

Lesson 1.02 • Freizeit Freetime

Dialogue

German Dialogue • Freizeit Sports and time • Sport und Zeit

Franz	Hallo, Greta! Wie spät ist es?	Hello, Greta! How late is it?
Greta	Es ist viertel vor drei.	It is quarter to 3 o'clock.
Franz	Wirklich? Ich spiele Fußball um drei. Machst du Sport, Greta?	Really? I play soccer at 3. Do you do Sports, Greta?
Greta	Nein, ich bin faul. Ich gehe jetzt nach Hause.	No, I'm to lazy. I'm going home now.
Franz	Fußball macht aber Spaß!	But soccer is fun!
Greta	Bis dann. Later.	
Franz	Wiedersehen! See you again!	

Sports and Activities

German Vocabulary • Freizeit Sports and activities • Sport und Aktivitäten

English	German
sport(s)	Sport
interests	Hobbys
soccer	Fußball
American football	Football
volleyball	Volleyball
basketball	Basketball
tennis	Tennis
baseball	Baseball
9-pin bowling	Kegeln
chess	Schach
board game	das Brettspiel
game	das Spiel
homework	Hausaufgaben
television	Fernsehen
movie	der Film

Spielen, Machen and Other Verbs

All three verbs that you were introduced to in Lesson 1 are irregular in some way, however most verbs are regular verbs and this is conjugation of them,

German Verb • Freizeit Conjugation • Konjugation				
	Singular		Plural	
first person	ich	-e	wir	-en
second person	du	-st	ihr	-t
	er	-t		
third person	sie	-t	sie	-en
	es	-t		

For example, the verbs *spielen* and *machen*,

German Verb • Freizeit to play • spielen				
	Singular		Plural	
first person	ich	spiele	wir	spielen
second person	du	spielst	ihr	spielt
	er	spielt		
third person	sie	spielt	sie	spielen
	es	spielt		

German Verb • Freizeit to do/make • machen				
	Singular		Plural	
first person	ich	mache	wir	machen
second person	du	machst	ihr	macht
	er	macht		
third person	sie	macht	sie	machen
	es	macht		

Applications

- *Was machst du?*

What are you doing?

- *Ich spiele Basketball.*

I play basketball.

- *Spielst du Fußball?*

Do you play soccer?

- *Ich mache Hausaufgaben.*

I do homework.

- *Er macht Hausaufgaben.*

He does homework.

- *Machst du Sport?*

Do you play sports?

Note the last sentence. In English one *plays* a sport, while in German one *does* a sport. You can also use the w-words from [Lesson 1](#) to make some more combinations.

- *Warum spielst du Baseball?*

Why do you play baseball?

- *Wer hat Hausaufgaben?*

Who has homework?

To say "not", use "nicht". "Nicht" goes after the verb but before the sport.

- *Wer spielt nicht Fußball?*

Who doesn't play soccer?

- *Wir spielen nicht Tennis.*

We don't play tennis.

Compound Sentences

German Vocabulary • Freizeit Conjunctions • Verbindungen	
English	German
and	und
but	aber
or	oder

Both German and English have compound sentences, the applications of these are enormous. They can be used in lists, but also in compound sentences. For example,

- *Ich spiele Basketball, und er spielt auch Basketball.*

I play basketball, and he also plays basketball.

The new word, "**auch**", is very important and it means "also". The one grammar rule about "auch" is that it always comes after the verb.

Other Verbs and Their Conjugations

German Grammar • Freizeit Verbs • Verben	
German	English
lesen	to read
schauen	to watch
sehen	to see
arbeiten	to work
schreiben	to write
schwimmen	to swim

Schauen, schreiben and schwimmen are all regular verbs, they follow normal conjugations. To conjugate, you first remove the 'en', then add the correct ending, here is an example,

Verb First Step Finished

schauen *schau* *ich schaue*

- Arbeiten is an irregular verb, however it has a simple change. Whenever the ending starts with a consonant, an 'e' is added before it. So it would be **du arbeitest**, not *du arbeitst*. As well as **er, sie, es, and ihr arbeitet**, not *er, sie, es, and ihr arbeit*.
- Lesen is also an irregular verb. First, when forming with "du, er, sie, and es", it is **du liest**, not *du liestst* **or** *du lesst*.
- Sehen is the last irregular verb. When forming "**du**" it is *siehst* and with "**er, sie, and es**" it is *sieht*.

Two More Verb Forms

There are two more verb forms in English that you will learn this lesson: the present progressive ("I am playing, he is making"), and the affirmative "I do play, he does not play", which includes a form of 'to do'.

It might be tempting to make the present progressive sentence, "I am playing." into "Ich bin spielen.". After all, 'spielen' sounds a lot like 'play-ing', but that is not the definition. 'Spielen' means 'to play', which makes "Ich bin spielen." into "I am to play.", not at all what you are trying to say. So it is not "Ich bin spielen."

The second phrase, "I do play", is another tricky one. This one may seem like, "Ich mache spielen." But don't forget, there are no helping verbs in German. "Ich mache spielen." just doesn't work.

Both of the phrases above are simplified in German. Instead of "I am playing." and "I do play.", German makes them both simply "I play." When using 'not', instead of "does not play", you get "plays not". This may sound like old English, and there you see where English came from, and why it is called a "Germanic" language.

Expressing likes and dislikes

German Vocabulary • Freizeit Conjunctions • Verbindungen	
English	German
I like...	Ich habe ... gern.
Was hast du gern?	What do you like?

In German, there are several ways to express likes and dislikes. The way is a causal way. You can also add other verbs, for other things, like asking or saying if they like to play, or make things.

- To express preference, use **lieber** instead of *gern*. For example, "*Wir spielen lieber Fußball.*"
- To express favorites, you use **am liebsten**, meaning "most of all", in the same context as *lieber*. For example, "*Ich spiele am liebsten Schach.*".
- To express dislikes, use *nicht gern* instead of *gern*.

Numbers

The first big unit in this Level 1 is time. German time is very much like English time. However, we must begin with German numbers.

<u>Deutsch</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Deutsch</u>	<u>English</u>
<i>eins</i>	one	<i>dreizehn</i>	thirteen
<i>zwei</i>	two	<i>vierzehn</i>	fourteen
<i>drei</i>	three	<i>fünfzehn</i>	fifteen
<i>vier</i>	four	<i>-zehn</i>	<i>-teen</i>
<i>fünf</i>	five		
<i>sechs</i>	six	<i>zwanzig</i>	twenty
<i>sieben</i>	seven	<i>dreißig</i>	thirty
<i>acht</i>	eight	<i>vierzig</i>	forty
<i>neun</i>	nine	<i>-zig</i>	<i>-ty</i>
<i>zehn</i>	ten		
<i>elf</i>	eleven	<i>siebzehn</i>	seventeen
<i>zwölf</i>	twelve	<i>siebzig</i>	seventy

This table shows the basic numbers in German. To say, twenty-one, say "Einundzwanzig" - all one word. 'Eins' drops its 's' whenever it is in that position. Therefore, that means "One and twenty", in German.

One more change happens at 16 and 60: Instead of creating a word with 'sz' (sechszig, sechszehn), the 's' is dropped, creating *sechzig* (60) and *sechzehn* (16), pronounced as in "ich".

Watch out for 'Dreißig'. It is not formed with -zig at the end like all other decades ("zwanzig, vierzig, fünfzig, ...")!

To say numbers higher than 99:
hundred - *Hundert*
thousand - *Tausend*

For example, 2984 is said, "Zweitausendneunhundertvierundachtzig." (Zwei tausend neun hundert vier und achtzig) (2×1000) + (9×100) + 4 & 80

Time

Asking the Time

In German, there are two common ways to ask the time. You can say, "Wie viel Uhr ist es?", which means literally, "What time is it?". However, it is seldom used anymore. The more common way is to say, "Wie spät ist es?", even though this only means, "How late is it?".

Specific times can be expressed in two ways: exact form ("Four thirty-seven"), or before/after form ("Twenty-three to five").

Exact form

This form is the same as English. To say, "It is 10:15 a.m.", say "Es ist Zehn Uhr Fünfzehn." Notice the *Uhr*. This means "o'clock", but is used in all exact times.

Germans use a 24-hour clock, like other countries in Europe and American military time. To convert to American time, if it is above 12, subtract 12. So Achtzehn Uhr is the equivalent of (18 - 12 =) 6 p.m. in American time. To convert to German time, add 12 if it is p.m. (Except for 12 p.m., see below.) 4 p.m. is therefore **Sechzehn Uhr**.

If given an hour below 12, it is a.m.

The counting of hours starts from zero. So, in German, the time between midnight and 1 a.m. is 0:__. 11 p.m. would be 23:00. Note that noon (12 p.m.) is **Zwölf Uhr** and midnight (12 a.m.) is **Null Uhr**. In rare occasions, 24:00 might be used, which implies that you mean 'that particular' day (ignoring that in fact a new weekday has started at midnight) So, if someone says "Montag, 24:00", assume its at the end of the day of monday (Tuesday 12 a.m. midnight). "Montag, 0:00" would be Monday 12 a.m. midnight. Hours greater than 24 are never used.

"Noon" is said as "*Mittag*", and "Midnight" is "*Mitternacht*"

In Germany, it is also not uncommon in everyday contexts to use the 12-hour clock. In that case, "vormittags" (literally 'before noon') corresponds to a.m., while "nachmittags" (after noon) means p.m. "Abends" (in the evening) is commonly used in place of "nachmittags" for times later than 5 p.m. (6 Uhr abends = 6 p.m.) Also, as in English, you can omit "vormittags" and "nachmittags" if it's obvious from the context. However, since this is nothing new (in comparison to English), you will not be tested on it.

Before/After the Hour

After - *nach*

Till - *vor*

Use the same form as in English. For example, 10:57 can be said as, "drei vor Elf." Likewise, 4:10 would be "zehn nach Vier." Typically, use the smaller number with 'nach' or 'vor'. Don't say, "siebenundfünfzig nach Zehn."

Note: This is only used with informal time telling. You don't use 'Uhr', and you forget all about the 24 hour clock. See above for more information.

There are also a couple more words for :15, :45, and :30...

quarter - *Viertel*

half **before** - *Halb*

quarter **before** - *Dreiviertel* (used mostly in [eastern Germany](#), in most other regions you won't be understood)

Use these words just as you use others, except that you don't need a *vor* when using *halb*. For example, 11:30 can be said as, "Halb zwölf" and 5:15 can be said as "Viertel nach Fünf", 5:45 would be "Viertel vor Sechs" or "Dreiviertel Sechs".

Saying When You Do Something

Wann spielst du Football? (Football means American Football. The much more popular soccer would be "Fußball", which lit. means Football)

To say you play a sport at a certain time in English, you would answer, "I play football *at* 3:30." This is all the same in German, with the translation of 'at' being *um*. That makes the above response "Ich spiele Football um halb Vier." or "Ich spiele Football um fünfzehn Uhr dreißig."

Other Time

Times of Day

In German and English, many times one would want to approximate, such as "tomorrow afternoon". Here are the German translations:

<u>English</u>	<u>Deutsch</u>
the day	<i>der Tag</i>
today	<i>heute</i>
tomorrow	<i>morgen</i>
the day after tomorrow	<i>übermorgen</i>
yesterday	<i>gestern</i>
the day before yesterday	<i>vorgestern</i>
(early) morning	<i>Morgen*</i>
morning	<i>Vormittag</i>
afternoon	<i>Nachmittag</i>
evening	<i>Abend</i>
night	<i>Nacht</i>

*In German, except the capitalization, the words for "morning" and "tomorrow" are the same: *morgen*. If you want to say *tomorrow morning* use *morgen früh* (meaning: *early on the next day*) instead of *Morgen morgen*.

The words above can be combined into phrases like "heute Nachmittag" or "gestern Abend". Note that the time of day stays capitalized (it is a noun) and the day stays lowercase (it is an adverb).

Days and Months

German days and months are very similar to English months:

<u>English</u>	<u>Deutsch</u>
Monday	<i>Montag</i>
Tuesday	<i>Dienstag</i>
Wednesday	<i>Mittwoch</i>
Thursday	<i>Donnerstag</i>
Friday	<i>Freitag</i>
Saturday	<i>Samstag (or Sonnabend)</i>
Sunday	<i>Sonntag</i>
January	<i>Januar (or Jänner in Austria)</i>
February	<i>Februar (or very rarely Feber)</i>
March	<i>März</i>
April	<i>April</i>
May	<i>Mai</i>
June	<i>Juni (or rarely Juno*)</i>
July	<i>Juli (or rarely Julei*)</i>
August	<i>August</i>
September	<i>September</i>
October	<i>Oktober</i>
November	<i>November</i>
December	<i>Dezember</i>

* *Juni* and *Juli* sounds very similar. Sometimes *Juno* and *Julei* are used to separate the months, but only in spoken words.

Note the order of the days of the week. The German week begins on Monday.

To say "on Monday", say "*am Montag*" or whatever applies. To say "in January", say "*im Januar*" or whatever applies. This is the same for all of the days and months.

You can also combine the times of day from earlier with the days of the week. But they're both nouns. To do this, therefore, we must combine the two words into one, as in "*Dienstag*nacht" (Tuesday night).

Dates

<u>English</u>	<u>Deutsch</u>
first of (month)	<i>erster</i>
second of (month)	<i>zweiter</i>
third of (month)	<i>dritter</i>
fourth of (month)	<i>vierter</i>
seventh of (month)	<i>siebter</i>
eighth of (month)	<i>achter</i>
-th of (below 20)	<i>-ter</i>
tenth of	<i>zehnter</i>
twentieth of	<i>zwanzigster</i>
thirty-first of	<i>einunddreißigster</i>
-th of (20 to 31)	<i>-ster</i>
on (the)	<i>am (see below!)</i>

If you want to say, for example "on the 25th of December", simply say "am fünfundzwanzigsten Dezember.", in other cases you say "fünfundzwanzigster Dezember" or "der fünfundzwanzigste Dezember".

In Germany, dates are written out in the logical order *Day . Month . Year*, instead of the American *Month / Day / Year*. For example, vierzehnter August is written as 14.8. Please note that German uses a dot instead of a slash. Do not use the slash in dates, as it is unusual and confusing because you cannot tell if "4/6" means 4th of June (4.6.) or 6th of April (6.4.)

Birthdays

Birthday - *Geburtstag*

To say, "My birthday is on July 20th", say, "Ich habe am zwanzigsten Juli Geburtstag." Note the order; it translates back literally as "I have on the 20th of July birthday." This kind of thing is common in German.

To celebrate someone's birthday in German, there are two common phrases. Simply "Happy Birthday" is "Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!" (lit. *Everything good to the birthday*) and "Best wishes on your birthday!" is "Herzlichen Glückwunsch zum Geburtstag!" (*hearty congratulation to the birthday*.) If you were sending a card, you would most likely use the second one.

Seasons

Spring - *Frühling*

Summer - *Sommer*

Autumn/Fall - *Herbst*

Winter - *Winter*

in (the) - *im*

For example, to say "in Summer", say "im Sommer". To say "I play baseball in summer.", say "Ich spiele Baseball im Sommer."

Periods of Time

If you want to express a certain period of time, but it doesn't have a specific name, like *Nachmittag*, you can do it like this:

von (starting time) **bis** (ending time).

This is the same as from ... till ... in English.

This can also apply with dates. For example, "Wir haben Schule (school) von Montag bis Freitag".

Exceptions: "Wir haben frei vom fünfundzwanzigsten Dezember bis *zum* zweiten Januar".

How often?

Wie oft?

There are many ways to answer this question. Two are "once/twice/three times in a ...", or "always/often/never."

A Number or Times

To say, "once a month", or "four times a week", add "*mal*" to the end of the number and say "in the ...". Here are the translations for "in the ...":

Day - *am* Tag

Week - *in der* Woche **or** *die* Woche

Month - *im* Monat

Year - *im* Jahr

Weekend - *am* Wochenende

Morning - *am* Morgen **or** *morgens*

Evening - *am* Abend **or** *abends*

Afternoon - *am* Nachmittag **or** *nachmittags*

Night - *in der* Nacht **or** *nachts*

For example, "We bowl twice a week." is "Wir kegeln zweimal in der Woche."

Oftentimes Adverbs

always - *immer*

most of the time - *meistens*

often - *oft*

sometimes - *manchmal*

seldom - *selten*

never - *nie*

only - *nur*

To apply these words, put them in the sentence, **after the verb and subject, but before the sport/activity**. You can also use 'nur' to say things like, "Sie spielt nur manchmal Tennis." Note that if this is translated word-for-word, it becomes, "She plays only sometimes tennis.", not "She only sometimes plays tennis." or "She only plays tennis sometimes." That's just the way German is.

Time-Related Words

Time - *die Zeit*

Free time - *die Freizeit*

To say you have time, ignore the 'die'. To say when, insert other phrases you have learned this lesson. For example, "Ich habe am Samstagabend Zeit." Note that the word order is the same as that of birthdays. You can use Freizeit in the same way.

*Note that while "die Zeit" means "the time", the phrase "Hast du die Zeit?" ("Do you have the time?") is not used to inquire about what time it is. You can, however, use the phrase to inquire as to whether or not someone has time to do something.