

- 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.

Teil 2,3

Wir lernen Deutsch.

verb forms: present tense

The verb forms you will be learning are present tense forms. **By tense is meant the time-frame presented by the verb. Present tense verb forms are used to make statements and questions about the present, i.e., right now.** As you saw previously, the verb *sein* has variant forms that must agree with the subject. This is also the case with all other verbs in German. Note the verb *studieren* (to study) displayed below schematically and observe the standard present tense verb endings in boldface italics:

studieren	
ich studiere	wir studieren
-- Sie studieren --	
er/sie/es studiert	sie studieren

As you can see, the verb endings are added to the stem. When *ich* is the subject, the ending is *-e*. When *er, sie, es*, or a singular noun is the subject, the verb ending is *-t*. When the subject is *wir, Sie, sie* (plural), or a plural noun, the verb ending is *-en*, i.e., the resulting form is identical to the infinitive. The fact that there are only three distinctive verb endings to learn right now means that German verbs will be easy to master and use conversationally right away.

Note the German sentence below and the three possible renderings in English:

Wir studieren Deutsch = We study German.
 We are studying German.
 We do study German.

As you can see, there is only one verb form in the German present tense whereas English equivalents may involve more than one. Again, you can see that working with German verbs is quite simple. Study the following short sentences and try to express the same idea in English three different ways:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Wir wiederholen es. | Ich spreche Deutsch. | Fritz versteht das. |
| Er versteht das nicht. | Sie sehen das Bild. | Wir schreiben das. |
| Sie lesen das nicht. | Inge geht. | Ich komme. |
| Peter lernt Deutsch. | Maria sucht es. | Sie finden es. |
| Wir öffnen das Fenster. | Ich schlafe gut. | Sie lernen das. |
| Holger und Jürgen nehmen es. | Herr und Frau Schneider machen das. | |

Remember: While English may have more than one verb form in the present tense, German uses only one verb form for the present tense.

Übungen:

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

1. When we talk about the "time" of the verb, we generally use the term _____.
2. The tense used to describe the "here and now" is the _____ tense.
3. Verbs display _____ to show agreement with the subject.
4. When *ich* is the subject, the verb ending is _____.
5. When *er, sie, es, das*, or a singular noun is the subject, the verb ending is _____.
6. When the subject of the sentence is *wir, Sie, sie*, or a plural noun, the verb ending is _____.
7. In the present tense in German there is only _____ verb form.
8. In English it is possible to have _____ verb forms in the present tense.
9. If you find you are using more than one German verb in a present tense sentence, you know you are making a _____!

(See *Lösungen* and correct.)

Teil 2,4

Hans arbeitet nicht.
Hans lernt nicht.

regular verbs

Verbs whose stems do not change are called *regular verbs*. If you look back to the schematic display of *studieren*, you will see that the stem remains constant—it is always *studier-*—regardless of the subject or verb ending. Most verbs have regular stems in the present tense. Some of these are:

sagen, wiederholen, verstehen, fragen, hören, schreiben, beschreiben, machen, zählen, suchen, wohnen, sitzen, stehen, kommen, gehen, bleiben, bringen, schließen, zeigen, kaufen, verkaufen, studieren, lernen.

If we take the verb *hören* (to hear), for example, we can reduce it to its stem *hör-*. Since we know that its stem is regular, we can now combine the stem with the various endings to form present tense sentences:

Ich höre Musik	Wir hören Musik
--Hören Sie Musik?---	
Hans/Er hört Musik	Die Studenten/Sie hören Musik.