

# LEARNING GERMAN

## February 17, 2016

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LEKTION 1

Exercise 1 (273)

1. Wann sind Sie heute morgen aufgestanden?

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2. Was haben Sie heute angezogen? oder Was haben Sie heute an?

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3. Haben Sie heute morgen gefröstüct? Was haben Sie gegessen und getrunken?

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4. Haben Sie heute die Zeitung schon gelesen? Wann?

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5. Wann Sind Sie zur Uni gegangen?

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6. Sind Sie mit dem Auto, Fahrrad oder Straßenbahn gefahren, oder sind Sie gelaufen?

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7. Was studieren Sie jetzt?

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8. Welche Kurse haben Sie letzten Sommer gemacht?

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9. Was für Kurse nehmen Sie im nächsten Semester?

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10. Wann haben Sie zu Mittag gegessen?

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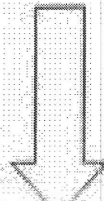
11. Was haben Sie zu Mittag gegessen und getrunken?

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12. Was haben Sie heute Mittag gemacht?

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13. Haben Sie Sport getrieben?



14. Was haben Sie zu Abend gegessen?

15. Haben Sie das Essen selbst gemacht?

16. Was haben Sie gestern gemacht?

17. Was machen Sie heute Abend?

18. Haben Sie heute schon fern gesehen?

19. Welche Fernsehsendungen lieben Sie?

20. Wann sind Sie gestern Abend ins Bett gegangen?

21. Wie lange haben Sie geschlafen?

22. Sind Sie heute morgen frisch oder müde?

23. Wo sind Sie jetzt?

You are already capable of speaking in several sentences. If you string these sentences together you are well on your way to sustaining longer utterances. All you need to make that happen is

- a. *something to say*, and
- b. *the means to say it*.

Assuming you have something to say, you will be limited only by your knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. If you have been putting time and effort into your studies, you have probably *mastered* much of what you learned. The rest of the lessons and the remaining lessons will help you continue to broaden your vocabulary and knowledge of grammatical features and you will

be able to communicate with greater precision and ease.

The exercises above consisted of a series of questions. The answers to which result in a chronology of your days event. Read over your answers several times and challenge yourself to relate today's or yesterdays events without recourse to reading.

## Warum duzen wir uns nicht?

### formal and informal levels of language

As you learned in *Kapitel Zwei*, you use first person verb forms (*ich* and *wir*) when you wish to make statements about yourself, second person verb forms (*Sie*) when you wish to address someone, and third person verb forms (*er, sie, es, man*, and the plural *sie*) to talk about other persons, things, or events.

We will focus attention now on language that is used in addressing persons, i.e., second person personal pronouns, reflexive pronouns, possessive adjectives, and second person verb forms. **Until now you have been using polite, or formal, language forms to speak to others.** You have seen that the pronoun *Sie* is used in the singular or plural to make statements, ask questions, and form commands and requests:

*Sie* sollen jetzt nach Hause gehen. *Sie* sehen krank aus.  
Haben *Sie* den Film gesehen? Haben *Sie* ihn gut gefunden?  
Beantworten *Sie* meine Fragen bitte.  
Würden *Sie* das für mich machen, bitte?

You have seen that the possessive adjective *Ihr* is often used in conjunction with *Sie*-form verbs:

Haben *Sie Ihre* Hausaufgaben gemacht?  
Haben *Sie Ihre* Freunde nach Hause gefahren?

We have withheld the familiar second person pronouns, possessive adjectives, and verb forms until now for a number of reasons. First, it is most important that you learn to use the formal, conventional forms of address since they are far more important for most forms of essential communication with strangers, as, for example, when traveling. Secondly, by withholding familiar forms until now, you had fewer verb and pronoun forms to deal with at one time, and, as a result, could learn to use the language to form statements, ask questions, and make commands and requests more quickly and more accurately. There would be no chance of your confusing or mixing formal and informal pronoun and verb forms—often a problem when students learn formal and informal forms simultaneously—because you learned only the formal forms. Thirdly, **the native speaker of German does not use informal forms indiscriminately. He or she waits until the other person is well known and trusted before using familiar forms.** Having you wait until you are better acquainted with both the German language and the students with whom you speak German approximates more closely the conditions under which informal language forms are used. Since you are already thoroughly familiar with the formal forms of German, you are now "ready" to learn the informal forms, and there is less likelihood that their use will pose any problem or cause any confusion.

### addressing a friend, peer, or relative: *du*

#### *du* vs. *Sie*

The formal *Sie*-forms are used whenever politeness or respect is required. This means that you should address strangers and elders and anyone in a position of authority with *Sie*. Whenever you use a surname or title, use *Sie*:

Guten Tag, Frau Steiner! Wohin gehen *Sie* jetzt?  
Herr Brinkmann, können *Sie* mir einen Moment helfen?  
Doktor Müller, ich glaube, *Sie* haben Ihre Papiere im Büro gelassen.

The pronoun *du* is used instead of *Sie* to address an individual who is a member of the family, a relative, or a good friend. By "good friend" is meant someone to whom one is genuinely close and in whom one can trust and confide. The difference between *Freund* and *Bekannter* (acquaintance) is more pronounced for Germans than for Americans. Germans will use *du* with *Freunde* and *Sie* with *Bekannte*. Generally, though not always, Germans will use *du* with persons with whom they are on a first name basis.

There are some exceptions to the "intimacy requirement" for using *du*. First, young children and school children are addressed with *du* until the eleventh grade, when they are about sixteen years old. At this time teachers begin to address students with *Sie*, unless the students wish otherwise. (Students will continue to address each other with *du*, however.) This coincides approximately with the time when most Germans who are Lutherans or Catholics, the two dominant religious groups in Germany, are confirmed. Hence, the use of *Sie* marks the time when a person is viewed as a young adult, not a child. Students at the university address each other with *du* as a sign of egalitarianism. Some professors are addressed by students with *du*, and some with *Sie*. (The professor will usually let everyone know if using *du* is all right.) It is to a certain extent a matter of age and politics: those who are younger and rather liberal generally tend to favor *du*; those who are older and/or more conservative generally tend to favor *Sie*. Blue collar workers generally say *du* to one another, while white collar workers tend to use *Sie* more. These observations hold true for the majority of cases, though obviously not all. Your instructor can and probably will elaborate in class on the use of *du* and *Sie*.

Although there is some flux today in the use of *du* and *Sie*, the best advice for you when addressing a native speaker of German is to wait until the speaker of German uses *du* to address you. At that point switch to *du*. Very often the German will say: *Sagen wir du zueinander!* or *Duzen wir uns!* or *Warum duzen wir uns nicht?* This will be the green light for using *du*. Indeed, very often a little drinking ceremony (*Brüderschaft trinken*) will accompany the official announcement of *du*.

You should be aware that the misuse of *Sie* or *du* can quite possibly lead to embarrassment or insult. If you say *du* to a stranger or a superior instead of *Sie*, it may well be interpreted as a lack of respect. It is conceivable that the person addressed may turn away from you and refuse to speak to you, or he or she may dress you down for being rude. On the other hand, if you say *Sie* to someone who has said *du* to you, the person may think you are rejecting his or her overture of friendship. Because Americans do not have a familiar form of *you*, and because we are not sensitive to this social distinction, it is a bit more difficult for Americans to use *du* and *Sie* appropriately, at least initially. Remember the advice to use the *Sie*-form until you know it is safe to use *du*, and you will avoid most potential difficulties!

### *dein vs. Ihr*

There is a familiar form of the possessive adjective that matches *du* much the same way that *Sie* and *Ihr* are associated. It is the *ein*-word *dein*. Note the following sentences and their identical meanings. The only difference is a *social* one:

Formal: Ist das Ihr Mantel?  
Informal: Ist das dein Mantel?

Formal: Wo sind Ihre Schlüssel?  
Informal: Wo sind deine Schlüssel?

Formal: Ich sehe Ihren Vater nicht.  
Informal: Ich sehe deinen Vater nicht.

## regular verbs: present tense

- 6 -

Now that the use of *du* and *dein* are clear, it is time to learn the present tense verb forms that agree with *du*. In this section we will examine verbs that are regular in the present tense. Although we will examine the various verb types systematically in subsequent sections, you will observe that the *du*-form of the verb is identical to the *er*-form except that the *du*-form ending is *-st* instead of *-t*. Since you are quite familiar with the *er*-forms, there is little new to learn. Observe:

Er macht das ziemlich gut, aber du machst es viel besser, Paul.  
Sie kommt um fünf nach Hause, und du kommst um sechs, nicht?  
Er arbeitet bis sechs. Arbeitest du auch bis sechs?  
Marlies kauft eine Platte. Was kaufst du?  
Hans braucht jetzt Hilfe. Brauchst du meine Hilfe auch?  
Sie sagt nichts. Sagst du etwas?  
Er wartet schon lange. Wie lange wartest du schon hier?  
Findest du Sabine hübsch?  
Warum machst du das Licht aus? Ich will lesen!  
Warum antwortest du nicht?  
Wann stehst du morgen früh auf?  
Gehst du heute abend aus?  
Reservierst du einen Tisch für vier im Restaurant?  
Was studierst du?  
Erkennst du ihn?  
Was bringst du nach Hause mit?  
Warum erklärst du deine Antwort nicht?  
Glaubst du das nicht?  
Spielst du gern Tennis?  
Warum rauchst du? Es ist doch ungesund!  
Schwimmst du gern, wenn es heiß ist?  
Was suchst du denn hier?

Note how *dein* is used in conjunction with *du* and how they are contrasted with *Sie* and *Ihr*:

Formal: Machen Sie jetzt Ihre Hausaufgaben?  
Informal: Machst du jetzt deine Hausaufgaben?

Formal: Suchen Sie Ihre Bücher?  
Informal: Suchst du deine Bücher?

Formal: Brauchen Sie Ihr Auto fürs Wochenende?  
Informal: Brauchst du dein Auto fürs Wochenende?

Note: The second person forms are used, for the most part, to ask questions, give commands, and make suggestions. Most of the practice involved in *Kapitel Acht* centers on these functions.

## Übungen:

### A. Theory Check. Fill in the blanks with the correct information.

1. If you wish to make statements about yourself, you use \_\_\_\_\_ person verb forms.
2. If you wish to make statements about others, you use \_\_\_\_\_ person verb forms.
3. If you wish to speak to someone, you use \_\_\_\_\_ person verb forms.

4. The formal or polite second person verb forms consist of the pronoun \_\_\_\_\_ and a form of the verb that is identical to the infinitive.
5. The punctuation mark at the end of a command is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. If you address a member of the family, a relative, or good friend, or younger children, the informal pronoun \_\_\_\_\_ is used instead of *Sie*.
7. This pronoun is commonly used among peers, such as among \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
8. At approximately what age does one begin to be addressed by *Sie* instead of *du* (except, of course, when addressed by members of the family, relatives, and good friends)? \_\_\_\_\_
9. The verb form that agrees with *du* must end in \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The informal possessive pronoun that "matches up" with *du* the same way *Ihr* "matches up" with *Sie* is \_\_\_\_\_.
11. What are potential consequences of misusing *du* and *Sie*?

**B. For each of the following persons listed, determine whether *du* or *Sie* would be normally used in addressing them:**

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. your father _____     | 9. your teacher _____     |
| 2. a stranger _____      | 10. an older person _____ |
| 3. a boyfriend _____     | 11. a girlfriend _____    |
| 4. you mother _____      | 12. your brother _____    |
| 5. your aunt _____       | 13. an uncle _____        |
| 6. your sister _____     | 14. a grandparent _____   |
| 7. an acquaintance _____ | 15. your superior _____   |
| 8. another student _____ | 16. a co-worker _____     |

Note: God is normally addressed with *Du* in prayers, signifying an intimate relationship. Pets (We all talk to our dogs and cats!) are addressed with *du*.

**C. Tell me, a good friend, that:**

1. I work too much
2. I am not playing enough sports
3. I get up too early
4. I go to sleep too late



5. I smoke too much
6. I need a vacation

(See answer key and correct)

**D. Write appropriate sentences. Ask me, a good friend:**

1. if I'm coming by later
2. or if I'm working tonight
3. or if I am studying for the test and doing my homework now
4. if I'm going out this evening
5. or if I am staying home tonight
6. if I am going to play Tennis this afternoon
7. or if I will swim
8. if I need your car
9. why I am not answering—could it be that I don't hear you