

Teil 2,2

machen = mach + en

active verbs

Until now you have been working exclusively with the verb *sein*, and, as a result, you have been limited to statal sentences, i.e., sentences in which no action takes place. We are now ready to begin using active verbs to describe events, ask questions about events, and give commands or make requests.

If you were to open a German dictionary to find a particular verb, you would find it listed in its infinitive form. The *infinitive* is the base form of the verb, the form from which all variant forms are derived. There are two parts to an infinitive: the *stem*, where the meaning of the verb resides, and the *infinitive ending*, which is always *-n* or *-en*. Examples:

machen (to do) = **mach** (stem) + **en** (ending)
schwimmen (to swim) = **schwimm** (stem) + **en** (ending)

Listed here are the infinitives of most of the active verbs you will be using shortly to make statements, ask questions, and give commands. Learn the meanings of these now before proceeding further.

sagen to say, tell
sprechen to speak
wiederholen to repeat
lesen to read
schreiben to write
beschreiben to describe

verstehen to understand
fragen to ask
antworten to answer

sehen to see
hören to hear

zeigen...auf to point to

zählen to count
studieren to study at a university
lernen to study (with a book or at home)

wohnen to live (i.e., reside)
arbeiten to work (also: to do school work)
schlafen to sleep

tragen to carry, wear
waschen to wash

bringen to bring
nehmen to take

öffnen to open
schließen to close

machen to do, make
kaufen to buy
verkaufen to sell

suchen to look for, seek
finden to find

kommen to come
gehen to go (by foot), to walk
laufen to run (colloquial: to walk)
fahren to go (by vehicle), to drive

sitzen to sit (state of sitting)
stehen to stand (state of standing)

bleiben to remain, to stay
warten wait

Übungen:

A. Concept Check. Fill in the blanks with the correct information.

1. A sentence that contains no action is a _____ sentence.
2. A verb that you have learned that is a statal verb is _____.
3. A sentence that contains or describes an action is known as an _____ sentence.
4. The verb in an actional sentence is known as an _____ verb.
5. The base form of the verb is called the _____.
6. This verb form consists of two parts: the _____ and the _____.
7. The meaning of the verb resides in the _____.

(See *Lösungen* and correct.)

B. Practice. Fill in the blanks with a verb that is opposite in meaning to the one given.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. fragen _____ | 6. bringen _____ |
| 2. schreiben _____ | 7. schließen _____ |
| 3. finden _____ | 8. kaufen _____ |
| 4. sitzen _____ | 9. arbeiten _____ |
| 5. gehen _____ | 10. fahren _____ |

(See *Lösungen* and correct.)

C. Practice. Write the stems for the following verbs:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. sagen _____ | 18. sitzen _____ |
| 2. sprechen _____ | 19. stehen _____ |
| 3. wiederholen _____ | 20. kommen _____ |
| 4. verstehen _____ | 21. gehen _____ |
| 5. fragen _____ | 22. fahren _____ |

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 6. antworten _____ | 23. bleiben _____ |
| 7. sehen _____ | 24. nehmen _____ |
| 8. hören _____ | 25. bringen _____ |
| 9. lesen _____ | 26. öffnen _____ |
| 10. schreiben _____ | 27. schließen _____ |
| 11. beschreiben _____ | 28. zeigen _____ |
| 12. machen _____ | 29. kaufen _____ |
| 13. zählen _____ | 30. verkaufen _____ |
| 14. laufen _____ | 31. studieren _____ |
| 15. suchen _____ | 32. lernen _____ |
| 16. finden _____ | 33. arbeiten _____ |
| 17. wohnen _____ | 34. schlafen _____ |
| | 35. tragen _____ |

(See *Lösungen* and correct.)

D. Practice. List verbs according to the following categorical questions.

1. Write the verbs that have something to do with *thinking and comprehending*.
2. Write the verbs that have something to do with *speaking*.
3. Write the verbs that have something to do with *the senses*.
4. Write the verbs that have something to do with *movement or traveling*.
5. Write the verbs that indicate a clear *absence of movement*.
6. Write the verbs that might be used with *doors and windows*.
7. Write the verbs that are innately associated with *students' work*.
8. Write the verbs that might be useful in describing what one might do with *clothing*.
9. Write the verbs that might be important where *money* is concerned.
10. Write the verbs that might be used with *keys or objects you typically carry with you*.