

Deutsch für Alle

A visual journey into
the German language



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Willkommen! (Welcome!)

Welcome to **Deutsch für Alle**! This book is designed to help you learn German in a fun, engaging, and visual way. Instead of overwhelming you with dense grammar rules from the start, we mix clear explanations, friendly illustrations, and short bilingual stories to build your intuition naturally.

How to use this book:

- Take your time exploring the vocabulary and grammar tables.
- Study the illustrations to feel the culture and the context.
- Read the short stories out loud to practice your pronunciation.

Colour Coding: Throughout this book, we use a subtle colour-coding system to help you quickly distinguish between languages without needing constant labels.

This soft blush box will always contain the **German** text. Your goal is to focus here first!

This light grey box will always contain the **English** translation to guide you when you get stuck.

Practise online — for free: This book has a companion website. At the end of every chapter you will find a **QR code** and a short **reference code** (like *ED10*). Scan the code with your phone — or type the address printed beside it — and you will land on a set of free, interactive exercises that drill exactly what that chapter taught: dialogues, fill-in-the-blanks, verb practice, and more. No account is needed to start. It is the perfect way to turn what you have read into something you can actually **say**.

Kapitel 1: Erste Schritte (First Steps)

◆ **After this chapter you will be able to:**

- Recognise German personal pronouns
- Conjugate *sein* (to be) and *haben* (to have) in the present tense
- Understand the two German words for “you”: *du* and *Sie*

Lektion 1: Die Grundlagen (The Basics)

Welcome to your German journey! Let’s start with the most important building block: personal pronouns. German has **two** words for “you” — one informal and one formal — and it matters which one you use.



German	English	Notes
ich	I	Always lowercase, except at the start of a sentence.
du	you (singular, informal)	Use with friends, family, kids, and pets.
Sie	you (formal)	Always capitalized. Use with strangers, in shops, at work.
er / sie / es	he / she / it	Every noun is one of these three — see Chapter 2.

wir	we	
ihr	you (plural, informal)	Talking to a group of friends or kids.
sie / Sie	they / you (formal pl.)	Same form; capitalization tells them apart in writing.

Geschichte 1: Die Begegnung (The Meeting)

Let's see these pronouns in action. Read the story side-by-side in German and English.



Deutsch

Ich bin im Café. Das Café ist in Berlin.

Du bist auch hier.

Sie ist Luana. Sie ist meine Freundin.



English

I am at the café. The café is in Berlin.

You are here too.

She is Luana. She is my friend.

Wir sind glücklich.

Sie trinken Kaffee.

We are happy.

They are drinking coffee.

Lektion 2: Die wichtigsten Verben (The Most Important Verbs)

The two most essential verbs in German are **sein** (to be) and **haben** (to have). They are irregular, so you simply need to memorise them — but you will use them every single day.

Pronoun	sein (to be)	haben (to have)
ich	bin	habe
du	bist	hast
er / sie / es	ist	hat
wir	sind	haben
ihr	seid	habt
sie / Sie	sind	haben

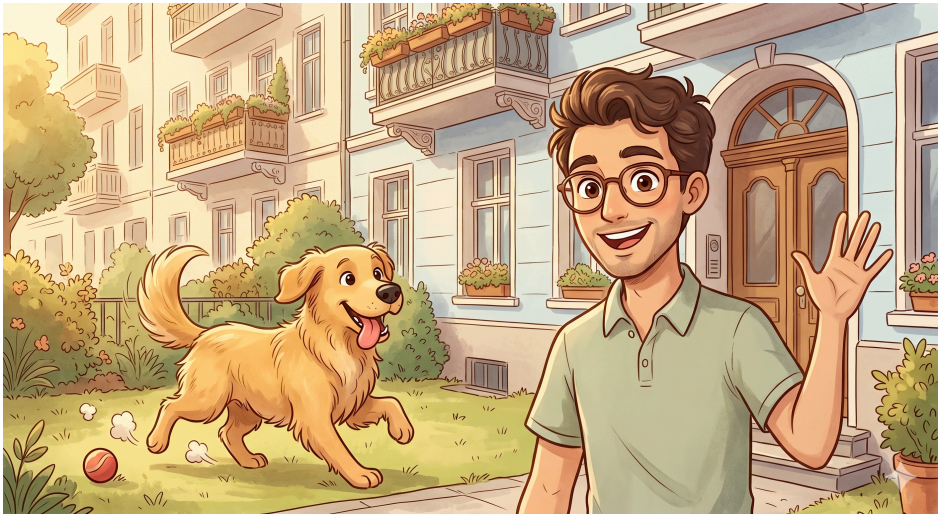
Examples:

- Ich **bin** aus Deutschland. (I am from Germany.)
- Du **bist** sehr nett. (You are very nice.)
- Wir **haben** einen Hund. (We have a dog.)
- Sie **hat** ein neues Auto. (She has a new car.)

◆ **Pronunciation Tip:** The German **ei** always sounds like the English word “eye” — so *sein* is pronounced “zine” and *mein* rhymes with “shine”. Do not confuse it with **ie**, which sounds like “ee” — so *sie* sounds like “zee”.

Geschichte 2: Das Haus (The House)

Let's combine our new verbs (**sein**, **haben**) with the pronouns.



Deutsch

Hallo! Ich bin Marcos. Ich habe ein blaues Haus.

Das Haus ist sehr schön. Es hat einen Garten.

Du bist jetzt bei mir zu Hause.

Wir sind Freunde. Wir haben Zeit zu reden.

Sie sind im Garten mit dem Hund.
Der Hund ist sehr glücklich.



English

Hello! I am Marcos. I have a blue house.

The house is very beautiful. It has a garden.

You are at my house now.

We are friends. We have time to talk.

They are in the garden with the dog. The dog is very happy.



Keep going — practise this chapter online

Scan the code, or visit <https://linguine.cloud/e/ED1>, for free interactive exercises. Reference code: **ED1**

Kapitel 2: Erste Wörter (First Words)

◆ After this chapter you will be able to:

- Understand German articles and the **three** noun genders (*der / die / das*)
- Use common greetings and polite phrases
- Count from 1 to 20 and describe things with basic adjectives

Die Artikel (Articles and Gender)

In German, every noun has a **gender** — masculine, feminine, or neuter. This changes the word for “the” and “a/an”. Unlike English (which has only “the”), German has **three** definite articles and you must learn the gender along with each new word.

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Definite (“the”)	der (der Mann)	die (die Frau)	das (das Kind)
Indefinite (“a/ an”)	ein (ein Mann)	eine (eine Frau)	ein (ein Kind)
Plural (“the”)	die (die Männer)	die (die Frauen)	die (die Kinder)

Helpful patterns:

- Nouns ending in **-ung**, **-heit**, **-keit**, **-schaft** are almost always **feminine**: *die Zeitung* (newspaper), *die Freiheit* (freedom).
- Nouns ending in **-chen** and **-lein** are always **neuter** (and refer to small things): *das Mädchen* (girl), *das Brötchen* (bread roll).
- All nouns are **capitalized** in German — even common ones: *der Tisch* (the table), *das Buch* (the book).

Begrüßungen und Höflichkeit (Greetings and Courtesy)

These are the phrases you will use every single day. Germans appreciate politeness — a small *Bitte* or *Danke* goes a long way!

Deutsch	English	When to use
Hallo	Hello	General, any time of day
Guten Morgen	Good morning	Until around 10 or 11 AM
Guten Tag	Good day / hello	Standard daytime greeting, very common
Guten Abend	Good evening	From around 6 PM
Gute Nacht	Good night	Only when going to bed
Wie geht es Ihnen? / Wie geht's?	How are you? (formal / informal)	
Mir geht es gut, danke.	I am fine, thanks.	Standard reply
Danke / Danke schön / Vielen Dank	Thank you / Thanks a lot	
Bitte	Please / You're welcome	Same word does both jobs!
Entschuldigung	Excuse me / Sorry	To get attention or apologise
Auf Wiedersehen	Goodbye	Formal
Tschüss	Bye	Informal, very common

◆ **Cultural Note:** In Germany, the formal *Sie* is the default with anyone you do not know — even people your own age. Switching to the informal *du* usually requires an explicit invitation: “*Wir können uns duzen*” (“We can use *du* with each other”). In Berlin and among younger people, *du* is more common from the start — but in shops, offices, and with older people, always begin with *Sie*.

Zahlen von 1 bis 20 (Numbers 1 to 20)

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

Einfache Adjektive (Basic Adjectives)

When used **after** a noun (e.g., “the house is big”), German adjectives do not change. They only get endings when they sit **before** the noun – but we’ll worry about that later. For now, learn the base form.

Deutsch	English
schön	beautiful
groß	big
klein	small
neu	new
alt	old
gut	good
schlecht	bad
glücklich	happy
lecker	delicious
müde	tired

Examples:

- Das Haus ist **groß**. (The house is big.)
- Der Kaffee ist **lecker**. (The coffee is delicious.)
- Ich bin **müde**. (I am tired.)

◆ **Pronunciation Tip:** The German letter **ß** (called *Eszett* or *scharfes S*) sounds exactly like a sharp “ss”. So *groß* is pronounced “grohss”, and *Straße* (street) is “SHTRAH-suh”. You never see **ß** at the start of a word, and Switzerland writes it as “ss” instead.

Geschichte: Das Willkommensessen (The Welcome Dinner)

Marina has just arrived in Berlin. Marcos invited her and Luana over for a welcome dinner. Let's see how they greet each other and describe the evening.



Deutsch



English

Guten Abend! Ich bin Marina. Wie geht es Ihnen?

Mir geht es gut, danke! Ich bin Marcos. Herzlich willkommen!

Das Haus ist sehr schön! Es ist groß.

Danke, Marina! Das ist Bidu. Er ist ein sehr glücklicher Hund.

Hallo! Ich bin Luana. Guten Abend! Das Essen ist lecker. Marcos ist ein guter Koch.

Danke! Wir haben Brot, Käse und einen neuen Kuchen. Möchtet ihr Saft?

Ja, bitte! Haben Sie Apfelsaft? Das ist mein Lieblingssaft.

Tschüss, alle! Gute Nacht! Es war ein sehr schöner Abend.

Good evening! I am Marina. How are you?

I'm fine, thank you! I am Marcos. A warm welcome!

The house is very beautiful! It is big.

Thank you, Marina! This is Bidu. He is a very happy dog.

Hello! I am Luana. Good evening! The food is delicious. Marcos is a good cook.

Thanks! We have bread, cheese, and a new cake. Would you like juice?

Yes, please! Do you have apple juice? It's my favorite.

Bye, everyone! Good night! It was a very nice evening.



Keep going — practise this chapter online

Scan the code, or visit <https://linguine.cloud/e/ED2>, for free interactive exercises. Reference code: **ED2**

Kapitel 3: In der Stadt (In the City)

◆ After this chapter you will be able to:

- Conjugate regular verbs in the present tense
- Name common places in a city and give basic directions
- Understand German word order: the verb is the **second element**

Regelmäßige Verben (Regular Verbs)

Most German verbs in the present tense follow a regular pattern. Take the **stem** (the infinitive minus **-en**) and add a personal ending. Let's look at **sprechen** (to speak), **gehen** (to walk/go), and **kaufen** (to buy).

Pronoun	sprechen (to speak)	gehen (to walk)	kaufen (to buy)
ich	spreche	gehe	kaufe
du	sprichst	gehst	kaufst
er / sie / es	spricht	geht	kauft
wir	sprechen	gehen	kaufen
ihr	sprecht	geht	kauft
sie / Sie	sprechen	gehen	kaufen

Note: *sprechen* is a **stem-changing verb** — the *e* becomes *i* in the *du* and *er/sie/es* forms. This is a common pattern (also *essen*, *geben*, *sehen*). The endings themselves are still regular!

Orte und Wegbeschreibungen (Places and Directions)

- **die Straße** — *the street*

- **die Buchhandlung** — *the bookstore*
- **die Bäckerei** — *the bakery*
- **die Apotheke** — *the pharmacy*
- **der Park** — *the park*
- **der Bahnhof** — *the train station*
- **rechts** — *to the right*
- **links** — *to the left*
- **geradeaus** — *straight ahead*

◆ **Pronunciation Tip:** The German **ch** has two sounds. After *a, o, u*, it is a harsh sound from the back of the throat: *Bach, Buch*. After *e, i*, or a consonant, it is a soft hissing sound: *ich, Bücher, Mädchen*. English speakers often try to say “k” — but resist! Listen to a native speaker and imitate.

◆ **Cultural Note:** Germans love precision in directions. Instead of “go that way for a while”, a German might say “*gehen Sie 200 Meter geradeaus, dann links an der zweiten Ampel*”— “go 200 meters straight, then left at the second traffic light”. Cardinal directions (north, south, east, west) are also common, especially in larger cities like Berlin or Hamburg.