Introduction

Welcome to your German course!

This course is designed to motivate you to learn German not only fast, but also in an entertaining way – in particular in the areas of everyday German and language which you may need on vacation. During the course you will learn how to communicate confidently in these situations. Using modern, communicative methods which provide practice in authentic contexts, the emphasis is on understanding and speaking. To make this easier, we have included an interesting and motivating running story into the course. At the same time, working through the many varied tasks and exercises, you will acquire a solid foundation in grammar, vocabulary and cultural knowledge. The flexibility of the course means that it is suitable for both learners of German at a beginner's level and those with some previous knowledge of the language. Comprehensive feedback and tips on how to learn more effectively will help you to make really fast progress.

How is the course structured?

- **Getting started:** This part 'warms you up' prior to the dialogue and main contents of the unit.
- **Listen in:** Each unit is based firmly on the dialogue and running story. Listening and pronunciation skills are practised thoroughly in this section.
- **Practice makes perfect:** This is where you learn grammar, communication and vocabulary-based material in a systematic way. Following that there is motivating practice material using a rich variety of exercises.
- **Finishing up:** Intercultural information, games or further exercises round off the unit enjoyably and effectively.

Track number you should listen to.

Useful and interesting information and tips about the German language and culture.

§ The number refers to the additional grammatical information which can be found in the appendix.

Der ganze Sprachkurs: *Mit 8 Lektionen und 2 Wiederholungslektionen.*

Main characters

The story takes place in Düsseldorf, a town in Germany. There, Thomas, Sylvia and Aynur work together in the editorial office of the local newspaper "Blickpunkte".

These are the main figures in the ongoing story:

Thomas Kowalski is from Düsseldorf. He works as an editor of the local newspaper "Blickpunkte". He's interested in computers and in his leisure time he likes visiting art exhibitions or going to concerts.

Sylvia Moser comes from Vienna, Austria. She's the "Blickpunkte" photographer. After work she often goes to the sports club.

Aynur Hartmann studies journalism and is doing a work placement in the editorial office. Her mother is Turkish and her father is German. She likes cycling, but most of all meeting friends.

Other important people in the editorial team:

The "Blickpunkte" editor is **Herr Braun**. He is 50 years old and leads the editorial team extremely well.

Frau Schmidt is the editorial office secretary.

Thomas' family:

Susanne Kowalski is Thomas Kowalski's wife. She is a kind woman and mother. She's planning a picnic for her husband's colleagues.

Lisa is Thomas' and Susanne's daughter. She's seven years old and is in her first year at school. She enjoys school, especially painting and sports. When she grows up she'd like to be an artist.

And last but not least there is **Herr Greiner**, an expert in exotic animals. He's a biology teacher interested in animals from Australia.

Getting started: Willkommen!

1

Hello! Let's start by learning some ways of greeting people in German! Listen and repeat!

TR. 1

NICE TO KNOW

Grüß Gott! is used in South Germany and Austria only.

Hallo! – Guten Tag!

Auf Wiedersehen! – Tschüss!

Grüß Gott!

Guten Morgen!

Gute Nacht!

2

Five of the main figures of the story introduce themselves. Four of them work in an editorial office in Düsseldorf. Find out who's who. Listen to the figures introducing themselves.

TR. 2

NICE TO KNOW

Düsseldorf is the capital of North-Rhine-Westphalia, one of the 16 federal states of Germany. Insiders simply use the abbreviation **NRW** instead of **Nordrhein-Westfalen**.

Who's who? Fill in the numbers of the pictures.

___ **A** Ich bin Susanne Kowalski.

___ **B** Ich heiße Sylvia Moser. Ich bin Fotografin.

___ **C** Ich bin Thomas Kowalski. Ich bin Redakteur.

___ **D** Ich bin Herr Braun. Ich bin Chefredakteur.

___ **E** Ich heiße Aynur Hartmann. Ich bin Studentin.

3

One Monday in the editorial office: Thomas Kowalski, the local editor, meets his new team with whom he'll work together closely. The editor-in-chief, Mr. Braun, introduces the two new colleagues to Thomas, who likes them at once. Don't worry if you don't understand everything right away.

Now listen again. If you like you can also read the tape script which you can find in the appendix.

TR. 3

Getting started: Willkommen!

4

Listen to the dialogue again. Even if you don't understand every word, the intonation can help you to decide if the statements below are true or false. Read them and mark with a **T** for "true" or an **F** for "false".

TR. 3

	true	false
1. Mr. Kowalski isn't fine.	☐	☐
2. He is meeting Mrs. Moser for the first time.	☐	☐
3. Mrs. Moser is a photographer.	☐	☐
4. Aynur is here on a work placement.	☐	☐
5. Mr. Braun is in a hurry and has to go.	☐	☐
6. Sylvia Moser doesn't want to be called by her first name.	☐	☐
7. Mr. Kowalski doesn't know the name "Aynur".	☐	☐
8. Aynur is a German name.	☐	☐

5

What do people say when they meet? Here you can repeat some expressions and practise your pronunciation. Listen to the sentences and then repeat them aloud.

TR. 4

Wie heißen Sie?	*What's your name?*
Ich heiße Sylvia Moser.	*My name is Sylvia Moser.*
Guten Morgen, Herr Braun.	*Good morning, Mr. Braun.*
Wie geht es Ihnen?	*How are you?*
Ganz gut, danke.	*Not bad, thank you.*
Das ist Frau Hartmann.	*This is Mrs. Hartmann.*
Freut mich.	*Nice to meet you.*
Auf Wiedersehen!	*Goodbye!*

NICE TO KNOW

Questions like **Wie geht es Ihnen?** or **Wie geht es dir?** are only used when the people know each other well.

Say it aloud! When you practise your pronunciation, feel free to exaggerate and to play with your voice. This is also a good way to learn new vocabulary.

6

Listen to how the letters of the German alphabet are pronounced and then repeat them.

TR. 5

a b c d e f g h i j k l m
n o p q r s t u v w x y z

NICE TO KNOW

In order to explain letters with umlauts **ä**, **ö** and **ü**, you can say **a Umlaut**, **o Umlaut** and u **Umlaut**. And for the **ß**, as in **heißen**, we say **eszet** (s + z).

Answering questions like:
- **Wie schreibt man das?** *How do you spell that?*
- **Können Sie das bitte buchstabieren?** *Can you spell that out, please?*
- **Schreibt man das mit „i" oder „y" (am Ende)?**
  Do you spell that with an "i" or a "y" (at the end)?

It's important to know the German alphabet.

Getting started: Willkommen!

7

TR. 6

When you're on the telephone you may well have to spell your name or something else and also to understand if the caller spells something to you. Listen to how the names of some European capital cities are spelled and write them down. Repeat and spell the names. Then choose some other European cities and try to spell them.

1. _____ 4. _____
2. _____ 5. _____
3. _____ 6. _____

NICE TO KNOW

To avoid misunderstandings there is a special spelling system, for example **A wie Anton**, **B wie Berta** and so on.

8

All words have syllables that are stressed. This is the basis of rhythm in the German language. There are words with the stress on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th syllable, for example:

- **Tho**mas, **schrei**ben
- Stu**den**tin, ent**schul**digen Sie bitte
- Foto**gra**fin, Redak**teur**
- fotogra**fie**ren

Listen carefully and repeat.

TR. 7

schreiben – Studentin Fotografin – fotografieren

Have you noticed the differences between the stressed and unstressed syllables?
The voice becomes a bit slower, clearer and louder on the stressed syllable.

Listen and repeat.

TR. 8

Thomas – fotografieren – ganz gut
Entschuldigen Sie bitte! – Wie heißen Sie?

9

TR. 9

You have already learnt that each word has a stress pattern and that this is the basis for rhythm in German. Try it with some international words.

stress on the 1. syllable	stress on the 2. syllable	stress on the 3. syllable

Musik | Computer | Telefon | Hotel | Radio
Technik | Disco | Kassette

Getting started: Willkommen!

10

You have already encountered most of the personal pronouns (he, you, I ...) in the introductory dialogue. Here you can find them all together and practise some of them right away.

	singular	plural
1st person	ich *(I)*	wir *(we)*
2nd person	du *(you) (familar form)* Sie *(you) (polite form)*	ihr *(you) (familar form)* Sie *(you) (polite form)*
3rd person	er, sie, es *(he, she, it)*	sie *(they)*

NICE TO KNOW

Note that **Sie**, when used as the formal form of you, always starts with a capital letter.

Choose the right personal pronoun and write it into the gap.

ich | sie | er

1. Das ist Herr Kowalski, _____ ist Redakteur.

2. Wie heißt du? – _____ heiße Aynur.

3. Aynur ist Studentin und _____ studiert Journalismus.

11

TR. 10

You have probably noticed that the verbs used in the introductory dialogue have various endings, for example:

- **Wie heißen Sie? – Ich heiße Thomas Kowalski.**
- **Wie schreibt man das?**

The present tense of most German verbs is formed by taking the stem (**heiß-**, **schreib-**) and adding an ending which is related to the person being described (**-en**, **-e**, **-t** ...).

Look at the present tense of the verb schreiben. Then listen and repeat each form.

ich	schreib**e**	wir	schreib**en**
du	schreib**st**	ihr	schreib**t**
er, sie, es	schreib**t**	sie	schreib**en**

NICE TO KNOW

The forms of the present tense can have a future meaning. Depending on the context, the meaning of **ich komme** can be I come, I'm coming or I'll be coming. German's not so hard after all!

The polite form, singular and plural, is **Sie schreiben**.

To memorize the forms of the present tense take other verbs and conjugate them, for example: **machen – ich mache – du machst – er...** *(to make or do)*
Then try it with **sagen** *(to say)* and **kommen** *(to come)*.

Getting started: Willkommen!

12

To express sentences like **Ich bin Thomas** *(I'm Thomas)* you need the most common verb in German: **sein** *(to be)*.

As in many other languages, the verb **sein** is irregular and you have to learn the different forms by heart.

ich	bin *(I'm)*	wir	sind *(we are)*
du	bist *(you are)*	ihr	seid *(you are)*
Sie	sind *(polite form)*	Sie	sind *(polite form)*
er, sie, es	ist *(he, she, it is)*	sie	sind *(they are)*

Read the sentences about Aynur and write the correct form of **sein** in the gaps. Then repeat the complete sentence.

1. Das _____ Aynur Hartmann.

2. Ich _____ Studentin.

3. Thomas, Sylvia und Aynur _____ Kollegen.

13

Do you remember how the present tense is formed? You take the stem of the verb and add an ending. Fill in the gaps with the correct form of **studieren**, **heißen** and **sein**. Don't forget that **sein** is irregular. When you have completed the paradigms, repeat the forms.

studieren	**heißen**	**sein**
Ich studiere	ich	ich bin
du	du heißt	du
er, sie, es	er, sie, es	er, sie, es ist
wir studieren	wir heißen	wir
ihr studiert	ihr heißt	ihr seid
sie/Sie	sie/Sie	sie/Sie

NICE TO KNOW

The **du-form** has the ending **-st**. But if the stem of the verb ends in **-s** or **-ß** like **heiß-** the ending becomes **-t**: **du heißt**.

14

TR. 11

For greeting and saying goodbye you have to make a difference between a formal and an informal situation (family, friends etc.).

formal	**informal**
• **Guten Morgen, Herr Braun.**	• **Hallo Thomas!** *(Hello!)*
• **Wie geht es Ihnen?**	• **Wie geht es dir?** *(How are you?)*
• **Auf Wiedersehen!**	• **Tschüss!** *(Bye!)*

15

TR. 12

Listen to some little words and useful expressions that open up the way to a lot of language. Match each one to the correct translation.

1. *Welcome!*	___ **A** Interessant!	**6.** *Interesting!*	___ **F** Wie bitte?
2. *Thank you!*	___ **B** Nein.	**7.** *Great!*	___ **G** Super!
3. *Please!*	___ **C** Herzlich willkommen!	**8.** *Sorry.*	___ **H** Entschuldigen Sie bitte!
4. *No.*	___ **D** Aha.	**9.** *Excuse me!*	___ **I** Ja.
5. *I see.*	___ **E** Bitte!	**10.** *Yes.*	___ **J** Danke!

Getting started: Willkommen!

16

In the hall of the editorial office the secretary Mrs Schmidt meets Aynur. She supposes that Aynur is one of the new employees and starts a short conversation. The dialogue is jumbled up. Can you reconstruct the dialogue between the secretary Mrs Schmidt and Aynur? Write each part into the correct position. Then read the complete dialogue.

Ich studiere Journalismus.
Nein. Sylvia Moser ist Fotografin.
Interessant!
Guten Tag, ich heiße Aynur Hartmann.
Aha! Und Sie?
Und was studieren Sie?
Ich bin Studentin. Ich mache hier ein Praktikum.
Guten Tag, ich bin Frau Schmidt.
Freut mich. Sie sind Fotografin, oder?

NICE TO KNOW

Praktikum means that the students have to gain work practice to complete their studies. Very often it's unpaid. Depending on the subject it takes several weeks or months.

17

Read the sentences and write the pronouns shown below into the correct gaps. Read carefully about how many people are mentioned and whether they are speaking directly to someone or in the 3rd person about someone. If you need to remind yourself of the meanings of the personal pronouns, see § Personal pronouns.

wir | sie | Sie | du | ich | ihr | er | es

1. Wer bist _____? – Ich bin Lisa.

2. Entschuldigen _____ bitte, wie schreibt man das?

3. Wie heißt ihr? – Sie heißt Sylvia und _____ heiße Aynur.

4. Das ist Herr Braun, _____ ist Chefredakteur.

5. Aha, _____ seid Kollegen. – Ja, wir sind Kollegen.

6. Aynur ist Studentin, _____ macht ein Praktikum.

7. Hallo, _____ sind Sylvia und Aynur.

8. Wie geht _____ Ihnen? – Danke, gut.

Getting started: Woher kommst du?

1

TR. 13

Would you like to travel in Europe? Which countries? Have a look at the map.

Hear and read the names of ten European countries and nationalities. Now match the countries and nationalities.

1.	England	___	**A** österreichisch
2.	Frankreich	___	**B** englisch
3.	Deutschland	___	**C** deutsch
4.	Österreich	___	**D** türkisch
5.	Schweiz	___	**E** italienisch
6.	Italien	___	**F** französisch
7.	Polen	___	**G** polnisch
8.	Spanien	___	**H** spanisch
9.	Türkei	___	**I** russisch
10.	Russland	___	**J** schweizerisch

NICE TO KNOW

Germans often say **England** but they really mean Great Britain (**Großbritannien**).

Getting started: Woher kommst du?

2

TR. 14

Imagine you are in a German town (town = **die Stadt**). You can find places or buildings that are often landmarks or even symbols of that town.
Look at the pictures and read the German names. Now listen to them and repeat the words.

1. die Brücke

2. der Park

3. das Museum

4. die Straße

5. die Kirche

6. der Fluss

7. der Stadtteil

8. der Markt

3

TR. 15

After a short break, Thomas, Sylvia and Aynur continue their conversation to find out more about each other. Aynur's name leads the conversation to the topics of residence, origins and other interesting subjects.

Listen to the dialogue. Don't worry if you don't understand everything. Later we will look at more details.

4

TR. 15

In the introductory dialogue you heard Thomas, Sylvia and Aynur speaking about nationalities and residences. You are now going to look for more details. Who lives where? Who's a foreigner?
First read the questions below. What would Aynur, Sylvia and Thomas answer? Yes or no?
Listen to the dialogue again and answer the questions. Do this for each person.

	1. Aynur		2. Sylvia		3. Thomas	
	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
1. Is your mother Turkish?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Do you live in Wodan Street?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Are you Austrian?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Do you live in Düsseldorf?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Do you live near a market?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Getting started: Woher kommst du?

5

As you know from the introductory dialogue, Sylvia gave her business card (**Visitenkarte**) to Aynur and Thomas. What is written on the card?
Someone has given you an empty form. Can you complete it with the help of the information on the business card?
Write the missing words into the gaps. Now it's easy to understand the new words, isn't it?

Telefonnummer | Beruf | Sylvia | Nachname | Adresse

_____: Moser Vorname: _____

_____: Fotografin

_____: Bäckerstraße 9, 40213 Düsseldorf

_____: 0211/45 06 33

6

TR. 16

In the introductory dialogue, the telephone numbers and the post code were spoken separately.
Of course, you can also group numbers, as you will see in the next few units.
Listen to the numbers and then repeat.

null

eins

zwei

drei

vier

fünf

sechs

sieben

acht

neun

NICE TO KNOW

The sound of **zwei** and **drei** is similar. To avoid misunderstandings you can say **zwo** instead of **zwei**.

7

What are the numbers in German? Write the number into the gap.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

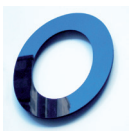
4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____


9. _____

10. _____

Getting started: Woher kommst du?

8

There are two basic word order patterns:

1. **Normal word order:** the verb comes second.
   A Herr Müller **lebt** in Deutschland. *(Mr Müller lives in Germany.)*
   B Woher **kommst** du? *(Where are you from?)*
   C Hier **ist** meine Visitenkarte. *(Here is my business card.)*
   The first word is **A** the subject, or **B** a question word or **C** another element (so that the subject is placed behind the verb).

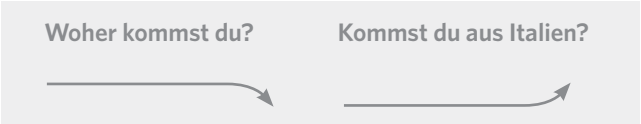
2. **Inverted word order.** Yes / no- questions start with the verb followed by the subject.
   Kommst du aus Italien? *(Do you come from Italy?)*
   Sind Sie Fotografin? *(Are you a photographer?)*

NICE TO KNOW

After **und**, **oder** and **aber** you always have the normal word order: **Sie kommt aus der Schweiz, aber er kommt aus Italien.**

TR. 17

Listen carefully and concentrate on the intonation:
In the 1st sentence the voice falls at the end while in the 2nd sentence (yes/no-question) the voice rises.



9

Put the words into the correct order.

1. Frau | aus | ist | Müller | Berlin.

2. die | Wo | Wodanstraße? | liegt

3. Aynur | die | fährt | Türkei. | in

4. Sind | aus | Österreich? | Sie

5. nach | Düsseldorf? | Sie | Fahren

Getting started: Woher kommst du?

10

When you are talking about languages or nationalities, the following expressions can be useful:

Ich komme aus Österreich. Ich bin Österreicherin.
(I'm from Austria. I'm Austrian (female).)
Welche Sprachen sprechen Sie? – Französisch und Englisch.
(Which languages do you speak? – French and English.)
Sprechen Sie Deutsch? *(Do you speak German?)*
Wie heißt „Bahnhof" auf Französisch?
(What is "Bahnhof" in French?)

TR. 18

Listen to the question and mark the right answer.

TR. 19

A Ich spreche deutsch. **B** Ja, Englisch und Französisch.

Note that German has different words for male and female inhabitants.

Deutschland	Deutscher	Deutsche (!)
England	Engländer	Engländerin
Spanien	Spanier	Spanierin
Frankreich	Franzose	Französin (!)
Griechenland	Grieche	Griechin
Italien	Italiener	Italienerin
Österreich	Österreicher	Österreicherin
Polen	Pole	Polin
Russland	Russe	Russin
Schweiz	Schweizer	Schweizerin
Türkei	Türke	Türkin

NICE TO KNOW

Unfortunately Turkey and Switzerland are exceptions: **Wo? ▸ in der Türkei / Schweiz. Woher? ▸ aus der Türkei / Schweiz. Wohin? ▸ in die Türkei / Schweiz.**

Here are the rules for the feminine form:
-e ▸ -in: Türk**e** – Türk**in** **-er ▸ -erin**: Schweiz**er** – Schweiz**erin**
The exceptions are: **Deutsche**, **Französin**

11

In a conversation about the place of residence, the country of origin and the destination you can use these questions and answers:

- Place:
  - **Wo** wohnen Sie? *(Where do you live?)*
  - **In** Düsseldorf, **in** Deutschland. **In der** Bäckerstraße 9.
  - **Wo** liegt Düsseldorf? *(Where is Düsseldorf situated?)*
  - **In** Nordrhein-Westfalen. *(In North-Rhine-Westphalia.)*
- Origin:
  - **Woher** kommst du? *(Where do you come from?)*
  - Ich komme **aus** Wien. / **aus** Österreich. *(I come from Vienna. / from Austria.)*
- Destination, direction:
  - **Wohin** fährt Anna? *(Where is Anna going?)*
  - Sie fährt **nach** Rom / **nach** Italien. *(She is going to Rome / Italy.)*

⊙	Wo?	in	+ Stadt/Land
⊙→	Woher?	aus	
→⊙	Wohin?	nach	

Write **in**, **aus** or **nach** into the gaps.

1. Peter fährt oft _____ Frankreich.

2. Bist du Italiener? – Ja, ich komme _____ Rom.

3. Wien liegt _____ Österreich.

Getting started: Woher kommst du?

12

TR. 20

Imagine this situation: you are sitting in a train from Munich (the capital of Bavaria – **Bayern**) to Hamburg. It's a long journey. Passengers come and go. Sometimes you can hear parts of their conversations. Listen to six short dialogues about nationalities, countries and residences. Do you understand what the conversation is about? Choose the correct statement.

1. **A** ☐ Er ist aus Deutschland.
B ☐ Er ist aus England.
C ☐ Er ist aus Griechenland.

2. **A** ☐ Frau Müller fährt nach Bonn.
B ☐ Frau Müller wohnt in der Gartenstraße 3.
C ☐ Frau Müller wohnt in der Goethestraße 8.

3. **A** ☐ Er spricht Deutsch und Französisch.
B ☐ Er spricht nur Deutsch.
C ☐ Er spricht Englisch und Deutsch.

4. **A** ☐ Er ist Schweizer.
B ☐ Er ist Italiener.
C ☐ Er ist Franzose.

5. **A** ☐ Er fährt nach Bayern.
B ☐ Er fährt nach Erlangen.
C ☐ Er fährt nach Hamburg.

13

Remember the end of the introductory dialogue:
– Dort ist **ein** Museum, oder? *(There is a museum, isn't there?)*
– Ja, **das** Stadtmuseum. *(Yes, the city museum.)*

NICE TO KNOW

You need to know what gender a noun is so that you can choose the right pronoun: **das Haus** ist alt = **es** ist alt, **der Fluss** = **er**, **die Straße** = **sie**.

Nouns in German have an indefinite (a, an) and a definite (the) article. The article indicates the gender of nouns. All German nouns are either masculine, feminine or neuter and are always written with capital letters.

	masculine	feminine	neuter
indefinite	**ein** Fluss	**eine** Straße	**ein** Haus
definite	**der** Fluss	**die** Straße	**das** Haus
	(river)	*(street)*	*(house)*

TR. 21

Read and listen to the sentences.
1. Das ist ein Haus. Das Haus ist alt. *(This is a house. The house is old.)*
2. Das ist eine Straße. Die Straße liegt in Düsseldorf. *(This is a street. The street is in Düsseldorf.)*
3. Das ist ein Fluss. Der Fluss heißt „Rhein". *(This is a river. The river is called "The Rhine".)*

Unfortunately, there is no sure way of telling what gender a noun is. The best thing you can do is to always learn a noun with its article, for example **die** Adresse *(the address)*.

14

TR. 22

As you already know, the article (**der**, **die**, **das**) indicates the gender of nouns. Let's have a look at some nouns. Read the words below. Do you remember the correct article? If you need help, listen to the nouns. Put a circle around the correct article (*der*, *die* or *das*). Repeat them (don't forget the article!) and try to memorize them.

1. der | die | das Bahnhof
2. der | die | das Straße
3. der | die | das Land
4. der | die | das Stadt
5. der | die | das Fluss
6. der | die | das Adresse
7. der | die | das Turm
8. der | die | das Nummer
9. der | die | das Haus
10. der | die | das Telefon