

Wie, bitte? Reference Grammar: Introduction & Cross-References to Structure Presentations

The Reference Grammar is available in four places: 1) in photocopied form in the Clean Copy package; 2) on your CD-ROM in the “Hard Copy” folder/directory; 3) from the “CosmoLingua” website; 4) from the First-Year German WWW site.

The Reference Grammar presents the system of German grammar, with analysis, charts, and examples. When you work with the “Structures” page/screen of each *Wie, bitte?* Kontext (chapter), you can use the chart below to go to the Reference Grammar for more information about the various topics. For example, topics 1-3 of Kontext 3 have to do with nouns; find out more about spelling, pluralization and gender by going to sections 1-3 and 5 of the “Nouns” part of the Reference Grammar. (See the first two pages of the Reference Grammar for a list of its major parts and their topics.)

But remember: When you cook, you don't eat the recipe. You use the recipe to help you prepare the food you eat, and when you really know how to cook something you may not even need the recipe. The Reference Grammar is not THE grammar of German. It is an analysis and systematization of grammar. Even if you understood it all intellectually and

memorized it word for word, that by itself would not make you proficient in German, and you wouldn't really have a command of German grammar, unless you could also use the language for genuine communication.

So use the Reference Grammar only if you are pretty sure it will help you communicate more efficiently by increasing your accuracy in managing important structures when you communicate. You can acquire all the structural knowledge you need just by practice, your own observations and some time with the Kontext “Structures” material. In first-year German you will NOT be tested on your knowledge of the terms and intellectual concepts contained in the Reference Grammar.

When you were in Kontext 1 & 2 you were not given access information for the Reference Grammar, although there were brief discussions of grammar on the “Structures” pages/screens. That is because the very early stages of language acquisition are largely a matter of learning vocabulary and a few key phrases. At that point it is more efficient to memorize information than to learn many principles to handle just the few words that are available.

REFERENCE GRAMMAR STUDY GUIDE

		Reference Grammar section / topic §*
Kontext 03	Topic 01	Nouns §§1-3, §5*
Kontext 03	Topic 02	same
Kontext 03	Topic 03	same
Kontext 03	Topic 04	Pronouns §§1, 9, 10
Kontext 03	Topic 05	Verbs §14 (1-7 for additional background)
Kontext 03	Topic 06	Prepositions §19 (1 for background)
Kontext 04	Topic 01	—
Kontext 04	Topic 02	Verbs §§1-4; Word Order §§1-4
Kontext 04	Topic 03	Verbs §§5-7
Kontext 04	Topic 04	Verbs §§14, 16
Kontext 05	Topic 01	—
Kontext 05	Topic 02	Verbs §7
Kontext 05	Topic 03	Word Order §7

*The numbers and the symbol “§” refer to topics, NOT page numbers.

Main Table of Contents

First Page of Reference Grammar

Kontext 06	Topic 01	Verbs §§5--7, §10
Kontext 06	Topic 02	Adjectives & Adverbs §8
Kontext 06	Topic 03	Verbs §§47 & 49; Word Order §20
Kontext 06	Topic 04	Adjectives & Adverbs §§38-9
Kontext 07	Topic 01	Pronouns §§1, 2, 5, 6
Kontext 07	Topic 02	—
Kontext 07	Topic 03	Prepositions §§5, 8
Kontext 07	Topic 04	—
Kontext 08	Topic 01	Adjectives & Adverbs §§22-4
Kontext 08	Topic 02	—
Kontext 08	Topic 03	Word Order §20
Kontext 08	Topic 04	Pronouns §6
Kontext 09	Topic 01	Verbs §12
Kontext 09	Topic 02	—
Kontext 09	Topic 03	—
Kontext 10	Topic 01	Word Order §§1-3
Kontext 10	Topic 02	Verbs §§0, 61
Kontext 10	Topic 03	Adjectives & Adverbs §§22-5, 28
Kontext 10	Topic 04	Verbs §12
Kontext 10	Topic 05	Verbs §27
Kontext 11	Topic 01	Verbs §§19, 20, 23
Kontext 11	Topic 02	—
Kontext 11	Topic 03	Prepositions §§11, 12
Kontext 12	Topic 01	Verbs §5
Kontext 12	Topic 02	Pronouns §5; Adjectives & Adverbs §§3, 9, 18; Pronouns §9
Kontext 12	Topic 02	same as for topic 02
Kontext 12	Topic 04	Verbs §§19, 20, 22, 24
Kontext 13	Topic 01	Verbs §21; Word order §6
Kontext 13	Topic 02	Pronouns §§5-8
Kontext 13	Topic 03	Adjectives & Adverbs §§3, 4, 7, 8
Kontext 14	Topic 01	Adjectives & Adverbs §8; Word Order §20
Kontext 14	Topic 02	Adjectives & Adverbs §§38, 39
Kontext 14	Topic 03	same as for topic 02
Kontext 14	Topic 04	Word Order §§2, 3
Kontext 15	Topic 01	Prepositions §§1, 21, 5, 24, 7, 8, 10, 28, 11
Kontext 15	Topic 02	Prepositions §§2, 3, 4, 12
Kontext 15	Topic 03	Pronouns §7
Kontext 15	Topic 04	Verbs §26