

# GERMAN LANGUAGE

## *Start Deutsch – A1*

Some notable facts about German, a learner should know...

- nearly 130 million people in the world speak German, including native and foreign speakers both
- almost 40-50% vocabulary of English language is being used in German
- German is the most spoken native language in EU, native language for Germany, Austria and Liechtenstein and one of the native in Switzerland and Luxembourg
- unlike most of the other languages, in German all the nouns are divided in different genders and they are always capitalised

Okay, now let's start!

- We will be starting from Alphabets, basic rules for pronunciation and then will move forward to numbers.
- Then we will be learning core concepts like basic tenses, subjects, verbs and its types, conjugation of a verb with respect to a subject, different cases of subject and their pronouns and modal verbs.
- And then some important topics like prepositions, time phrases, connectors, Wh-questions and rules for adjectives.
- Your course will last for around one and a half month and after discussing some important grammar topics we will be learning different modules like READING, LISTENING, WRITING & SPEAKING, the practice will be exam oriented.

## ALPHABETS (ALPHABETE)

- along with the normal 26 alphabets of English language there are four more in German, which makes a total of 30 alphabets.
- some them can be weird while writing but with time we'll get used to it.

A – aah – *Apfel* (apple)

B – beh – *Bus* (bus)

C – tseh – *Celcius* (Celcius)

D – deh – *Droh* (pressure)

E – eh – *Ecke* (corner)

F – eff – *Frau* (Woman)

G – geh – *Gabe* (talent)

H – hah – *Haus* (house)

I – ih – *Idee* (idea)

J – yott – *Januar* (January)

K – kah – *Kaffee* (coffee)

L – ell – *Lampe* (Lamp)

M – emm – *Mutter* (Mother)

N – enn – *Nase* (Nose)

O – ohh – *Orange* (orange)

P – peh – *Paket* (bundle)

Q – kuh – *Quader* (cuboid)

R – err – *Rasse* (breed)

S – ess – *Spiel* (game)

T – teh – *Tee* (tea)

U – uhh – *Uhr* (watch)

V – fau – *Vater* (father)

W – weh – *Willkommen* (welcome)

X – iks – *X-beine* (knock knees)

Y – ipsilon – *Yeti* (yeti)

Z – tsett – *Zahler* (payer)

Ohh wait, there are four more! Those are called Umlauts.

- Umlauts are basically an alphabet with two dots over it and those two dots are called umlaut.
- In German we have 3 umlauts and one more alphabet. As following...

- i. **ä** – a mit umlaut – eeh – *äpfel* (apples)
- ii. **ö** – o mit umlaut – eyo – *schön* (beautiful)
- iii. **ü** – u mit umlaut – eyu – *bücher* (books)
- iv. **ß** – ezett – ssss... – *spaß* (fun)

*mit* – with

*a mit umlaut* – a with umlaut

- we will be seeing more examples of umlauts ahead, to have a good grip on it!
- Now as we have learned alphabets, we will be learning some basic rules for pronunciations.
- These rules include, how it will be pronounced, when more than two vowels come together or when a consonant is followed by a vowel or when a particular suffix comes in a word!

## REGELN FÜR DIE AUSSPRACHE (Rules for pronunciation):

- When following vowels come together, the pronunciation will get changed like,

*ei* – aai (Or say English 'I') – *klein* (small)

*ie* – ee ( or say English 'E') – *linie* (line)

*ee* – ae (or say English 'A') – *meer* (sea)

*au* – aau – *haus* (house)

*eu* – oye – *neu* – (new)

*äu* – oye – *häuser* – (houses)

- REGELN FÜR „ch“:**

- When the letter-group „ch” is followed by letters below, then the sound will be – **sh** (the sound when you say 'cash')
  - eu* – *euch* (you, personal pronoun)
  - i* – *ich* (I)
  - e* – *echt* (really)
  - s* – *schön* (beautiful) , *schon* (already)
  - ä, ö, ü* – *Bücher* (books)
- for the remaining except above in the list, the sound of “ch” will be – **kh** (just as you say in 'khakhi')

e.g. buch – book,

hoch - high

- REGELN FÜR „S“:**

- If the letter „s” is followed by a vowel (a,e,i,o,u,ä,ö,ü), The pronunciation will be – “z” but not “s”

e.g. *sagen* (zagen) – to say

*sehen* (zehen) – to see

*sieben* (zeeban) – 7

- And if „s“ is followed by any consonent then it will sound pure – S

e.g. spielen – to play  
schlagen – to beat

▪ REGELN FÜR „e“ & „en“:

- if the word is having “e” at the end or say as a suffix, then the pronunciation will be – a long “a...”

e.g. Lage – situation  
Preise – prices

- and if there is „en” at the end, it will sound like – “an” (same as in eivan)

e.g. machen – to do  
gehen – to go  
leben – to live

Note: almost all the verbs in entire German Language end with “en” at the end, so that way it’s easy for one to recognise a verb!

▪ REGELN FÜR „g“ & „ig“:

- If the word is having “g” at the end, the pronunciation would be – g (but the sound of g will be the one when we speak “Gas” or “Garage” but not as in “Georgia”)

e.g. Lage – situation  
groß – great, big

- but if there is „ig” at the end it will be pronounced – ish (the same sound when you say – dish)

e.g. zwanzig – 20  
langweilig – boring

So, that was all with the rules, the better practice will be done as we move ahead with more lectures.