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# Wie, bitte?

## INTRODUCTORY GERMAN FOR PROFICIENCY

CLASS TEXT

for Sanders  
10/88  
from Bill

1) with thanks to a friend  
and comrade in the  
proficiency non-movement  
2) in expectation of the  
same sort of thing in return  
2 years from now

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# Glossary

The Glossary is based on the Class Text and aims to provide a vocabulary of everyday German. For two reasons the list does not include every word you may encounter in your study. First, such a list – covering every word in the authentic listening and reading materials – would be very long, containing perhaps five times as many words as the nearly 2000 listed here. Second, the desire to understand language by mechanically translating it, word by tedious word, is an obstacle to the attainment of proficiency, which is the ability to use the language under realistic conditions.

The best way to use the Glossary is to learn how to avoid using it. In real communication there is often simply no time to thumb a dictionary. When you speak and write, try to do the best you can with what you already have. Learn to express complex or specialized concepts with simpler language. Within the Class Text itself is the *Bildwörterbuch*, the pictorial dictionary that provides words in natural contexts rather than artificial alphabetical lists. When you listen and read, work on the skills of tolerating words you don't understand, recognizing those you do, and thereby puzzling out meaning, with the aid of common sense and your knowledge of the world. Other resources include the dialog translations and chapter vocabularies in the Study Text.

The Glossary is organized to encourage you to learn as you look up a word. Decide first whether it is a *noun* – a word that names a person, place or thing. That decision is easier to make in German than in English or most other languages, since in printed German *nouns are capitalized*.

If the word is not a noun, look for it under the category "OTHER." If the word is a noun, look in the "NOUNS" section under its gender heading *der*, *die*, or *das*. The noun lists are organized that way because gender is a basic feature of German. Failure to learn the gender of commonly used words will cause you severe problems in managing other structures. You should also acquire the ability to guess gender by the "shape" of the word and by anything you can derive from the context in which the word is used. So you may have to guess the gender of the noun you are looking up. But the Glossary pages are organized so that you will not have to look very far.

*Plurals:* Like English, German has several major patterns of pluralization that a speaker learns to apply by reflex. Truly irregular plural forms and patterns of lesser frequency are learned as exceptions. In the Glossary, the two common regular patterns of plural formation are not indicated; instead, you are expected to supply them. The two general principles are:

If the word ends in -e, add -n	die Fahrkarte, pl. Fahrkarten
If the word does not end in -e, add -e	der Tag, pl. Tage

In all other cases the plural is indicated, or else the abbreviation "no pl" will tell you that the plural form either does not exist or is uncommon.

The indication of umlaut in the pluralization symbols needs explanation.

¨ = umlaut the stem vowel and then add any other indicated letters:

**der Mann, ¨er pl. = Männer**

The umlaut applies to the last word in a compound noun:

**der Sommermantel, ¨ pl. = Sommermäntel**  
(not Sömmermantel)

The double vowel *au* is umlauted to **äu**:

**das Haus, ¨er pl. = Häuser**

The treatment of verbs also emphasizes major structural patterns unless an exception is indicated. If the bold-type listing of the verb contains no other information, you can be sure that its subject-forms and tenses follow regular patterns (example: **leben** – past tenses are formed with **-t-**: **lebte, hat gelebt**). If there is *any* irregularity in formation, it is spelled out, in the following form:

infinitive (*er/sie/es* present tense, past tense, present perfect)

**sehen (sieht, sah, gesehen)**

If the verb forms its common past (= present perfect) with **sein**, that information is given.

**reisen (ist gereist)**

Separable prefixes are indicated by a dot between prefix and stem:

**an•rufen**

#### Abbreviations

<i>acc</i>	accusative
<i>adj</i>	adjective
<i>adv</i>	adverb
<i>conj</i>	conjunction
<i>dat</i>	dative
<i>fem</i>	feminine
<i>masc</i>	masculine
<i>neut</i>	neuter
<i>no pl</i>	plural nonexistent or not common
<i>pl</i>	plural
<i>P1, P2</i>	preliminary chapters
<i>prep</i>	preposition
<i>pron</i>	pronoun
<i>refl</i>	reflexive
<i>sing</i>	singular
<i>w/</i>	with
»	see

To provide a change of pace, the leftover space in the Glossary has been filled with other alphabetical material. The *Grabstätten berühmter Deutscher* is a list of where famous figures in German culture are buried.

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**E**

OTHER (cont'd.)

**ernst** serious(ly) 13  
**ernten (erntet, erntete, geerntet)** harvest, earn 20  
**erreichen** reach, get to, attain 21  
**erschließen (erschließt, erschloß, erschossen)** shoot (dead); sich erschließen shoot oneself 22  
**erst** first 5; not until, only *adv* 16  
**erstens** first of all, in the first place 26

**erzählen** tell (a tale); tell (command) sagen  
**Es freut mich (sehr)** (Very) glad/pleased to meet you 10 »freuen  
**es gibt** there is, there are + *acc* 3 »geben  
**essen (ißt, aß, gegessen)** eat 1  
**etwa** about, approximately, roughly 9

**etwas** something 2; somewhat 11  
**etwas anderes** something else 10  
**europäisch** European *adj* 17  
**evangelisch** Protestant *adj* 10  
**ewig** eternal(ly), forever 22  
**existieren** exist 24  
**exotisch** exotic 17  
**extra** extra, additional(ly) 5

**F**

NOUNS

**plural only**

**Ferien** vacation (general) 13  
 »Urlaub

Dürer, Albrecht (°1471, †1528), Maler  
 — Nürnberg, St. Johannisfriedhof

**der**

**Fabrikarbeiter, -** factory worker (male) 22  
**Fahkartensautomat, -en** ticket vending machine 6  
**Fahrkartenschalter, -** ticket counter, window 3  
**Fahrplan, -e** schedule (transportation) 11  
**Fahrschein** transit ticket 16  
**Familienname** last name, family name P1

**Faschismus** *no pl* fascism 22  
**Faschist, -en** fascist 22  
**Februar** *no pl* February 8  
**Fehler, -** mistake, error  
**Feiertag** holiday FF  
**Film** film (camera or movie) 10  
**Fisch** fish 2  
**Flüchtling** refugee 22  
**Flug, -e** flight (airplane)  
**Flur** entrance hall, hallway 15  
**Fluß, Flüsse** river 7

**Franken, -** Swiss Franc 1  
**Freitag** Friday P2  
**Freund** friend (male), boyfriend 4  
**Frühling** spring (season) 4  
**Führer, -** guidebook, guide, leader 16  
**Fünfziger, -** fifty (banknote or stamp) 6  
**Fuß, -e** foot 14 »zu Fuß  
**Fußgänger, -** pedestrian 8

**die**

**Fabrik, -en** factory 22  
**Fähre** ferryboat 9  
**Fahrkarte** ticket (train, etc.) 1  
**Fahrt, -en** trip (vehicular) 7  
**Familie** family (singular!) 4  
**Farbe** color 17  
**Feinwäsche** *no pl* delicate laundry 25  
**Fete** party  
**Flamme** flame 11

**Flasche** bottle 1  
**Fotoentwicklung, -en** film developing 25  
**Frage** question 10  
**Frau, -en** Mrs., Ms. P1; woman 3; wife 4  
**Freiheit, -en** freedom 22  
**Freizeit** *no pl* free time, leisure time 19

**Fresse** trap, mug, "kisser" 26  
**Freundin, -nen** friend (female), girlfriend 25  
**Freundschaft, -en** friendship  
**Funktion, -en** function 1  
**Fußgängerzone** pedestrian zone(s) 8  
**Fütterung, -en** feeding (animals) 11

Ebert, Friedrich (°1871, †1925), Politiker — Heidelberg, Bergfriedhof  
 Einstein, Albert (°1879, †1955), Physiker — Urne in einem Fluß bei Trenton, N.J. (USA), versenkt  
 Engels, Friedrich (°1820, †1895), Sozialtheoretiker und Politiker — Asche bei Eastbourne (England) ins Meer gestreut

**das**

**Fachgeschäft** specialty shop 19  
**Fahrrad, -er** bicycle 21  
**Farbdia, -s** color slide(s) 10  
**Farbfoto, -s** color photo 25  
**Faß, Fässer** barrel, vat 20  
**Fenster, -** window 7  
**Ferngespräch** long-distance call 12  
**Fest** festival FF  
**Fieber** *no pl* fever (98.6°F = 37.1°C) 13

## OTHER

**fahren (fährt, fuhr, ist gefahren)**  
 travel, drive 4; radfahren ride a bicycle 13  
**fallen (fällt, fiel, ist gefallen)**  
 fall; die in battle 24  
**fällig** due 15  
**falsch** wrong, incorrect (of things) 16 (you're wrong = Sie haben unrecht)  
**fangen (fängt, fing, gefangen)**  
 catch 11  
**fantastisch** fantastic, great 2  
**fast** almost 10  
**faul** lazy; rotten (fruit) 11  
**feiern** celebrate 11  
**fein** fine 17  
**fern** far, distant, tele- 10  
**fern-sehen (sieht fern, sah fern, ferngesehen)** watch TV 10  
**fertig** finished, ready 12

**Fleisch** *no pl* meat, flesh 17  
**Flugzeug** airplane 19  
**Formular** form, blank 12  
**Foto, -s** photograph 10  
**Fotogeschäft** camera store 10  
**Fräulein, -** Miss, Ms.; waitress! P1  
**Freibad, -er** open-air swimming pool 19  
**Freilichttheater, -** open-air theater 20

**fest** firm, solid  
**finanzieren** finance 17  
**finden (findet, fand, gefunden)**  
 find 3  
**fliegen (fliegt, flog, ist geflogen)**  
 fly  
**fliehen (flieht, floh, ist geflohen)**  
 flee, escape 23  
**folgend** following, subsequent 21  
**fotografieren** photograph, take pictures 7  
**fragen** ask (inquire) 3; ask (request) = bitten  
**französisch** French *adj* 17  
 (Frenchman = der Franzose, Frenchwoman = die Französin)  
**frei** free 4  
**frei-halten (hält frei, hielt frei, freigehalten)** hold, keep open, keep clear 15

**Friesland** *no pl* Frisia (northwest German coastal regions & islands) 17  
**Frühstück** breakfast 2  
**Fundbüro, -s** lost and found office 18

Friedrich I. Barbarossa (°1122, †1190), Kaiser — im Saleph (heute Göksu, Türkei) ertrunken; Eingeweide in Tarsus beigesetzt

**freitags** on Fridays 21  
**fremd** strange, foreign fremd sein be a stranger 16  
**fressen (frißt, fraß, gefressen)**  
 eat (animal activity), feed 11  
**freuen** please, make happy 11;  
 freut mich sehr: pleased to meet you 17; sich freuen auf + *acc* look forward to 19  
**frisch** fresh (foods) 11  
**früh** early 7 »morgen früh  
**fühlen** feel, sense; sich fühlen: Ich fühle mich besser I feel better  
**führen** lead 8  
**funktionieren** work, function, operate, run 5  
**für** *acc* for; in favor of 2  
**furchtbar** horrible 8

**G**

## NOUNS

**der**

**Garten, -** garden 16  
**Gast, -e** guest, customer 5  
**Gastgeber, -** host  
**Geburtstag** birthday 18  
**Gefallen, -** favor 26  
**Gefangene** prisoner (male) 23  
**Gegner, -** opponent 23  
**Geldbeutel, -** wallet, pocketbook 18  
**Geldwechsel** *no pl* currency exchange 6

**Generalsekretär** General Secretary 22  
**Gepäckkarren, -** baggage cart 18  
**Gipfel, -** peak, summit (mountain) 14  
**Glanz** *no pl* glossy finish; gleam, shine 25  
**Gott, -er** God 16  
**Gottesdienst** religious service 7  
**Grad, -** degree (temperature) 11

**Grenzübergang, -e** border crossing point 21  
**Groschen, -** Austrian coin 1  
**Großvater, -** grandfather 23  
**Grund, -e** reason, basis  
**Grünwald** German painter 14  
**Gruß, -e** greeting 19

Friedrich II. der Große (°1712, †1786), König von Preußen — Burg Hohenzollern bei Hechingen

### die Familie (-n)

- die Mutter
- der Vater
- die Eltern
- das Kind (Kinder)
- die Tochter (Töchter)
- der Sohn (Söhne)
- die Schwester (Schwestern)
- der Bruder (Brüder)
- der Onkel
- die Tante

Groß- = *grand-*  
 Ur- = *great-*  
 Schwieger- + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ *-in-law*  
 (or use der/die X von { mein \_\_\_\_\_ }  
 { dein \_\_\_\_\_ }  
 { sein \_\_\_\_\_ }  
 { etc. } Y)

*cousin*: der Vetter (-n), die Kusine (-n)  
*grandchild*: das Enkelkind (der Enkel, die Enkelin)  
*relative*: der Verwandte, die Verwandte *plural*: die Verwandten  
 die Angehörigen (kin)

ledig (noch nicht verheiratet) verheiratet geschieden (nicht mehr verheiratet)

### der Körper

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| der Kopf                | die Schulter (Schultern)                       |
| das Haar (Haare)        | die Brust (Brüste)                             |
| das Auge (Augen)        | der Arm (Arme)                                 |
| die Brille              | die Hand (Hände)                               |
| die Kontaktlinse(n)     | der Finger (-)                                 |
| das Ohr (Ohren)         | <i>stomach</i> : der Bauch ( <i>external</i> ) |
| die Nase                | der Magen ( <i>internal organ</i> )            |
| der Mund die Lippe (-n) | die Rippe (-n)                                 |
| der Zahn (Zähne)        | das Gesäß, der Po, der Hintern                 |
| das Kinn                | das Bein (Beine)                               |
| der Hals                | der Fuß (Füße)                                 |
|                         | die Zehe (-n)                                  |

das \_\_\_\_\_ bein = \_\_\_\_\_ bone  
*organs*: das Herz die Lunge die Leber

*For other parts: Use the official medical term, but with German pronunciation.*

### How to keep a conversation going

- Wie, bitte?
- Echo statements in a questioning tone.*
- Und? Und dann? Und was ist dann passiert?
- Aber + *expectant pause*.
- Wie?
- Warum (nicht)?
- ... zum Beispiel?
- Ich verstehe das/Sie/dich nicht.
- Könn(t)en Sie das bitte erklären/beschreiben?
- Wie meinen Sie das?
- Was glauben Sie?
- Aber wenn ...

### die Kleidung, die Kleider

- der Hut (Hüte)
- der Mantel (Mäntel)
- die Jacke (-n)
- der Pullover (-)
- die Krawatte (-en)
- das Hemd (-en)
- die Bluse (-n)
  - button*: der Knopf (Knöpfe)
- die Hose or die Hosen
  - belt*: der Gürtel (-)
- dress*: das Kleid (-er)
- skirt*: der Rock (Röcke)
- der Strumpf (Strümpfe); die Socke (-n)
- der Schuh (-e)
- suit*: *men's*—der Anzug (Anzüge)
  - women's*—das Kostüm (-e)
- diaper*: *cloth*—die Windel (-n)
  - disposable*—Wegwerfwindel (-n), das Höschen (-)

### Tag und Datum

der Tag (-e)

Sonntag	So	das Wochenende	der Wochentag	weekday
Montag	Mo	der Werktag	workday	(includes Samstag!)
Dienstag	Di			
Mittwoch	Mi	What? Heute ist <b>der</b> _____ (s)te (month).		
Donnerstag	Do	When? Ich bin <b>am</b> _____ (s)ten (month) geboren.		
Freitag	Fr	Since when? Ich wohne seit _____ Jahr(en) in (city).		
Samstag	Sa			

Write dates numerically as *day. month. year* (4.7 = July 4)

### die Farbe (-n)

