial words. That's why I'm being repetitive throughout the course. If you learn something and then put it away on a shelf, it starts gathering dust. And this is not what we want. We want the language to live. The deeper we get into the course the more complex stuff we learn. But at that stage we'll already have a solid ground to build upon.

We'll start with spelling and pronunciation. Then we'll talk about all the important aspects of the language, from the most basic ones, to more advanced. We'll learn how to use nouns and articles correctly, how to form plurals, how to use all the cases. We'll talk about verbs, verb form, tenses. We'll learn how to make questions and orders, how to use the passive voice or conditionals. We'll explore the rich world of German pronouns. We'll dive deep into adjectives, adverbs and prepositions. We'll investigate how this all functions in sentences. We'll emphasize similarities to English and discuss all the differences. Each section can be regarded as a functional entity. The living language – that's what we're going to learn, not any theoretical stuff that can be only found in 19th-century literature or very specialized language.

Looking forward to your success

I'm absolutely sure you'll be doing great. And I'm not just guessing. I'm basing this statement on my experience. I've been teaching German since 1999. I've had great fun working with kids, elementary and high school students, university students and adults of a great variety of backgrounds. I've made several intensive courses for adults and always enjoyed watching their progress. I've also learned a lot. How to be more effective, more helpful. Every difficulty my students experienced made me look for a better way to handle it. So, I've learned how to be a better teacher.

The key for success, both yours as a student and mine as a teacher, is cooperation. Remember, I'm always here to help. So, should you have any problems, contact me right away. If you don't understand a topic, don't just bury the problem, because it may sooner or later come up again. We can solve it together.