

Lesson 1:1

Welcome and Overview of CD1: The Basics

Welcome to *German For Dummies Audio Set*. This set consists of three audio CDs to help you pick up some German while having fun. You can listen to this audio-based program while driving, walking, relaxing, or at any time that's convenient for you. On each lesson, you'll hear a word or phrase first in English and then in German; then there's a pause for you to repeat and practice the word or phrase. After the pause, you'll hear a repeat of the German version with another pause for you to practice again. Take your time to repeat words and phrases, and repeat any track until you feel comfortable with that language lesson.

On Disc One, you start off with the basics of introductions, common words and phrases, and finally words and phrases that you just can't live without. I encourage you to listen, repeat, and have fun!

Lesson 1:2

Personal Pronouns and Formalities

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Personal Pronouns

I	<i>ich</i>
you (S/Informal)	<i>du</i>
he	<i>er</i>
she	<i>sie</i>
it	<i>es</i>
we	<i>wir</i>
you (S/P/Formal)	<i>Sie</i>
you (P/Informal)	<i>ihr</i>
they	<i>sie</i>



Sie, which is formal “you,” is polite and can be used when speaking with a new acquaintance, elder, or person in a high office. With friends, family, and children, use informal *du* (you). *Ihr* is the plural of *du*.

Formalities

Mr.	<i>Herr</i>
Mrs.; Ms.; Miss	<i>Frau</i>

Lesson 1:3

Saying "Hello" and "Goodbye"

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Greetings

Hello; Hi

Guten Tag; Hallo

Hello (in Southern Germany)

Grüß Gott

Good morning

Guten Morgen

Good afternoon

Guten Tag

Good evening

Guten Abend

How's it going? (Informal)

Wie geht's?

How are you? (Formal)

Wie geht es Ihnen?

Goodbyes

Goodbye

Auf Wiedersehen

Goodbye (Informal)

Tschüs

Goodbye (on the telephone)

Auf Wiederhören

See you later

Bis später

See you soon

Bis bald

See you tomorrow

Bis morgen

See you on Friday

Bis Freitag

All the best

Alles Gute

Good luck

Viel Glück

Take care (S)

Machs gut

Lesson 1:4

Saying and Replying to "How Are You?"

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Unless otherwise indicated, the following questions directed to "you" are in the formal variation, *Sie*. This practice is considered polite, and you should use it when speaking with a new acquaintance, an elder, a person in a high office, or a superior.

How are you? (S/Informal)	<i>Wie geht es dir?</i>
I'm fine, thank you.	<i>Gut, danke.</i>
Are you well? (S)	<i>Geht es Ihnen gut?</i>
I'm very well.	<i>Es geht mir sehr gut.</i>
I'm rather well.	<i>Ziemlich gut.</i>
Not bad.	<i>Nicht schlecht.</i>
Much better.	<i>Viel besser.</i>
Not well.	<i>Nicht gut.</i>
And you? (S/Informal)	<i>Und dir?</i>
And you? (S)	<i>Und Ihnen?</i>

Lesson 1:5

Introducing Yourself and Talking about Where You're From



What's your name? (Formal)

Wie heißen Sie?

What's your name? (Informal)

Wie heißt du?

My name is Andreas.

Ich heiße Andreas.

I am Angela.

Ich bin Angela.

What's your first name?

Was ist Ihr Vorname?

My first name is Erik.

Mein Vorname ist Erik.

And your last name?

Und Ihr Nachname?

My last name is Johnson.

*Mein Nachname ist
Johnson.*

How do you spell your name?

*Wie schreibt man Ihren
Namen?*

How do you pronounce your name?

*Wie spricht man Ihren
Namen aus?*

It's nice to meet you.

Sehr angenehm.

It's a pleasure to meet you.
(S/Formal)

*Es freut mich Sie
kennen zu lernen.*

Where are you from? (S/Informal)

Woher kommst du?

10 CD1: The Basics

Where are you from? (Formal)	<i>Woher kommen Sie?</i>
What country are you from?	<i>Aus welchem Land kommen Sie?</i>
I'm from the United States.	<i>Ich komme aus den USA.</i>
Where do you live?	<i>Wo wohnst du?</i>
I live in Bremen.	<i>Ich wohne in Bremen.</i>
What city are you from?	<i>Aus welcher Stadt kommst du?</i>
I'm from Chicago, Illinois.	<i>Ich komme aus Chicago, Illinois.</i>
Where do you work?	<i>Wo arbeitest du?</i>
I work at the bank.	<i>Ich arbeite bei einer Bank.</i>
What do you do?	<i>Als was arbeitest du?</i>
I work with computers.	<i>Ich arbeite mit Computern.</i>

Lesson 1:6

Indispensable Words and Phrases

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Pleasantries

yes

ja

no

nein

please

bitte

thank you

danke

You're welcome.

Bitte schön.

No problem.

Kein problem.

of course

natürlich

correct

richtig

Excuse me. (May I have your attention?)

Entschuldigung!

Asking for help

Help!

Hilfe!

information

Auskunft

I need . . .

Ich brauche . . .

police

die Polizei

emergency

der Notfall

accident

der Unfall

doctor	<i>der Arzt</i>
pharmacy	<i>die Apotheke</i>

Methods of transport

taxi	<i>das Taxi</i>
bus	<i>der Bus</i>
car	<i>das Auto</i>
train	<i>der Zug</i>



The definite articles (the) in German are *der* for masculine singular nouns, *die* for feminine singular nouns, and *das* for neuter singular nouns; *die* is also used for all plural nouns.

Places

city	<i>die Stadt</i>
country	<i>das Land</i>
airport	<i>der Flughafen</i>
train station	<i>der Bahnhof</i>
bus stop	<i>die Bushaltestelle</i>
hospital	<i>das Krankenhaus</i>
clinic	<i>die Klinik</i>
church	<i>die Kirche</i>
restaurant	<i>das Restaurant</i>
hotel	<i>das Hotel</i>
hostel	<i>die Jugendherberge</i>
restroom	<i>die Toilette</i>

People

man; husband	<i>der Mann</i>
woman; wife	<i>die Frau</i>
boy	<i>der Junge</i>
girl	<i>das Mädchen</i>
family	<i>die Familie</i>
mother	<i>die Mutter</i>
father	<i>der Vater</i>
son	<i>der Sohn</i>
daughter	<i>die Tochter</i>
brother	<i>der Bruder</i>
sister	<i>die Schwester</i>
child	<i>das Kind</i>
cousin (M)	<i>der Vetter</i>
cousin (F)	<i>die Cousine</i>
friend (M)	<i>der Freund</i>
friend (F)	<i>die Freundin</i>



You can turn certain nouns that refer to males or occupations into nouns that refer to females or identify a female in an occupation by adding the suffix *-in* (and sometimes an umlaut). For example, *Professor* (M) becomes *Professorin* (F) and *Arzt* (M) becomes *Ärztin* (F).

Lesson 1:7

Useful Expressions and Phrases



Thank you very much.

Vielen Dank.

No, thank you.

Nein, danke.

Nothing, thanks.

Nichts, danke.

Excuse me; sorry

Entschuldigung!

I'm sorry.

Es tut mir leid.

Forgive me.

Verzeihen Sie.

Do you speak English?

Sprechen Sie Englisch?

I speak English.

Ich spreche Englisch.

I don't speak much German.

*Ich spreche nicht viel
Deutsch.*

Can you translate that for me?

Können Sie das übersetzen?

I don't understand.

Ich verstehe nicht.

Will you please repeat that?

Bitte wiederholen Sie!

Could you speak slower?

*Können Sie langsamer
sprechen?*

What do you need?

Was brauchen Sie?

I need some information.

Ich brauche Auskunft.

I need some batteries.

Ich brauche Batterien.

I'd like some coffee.

Ich möchte etwas Kaffee.

I need some help.

Ich brauche Hilfe.

I'm lost.

Ich habe mich verlaufen.

Where are you going?

Wohin gehen Sie?

I don't know.

Ich weiß nicht.

I'm going to the park.

Ich gehe zum Park.

I don't know the name of the restaurant.

Ich weiß nicht, wie das Restaurant heißt.

I'm looking for my hotel.

Ich suche das Hotel.

I'm not familiar with the area.

Ich kenne mich hier nicht aus.

May I see a map?

Darf ich mir einen Stadtplan ansehen?

Lesson 1:8

Introduction of Question Words

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Who?	<i>Wer?</i>
What?	<i>Was?</i>
Where?	<i>Wo?</i>
When?	<i>Wann?</i>
Which?	<i>Welcher?</i>
Why?	<i>Warum?</i>
How?	<i>Wie?</i>
How much?	<i>Wie viel?</i>
How many?	<i>Wie viele?</i>
Is/Are there . . . ?	<i>Gibt es . . . ?</i>



Ask *wo* to learn something's location. Ask *wohin* to learn where someone is going. For example, you say *Wo ist das Restaurant?* (Where is the restaurant?) and *Wohin geht Herr Benz?* (Where is Mr. Benz going?).

Lesson 1:9

Useful Questions and Answers

Who's that man?

Wer ist dieser Mann?

He's the manager.

Er ist der Manager.

Who are these people?

Wer sind diese Leute?

They're students.

Sie sind Studenten.

What are you doing? (Formal)

Was machen Sie?

I'm cooking.

Ich koche.

What would you like? (Formal)

Was möchten Sie?

I'd like to eat.

Ich möchte essen.

Where is the supermarket?

Wo ist der Supermarkt?

On Main Street.

In der Hauptstraße.

Where is the bus stop?

Wo ist die Bushaltestelle?

Over there.

Dort drüben.

May we please have the bill?

Zahlen bitte?

Certainly.

Selbstverständlich.

Where is an ATM?

Wo ist der Geldautomat?

On the corner.

An der Ecke.

When do we eat?

Wann essen wir?

When is the meeting?

Wann ist das Treffen?

When will you come back?

Wann kommst du zurück?

Tomorrow.

Morgen.

In three days.

In drei Tagen.

How much does this cost?

Wie viel kostet es?

It costs €30.

Es kostet dreißig Euro.

How many suitcases do
you have? (Formal)

Wie viele Koffer haben Sie?

I have two suitcases.

Ich habe zwei Koffer.

How do I get to Amsterdam?

*Wie kommt man nach
Amsterdam?*

Lesson 1:10

You Can Count on Me: An Overview of Numbers



0	<i>null</i>	11	<i>elf</i>
1	<i>eins</i>	12	<i>zwölf</i>
2	<i>zwei</i>	13	<i>dreizehn</i>
3	<i>drei</i>	14	<i>vierzehn</i>
4	<i>vier</i>	15	<i>fünfzehn</i>
5	<i>fünf</i>	16	<i>sechzehn</i>
6	<i>sechs</i>	17	<i>siebzehn</i>
7	<i>sieben</i>	18	<i>achtzehn</i>
8	<i>acht</i>	19	<i>neunzehn</i>
9	<i>neun</i>	20	<i>zwanzig</i>
10	<i>zehn</i>		



Remember the nursery rhyme line “Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie”? Saying numbers from 21 to 99 in German follows the same pattern. You place the appropriate German words for 1 through 9 and *und* (and) before the words for 20, 30, 40, and so on. Here are some examples: *vierunddreißig* (4 and 30, or 34), *sechundsiebzig* (6 and 70, or 76), and *achtundachtzig* (8 and 80, or 88).

21	<i>einundzwanzig</i>	24	<i>vierundzwanzig</i>
22	<i>zweiundzwanzig</i>	25	<i>fünfundzwanzig</i>
23	<i>dreiundzwanzig</i>	26	<i>sechszwanzig</i>

20 CD1: The Basics

27	<i>siebenundzwanzig</i>	50	<i>fünfzig</i>
28	<i>achtundzwanzig</i>	60	<i>sechzig</i>
29	<i>neunundzwanzig</i>	70	<i>siebzig</i>
30	<i>dreißig</i>	80	<i>achtzig</i>
31	<i>einunddreißig</i>	90	<i>neunzig</i>
40	<i>vierzig</i>	100	<i>hundert</i>
41	<i>einundvierzig</i>		



Like in English, you add other numbers to the “hundreds” to form larger numbers in German; for example, *hunderteins* (101), *hundertzwanzig* (120), *fünfhundertfünfunddreißig* (535), and so on.

101	<i>hunderteins</i>	200	<i>zweihundert</i>
102	<i>hundertzwei</i>	500	<i>fünfhundert</i>
150	<i>hundertfünfzig</i>	1,000	<i>tausend</i>

Lesson 1:11

What Time Is It? Finding Out How to Tell Time

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Vocabulary

time	<i>die Zeit</i>
hour(s)	<i>die Stunde(n)</i>
minute(s)	<i>die Minute(n)</i>
second(s)	<i>die Sekunde(n)</i>
day	<i>der Tag</i>
morning	<i>der Morgen</i>
noon; midday	<i>der Mittag</i>
afternoon	<i>der Nachmittag</i>
evening	<i>der Abend</i>
night	<i>die Nacht</i>
midnight	<i>die Mitternacht</i>
today	<i>heute</i>
tomorrow	<i>morgen</i>
yesterday	<i>gestern</i>

Example sentences



German doesn't use "a.m." or "p.m." in expressions of time. Instead, you have to use the military or 24-hour clock for the p.m. hours.

Do you know what time it is?	<i>Wissen Sie, wie viel Uhr es ist?</i>
What time is it?	<i>Wie viel Uhr ist es?</i>
It's 1 a.m.	<i>Es ist ein Uhr.</i>
It's 4:15 a.m.	<i>Es ist Viertel nach vier.</i>
It's 5:30 p.m.	<i>Es ist siebzehn Uhr dreißig.</i>
It's 11:45 p.m.	<i>Es ist dreiundzwanzig Uhr fünfundvierzig.</i>
Do you have a couple of minutes to spare?	<i>Haben Sie ein paar Minuten Zeit?</i>
What time do you leave?	<i>Um wie viel Uhr fahren Sie ab?</i>
In two hours.	<i>In zwei Stunden.</i>
It's early.	<i>Es ist früh.</i>
You're really late.	<i>Du kommst aber spät.</i>

Lesson 1:12

Going through the Calendar and Forming the Date

.....

Days of the week



The German calendar week begins with Monday unless otherwise stated.

Monday	<i>Montag</i>
Tuesday	<i>Dienstag</i>
Wednesday	<i>Mittwoch</i>
Thursday	<i>Donnerstag</i>
Friday	<i>Freitag</i>
Saturday	<i>Samstag</i>
Sunday	<i>Sonntag</i>

Months of the year

January	<i>Januar</i>
February	<i>Februar</i>
March	<i>März</i>
April	<i>April</i>
May	<i>Mai</i>
June	<i>Juni</i>

July	<i>Juli</i>
August	<i>August</i>
September	<i>September</i>
October	<i>Oktober</i>
November	<i>November</i>
December	<i>Dezember</i>

Days of the month

When giving a date in German, you state the number as an ordinal, just like English. The numbers to 19 end in *-te* to form the ordinal, like *zehnte* (10th). Note that there are three irregular formations: *erste* (1st), *dritte* (3rd), and *siebte* (7th). The numbers from 20 and higher end in *-ste*, like *zwanzigste* (20th).

February 2nd	<i>der zweite Februar</i>
July 23rd	<i>der dreiundzwanzigste Juli</i>
November 1st	<i>der erste November</i>

Example sentences

What day is today?	<i>Welchen Tag haben wir heute?</i>
Today is Friday.	<i>Heute ist Freitag.</i>
What's today's date?	<i>Der Wievielte ist heute?</i>
Today is the third of May.	<i>Heute ist der dritte Mai.</i>

Lesson 1:13

Directions



Vocabulary

east

der Osten

west

der Westen

north

der Norden

south

der Süden

to the right

nach rechts

to the left

nach links

straight ahead

geradeaus

next to

neben

between

zwischen

close to

nahe an

far (from)

weit (von)

the next corner

die nächste Ecke

on the corner

an der Ecke

street

die Straße

on Schiller Street

in der Schillerstraße

downtown

im Stadtzentrum

Example sentences

Are we close to the mall?

Sind wir in der Nähe des Einkaufszentrums?

How far are we from the art museum?

Wie weit sind wir von der Kunsthalle?

How do I get to the train station?

Wie kommt man zum Bahnhof?

Turn right at the second stop light.

*An der zweiten Verkehrs-
ampel biegen Sie rechts ab!*

It's at the corner.

Es ist an der Ecke.

There it is.

Es ist dort.; Es ist da.

Here it is.

Es ist hier.

Where is a bathroom?

Wo ist die Toilette?

Next to the kitchen.

Neben der Küche.