

Teach[®]
Yourself

Get started in German

Rosi McNab



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How the units work

Within each unit you will find the following components.

CONVERSATIONS

There are two conversations in each unit. The first one uses the polite form of 'you' and the second uses the familiar form so that you get plenty of practice with both forms. As you get more confident you should try covering up one side of the dialogue and see if you can still remember what to say. All the dialogues are also on the recording. You should practise saying them with the recording.

VOCABULARY

These contain key vocabulary and phrases which will help you to understand the text and build up a useful base for further study. You should practise saying the words and expressions out loud after the tape. Try different ways to help you remember their meaning. Here are some ways you might find helpful:

- ▶ Cover up the English and see if you can remember what the words mean.
- ▶ Cover up the German and see if you can remember the German words.
- ▶ Write down the first letter of each word and see how many you can remember.
- ▶ Choose five new words or expressions and try to learn them.
- ▶ Try to relate them to English words which sound similar:

Gut – good, **danke** – thanks

THE DISCOVERY METHOD – LEARN TO LEARN!

There are lots of philosophies and approaches to language learning, some practical, some quite unconventional, and far too many to list here. Perhaps you know of a few, or even have some techniques of your own. In this book, we have incorporated the **Discovery method** of learning, a sort of DIY approach to language learning. What this means is that you will be encouraged throughout the course to engage your mind and figure out the language for yourself, through identifying patterns, understanding grammar concepts, noticing words that are similar to English, and more. This method promotes *language awareness*, a critical skill in acquiring a new language. As a result of your own efforts, you will be able to better

retain what you have learned, use it with confidence, and, even better, apply those same skills to *continuing* to learn the language (or, indeed, another one) on your own after you've finished this book.

Everyone can succeed in learning a language – the key is to know *how to learn* it. Learning is more than just reading or memorizing grammar and vocabulary. It's about being an *active* learner, learning in real contexts, and, most importantly, *using* what you've learned in different situations. Simply put, if you **figure something out for yourself**, you're more likely to understand it. And when you use what you've learned, you're more likely to remember it.

And because many of the essential but (let's admit it!) dull details, such as grammar rules, are introduced through the **Discovery method**, you'll have more fun while learning. Soon, the language will start to make sense and you'll be relying on your own intuition to construct original sentences *independently*, not just listening and repeating.

Enjoy yourself!

EXERCISES

The various exercises provide practice in the German that you have learned in each unit.

The answers to the exercises are given at the back in the Answer key.

Listening exercises: You will need to use the recording for these.



This symbol indicates that the recording is needed for the following section.

To make your learning easier and more efficient, a system of icons indicates the actions you should take:



Listen and pronounce



Speak German out loud



Figure something out for yourself



Reading passage



Culture tip



Writing task



Exercises coming up!



Check your German (no cheating)



Guten Tag!

Hello!

In this unit, you will learn how to:

- ▶ say 'hello' and 'goodbye'.
- ▶ give your name.
- ▶ use common greetings.
- ▶ say where you are from.
- ▶ learn about the formal and informal words for 'you'.

CEFR: (A1) Can establish basic social contact by using the simplest everyday polite forms of: greetings and farewells; introductions; etc.



Visiting Germany

Deutschland (Germany) with 81 million inhabitants is the largest economy in the **Europäische Union** (EU – European Union). **Die deutsche Sprache** (the German language) is spoken by about 105 million native speakers and another 80 million speakers world wide in countries like **die Schweiz** (Switzerland), **Österreich** (Austria) and **Namibien** (Namibia).

Berlin is the capital city. **Hamburg**, situated on the river **Elbe** in **Norddeutschland** (North Germany), is the second largest city and third biggest port in Europe despite being 110 km from the sea. **München** (Munich) in **Bayern** (Bavaria) in **Süddeutschland** (South Germany) is the third biggest city and the home of BMW. The fourth largest city is the important economic and cultural centre **Köln** (Cologne) situated on the river **Rhein** (Rhine) and **Frankfurt am Main** is the home of the **Europäische Zentralbank** (EZB – the European Central Bank).



Look at the words in bold above. Can you work out how to say north, south and European in German?

Vocabulary builder



01.01 Look at the words and phrases and complete the missing English expressions.



Then listen to these words and see if any sound like English words you know.

Cover up the English and see if you can remember what they mean.

GREETINGS

Guten Tag	<i>Good day</i>
Guten Abend	<i>Good evening</i>
Guten Morgen	<i>Good _____</i>
Gute Nacht	<i>Good _____</i>
Hallo	<i>Hello</i>
Auf Wiedersehen	<i>Goodbye</i>
Tschüs or Tschüss	<i>Bye</i>

AS A GENERAL RULE YOU USE:

Guten Morgen first thing in the morning,
Guten Tag after about 10 a.m.,
Guten Abend after 5 p.m.,
Gute Nacht when you are going to bed.
In South Germany and Austria people often say:
Grüß Gott! (lit. *greet God*) which means *Good day!*

NEW EXPRESSIONS

Wie heißen Sie?	<i>What's your name?</i>
Ich heiße...	<i>I'm called...</i>
Angenehm.	<i>Pleased to meet you.</i>
Wie geht's?	<i>How are you?</i>
Gut danke, und Ihnen?	<i>Well thanks, and you?</i>
Ich verstehe nicht.	<i>I don't understand.</i>
Sprechen Sie Englisch?	<i>Do you speak English?</i>
Trinken Sie einen Kaffee?	<i>Do you want a coffee?</i>
Nein, danke.	<i>No, thank you.</i>
Ja, bitte.	<i>Yes, please.</i>

ß represents **ss** and is used after a long vowel:
Straße (*street*), **Fuß** (*foot*).

Conversation



01.02 John Brown has just arrived in Germany and is meeting Herr Schuhmacher for the first time. Listen and follow the text. Then answer the question.

1 What time of day do you think it is? _____

Herr Schuhmacher	Guten Tag.
John	Guten Tag.
Herr Schuhmacher	Wie heißen Sie?
John	Ich verstehe nicht.
Herr Schuhmacher	Mein Name ist Schuhmacher, Udo Schuhmacher. Wie heißen Sie?
John	Ich heiße John Brown.
Herr Schuhmacher	Angenehm. Wie geht's?
John	Gut danke, und Ihnen?
Herr Schuhmacher	Gut danke ... Trinken Sie einen Kaffee?
John	Ich verstehe nicht. Sprechen Sie Englisch?
Herr Schuhmacher	Nein, leider nicht. Kaffee? ähm ... coffee?
John	Ja ... bitte ...
Herr Schuhmacher	Zucker ... sugar?
John	Nein, danke.
Herr Schuhmacher	Ja also, bis morgen. Auf Wiedersehen.
John	Auf Wiedersehen.

In normal conversation when answering the question *What's your name?* you wouldn't need to say *I am called* (**Ich heiße...**) or *my name is* (**Mein Name ist...**), but here we practise the full reply to help you to get used to the pattern of the language.

01.03 Listen again and speak John's part.

2 Match the questions and answers.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a Wie heißen Sie? | i Auf Wiedersehen. |
| b Wie geht es Ihnen? | ii Guten Tag. |
| c Auf Wiedersehen. | iii Ich heiße John. |
| d Sprechen Sie Englisch? | iv Nein, danke. |
| e Trinken Sie einen Kaffee? | v Gut danke, und Ihnen? |
| f Guten Tag. | vi Leider nicht. |

3 What do you think? Read the conversation and answer the questions below.

- a Are Herr Schuhmacher and John old friends?
- b What is Herr Schuhmacher's first name?
- c How is John?
- d How is Herr Schuhmacher?
- e John asks Herr Schuhmacher if he speaks English. He replies, **Nein, leider nicht**. Does he speak English or not? What do you think it means?

 **Language discovery**

1 Find the expressions in the conversation that mean:

- a Do you speak English?
- b Good day.
- c I don't understand.
- d Goodbye.
- e Pleased to meet you.
- f How are you?

Now cover up your answers and see if you can say them without looking at the conversation.

2 Which words from the conversation mean the same as the expressions below? Which word do you think is used for you?

- a What's your name?
- b Do you want a coffee?

Learn more

In German there are two ways of addressing people: a formal way and an informal way. You use the formal way when addressing:

- ▶ someone you don't know
- ▶ someone who is older than you
- ▶ someone to whom you want to show respect.

The key word to listen for is Sie followed by verbs ending with -en, such as: heißen (to be called), trinken (to drink), gehen (to go), verstehen (to understand), or sprechen (to speak).

Remember! In German, the verb endings change to 'agree' with the subject of the verb.
Ich (I) Ich gehe.
Sie (you) Sie gehen.

In English, we often start a question with *Do* as in *Do you speak English? Do you understand?* German (and most other European languages) don't use *do*, they just start with the verb: *Speak you English? Understand you? Drink you a coffee?* It may sound abrupt but it is quite normal. Try it:

Sprechen Sie Englisch? Verstehen Sie? Trinken Sie einen Kaffee?

Capital letters keep popping up where you don't expect them. This is because in German all nouns begin with a capital letter. Not sure what a noun is? A noun is a naming word. You can use *the, a* or *my* in front of it.

das Buch – *the book* **ein Auto** – *a car* **mein Freund** – *my friend*

Gut becomes **Guten** in front of **Morgen, Tag** and **Abend**, but **Gut** becomes **Gute** in front of **Nacht**. Want to know why? All will be explained later! For now, say them out loud to help you remember them.



PRACTICE

1 What verb endings appear with *Sie*? Complete the verbs.

- a Wie heiß _____ Sie?
- b Trink _____ Sie einen Kaffee?
- c Sprech _____ Sie Englisch?
- d Versteh _____ Sie Deutsch?
- e Geh _____ Sie ins Restaurant?
- f Wohn _____ Sie in London?

2 What verb ending appears after *Ich*? Complete the verbs.

- a Ich heiß _____ Klaus.
- b Ich versteh _____ nicht.

3 What are the nouns in these German sentences?

- a Trinken Sie einen Kaffee? *Would you like a coffee?*
- b Ich gehe in ein Restaurant. *I'm going to a restaurant.*
- c Hier ist mein Buch. *Here's my book.*
- d Das Auto ist neu. *The car is new.*
- e Mein Freund hat ein neues Auto. *My friend has a new car.*

Conversation



01.08 Listen and follow the text. Then answer the questions.

1 Where does Thorsten come from? Where does Jane come from?

Thorsten	Hallo, ich heie Thorsten. Wie heit du?
Jane	Jane.
Thorsten	Wie geht's Jane?
Jane	Gut danke und dir?
Thorsten	Auch gut, danke. Woher kommst du?
Jane	Aus England.
Thorsten	Wo wohnst du? In London?
Jane	Nein ich wohne in Manchester, in Nordengland. Woher kommst du?
Thorsten	Ich? Aus Sddeutschland.
Jane	Wo wohnst du?
Thorsten	In Mnchen. Trinkst du einen Kaffee?
Jane	Ja gerne.
Thorsten	Gut, gehen wir in die Bar.
<i>Spter (Later) ...</i>	
Jane	Danke fr den Kaffee.
Thorsten	Nichts zu danken. Tschs.
Jane	Tschs.

01.09 Listen again to the conversation.

2 Review the expressions below from the conversation. Then match them to the English meaning.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a Woher kommst du? | i Gladly/Willingly. |
| b Aus England. | ii Where are you from? |
| c Wo wohnst du? | iii Bye. |
| d Gerne. | iv Don't mention it. |
| e Nichts zu danken. | v Where do you live? |
| f Tschs. | vi From England. |



Language discovery

Which words from the conversation mean the same as the expressions below? Which word do you think is being used for *you* this time?

- 1 What's your name?
- 2 Where do you live?

Learn more

You have already learned the formal way of addressing people. Now let's look at the informal. You use the informal way when:

- ▶ talking to a friend
- ▶ you use first names
- ▶ you speak to a younger person.

The key word to listen for is **du** followed by verbs ending with **-st**, such as **heißt** (*to be called*), **trinkst** (*to drink*), **gehst** (*to go*), **verstehst** (*to understand*), or **sprechst** (*to speak*).

SPEAKING TIP

You only need to use *du* or *Sie* when asking a question, so listen to find out which form they use when speaking to you and use the same form in return!



PRACTICE

1 What verb endings appear with *du*? Complete the verbs.

- a Wo wohn_____ du?
- b Woher komm_____ du?
- c Trink_____ du einen Kaffee?

2 *Sie* or *du*? Which form is being used?

- a Wo wohnen _____?
- b Woher kommst _____?
- c Trinken _____ einen Kaffee?
- d Sprechen _____ Englisch?
- e Verstehst_____?
- f Trinkst _____ einen Kaffee?



3 01.10 Which form of *you* is being used?

- a du Sie
- b du Sie
- c du Sie
- d du Sie
- e du Sie
- f du Sie

4 Choose the right word to complete the sentences.

- a Woher (kommst/kommen) Sie?
- b (Sprichst/Sprechen) Sie Englisch?
- c Woher (kommst/kommen) du?
- d (Trinkst/trinken) Sie einen Kaffee?



5 Now prepare and give your own answers to these questions.

- a Wie heißt du?
- b Wie geht's?
- c Woher kommst du?

You might want to say:
Ich komme aus...

Schottland	<i>Scotland</i>
Irland	<i>Ireland</i>
Wales	<i>Wales</i>
Amerika	<i>America</i>
den Vereinigten Staaten	<i>the USA</i>

Reading and writing



1 Read the email. Can you figure out the meaning of the following words?

- a Ich lerne _____.
- b Lernst du _____?

✉← REPLY↶ REPLY ALL📎

Ich heiße Thorsten. Ich wohne in München in Süddeutschland.
Ich lerne Englisch. Was lernst du?

Tschüs

2 Answer the questions.

- a What is the writer's name?
- b Where does he live?
- c What is he learning?



3 Now write a response using what Thorsten has written as a model.

Test yourself



1 **01.11** Listen to these people and choose the correct time of day.

- a early morning later in the morning late afternoon night time
- b early morning later in the morning late afternoon night time
- c early morning later in the morning late afternoon night time
- d early morning later in the morning late afternoon night time

2 **01.12** Which form of talking are these people using?

- a formal informal
- b formal informal
- c formal informal
- d formal informal
- e formal informal

3 Choose the right words from the box to complete the sentences.

komme kommst kommen sprechen
sprichst wohne wohnst wohnen

- a Woher _____ Sie?
- b Ich _____ aus England
- c _____ Sie in London?
- d Ich _____ in Manchester.
- e _____ Sie Deutsch?
- f Woher _____ du?
- g _____ du in Deutschland?
- h _____ du Englisch?

SELF CHECK

I CAN...

- ... say *hello* and *goodbye*
- ... ask how someone is
- ... say how I am
- ... give my name
- ... say *I don't understand*
- ... ask someone if they speak English
- ... ask someone where they are from
- ... say where I come from