

Konjunktiv Eins

(also known as: *special subjunctive, newspaper subjunctive, present-stem subjunctive*)

DEFINITION:

Konjunktiv I is a special form of the verb. Konjunktiv I is the equivalent of a quote. It indicates that the author of an article or story is reporting what a third party said. Konjunktiv I is a formal style used in newspaper writing or literature to show indirect speech. Occasionally, Konjunktiv I appears in spoken language but is found far more frequently in formal written style.

REPORTED SPEECH:

In reported speech, there are three “participants,” the author, the reader and a third person. When the author speaks of information known to him, he uses the indicative. However, when the author reports to the reader what a third person said, the words of the third person are relayed to the reader in Konjunktiv I (in formal written German). These words from the third person are not quoted directly, rather they are slightly paraphrased. This re-working of what the third person said is called *reported speech*.

Der Geschäftsleiter sagt, er *müsse* mindestens siebzig Stunden in der Woche arbeiten. (Konjunktiv I)
(The head of the business says he *needs* to work at least seventy hours a week.)

Compare the above example of indirect speech to the example below of direct speech.

Der Geschäftsleiter sagt: „Ich *mus*s mindestens siebzig Stunden in der Woche arbeiten.“. (Indikativ)
(The head of the business says, “I *need* to work at least seventy hours a week.”)

BASIC FORM OF KONJUNTIV EINS:

Konjunktiv I is based on the infinitive of the verb (also called *present-stem* of the verb). Since Konjunktiv I appears typically in third person singular only, it is not necessary to learn the full set of conjugations for this verb form. Forms for second person singular exist but are rarely used. Plural is not used except with the verb *sein* (see below).

The 3rd person singular conjugation of Konjunktiv I is the stem of verb plus the ending *-e*.
Compare this to the indicative present singular conjugations where the verb typically ends in *-t*.

<i>Konjunktiv I</i>	<i>Präsens Indikativ</i>	<i>Konjunktiv I</i>	<i>Präsens Indikativ</i>
sie mache	sie macht	sie wolle	sie will
es werde	es wird	er müsse	er muss
er habe	er hat	es gebe	es gibt

Konjunktiv I is never used in the plural except for the verb *sein* (see below). Instead, Konjunktiv II is used where indirect speech is reported. Because the plural forms for Konjunktiv I are identical to the indicative, Konjunktiv II (which is different from the indicative) is employed to distinguish the indirect speech from indicative.

<i>Konjunktiv II</i>	<i>Konjunktiv I (not used)</i>	<i>Präsens Indikativ</i>
hätten	haben	haben
könnten	können	können
würden	werden	werden

The verb *sein* has special forms in both singular and plural:

Konjunktiv I "sein" 3sg

Konjunktiv I "sein" 3pl

sei

seien

Die Mitarbeiter behaupten, sie *seien* mit der Lohnerhöhung sehr zufrieden.

(The workers claim they *are* very happy with the raise.)

FRAME AND REPORTED SPEECH:

When the author tells a story or creates a news article, he sets up a *frame* in which the events of the story unfold. If within this frame are couched words of people whom the author is indirectly quoting, then the words of those people are relayed to the reader as *reported speech*. Reported speech is also known as *indirect discourse*. – *Indirekte Rede*. In order to understand the time and tense of reported speech in German, it is essential that the reader be aware of the time of the frame. Look at the following example and find the frame and the *reported speech*. The underlined verbs indicate the frame of the story and the verbs in *italic* indicate *reported speech*.

Yesterday morning, several demonstrators were arrested when they blocked the entrance to the Grundig electronics factory. When asked how long she was planning on continuing with the demonstration, Ursula Stüpping, chairperson of the local union, said she *would fight* the current administration until all of the pay issues *were resolved*.

Note the contrast to Ursula's speech if it had been reported directly as a quotation in the example below:

Ursula Stüpping said, "I *will fight* the current administration until all of the pay issues *are resolved*."

Note that reported speech is a slight paraphrase of what was actually said. In the paraphrase, some of the pronouns and some of the verbs are restated in a different form to help indicate that the speech is reported. When examining reported speech in German, it is important to determine the time of the frame and then identify the form of the indirect discourse (the paraphrase).

FORMS AND MEANINGS OF KONJUNKTIV EINS IN GERMAN:

In the following examples, the frame verbs are underlined and the reported speech (Konjunktiv I) is in *italic*.

The numbers after each example refer to the patterns listed in the reference chart that follows below.

SIMPLEX FORM · (Konjunktiv I alone)

The indirect discourse is expressed with a single verb in Konjunktiv I.

The time of the paraphrase (Konjunktiv I) matches the time of the frame. (Look to the frame verb to determine the time.)

If the frame is in present time and the form of Konjunktiv I is simplex then the time of the paraphrase (Konj) is present.

If the frame is in past time and the form of Konjunktiv I is simplex then the time of the paraphrase (Konj) is past.

Examples where Konjunktiv I is simplex so its time matches that of the frame:

frame verb in present time / Konj I = present: Die Leiterin sagt, sie *arbeite* viel. - The director says she *works* a lot. (1)

frame verb in past time / Konj I = past: Die Leiterin sagte, sie *arbeite* viel. - The director said she *worked* a lot. (5)

frame verb in past time / Konj I = past: Die Leiterin hat gesagt, sie *arbeite* viel. - The director said she *worked* a lot. (5)

PERFECT FORM · (*habe or sei + Partizip II*)

The indirect discourse is expressed with the auxiliary verb in Konjunktiv I + the lexical verb appears as Partizip II.

The time of the paraphrase (Konjunktiv I) is one step back in time from the frame.

One step back from present is past, ex: She sees → She saw; one step back from past is remote past. Ex: She saw → She had seen

The *remote past* in English is expressed as: *had* + past participle. Ex: had gone, had eaten, had worked, had lived, etc.

If the frame is in present time and the form of Konjunktiv I is perfect, then the time of the paraphrase (Konj) is past.

If the frame is in past time and the form of Konjunktiv I is perfect then the time of the paraphrase is remote past.

(Note: Remote Past has several names such as “pluperfect, past perfect” and in German “Plusquamperfekt.”)

The following examples show Konjunktiv I in perfect, the time of Kon I is one step back in the past from the time of the frame:

frame in present / Konj I = past: Die Leiterin sagt, sie *habe* viel *gearbeitet*. - The director says she *worked* a lot. (2)

frame in past / Konj I = remote past: Sie sagte, sie *sei* in dem Gebäude *geblieben*. - She said she *had stayed* in the building. (6)

frame in past / Konj I = remote past: Die Leiterin hat gesagt, sie *habe* viel *gearbeitet*. - The director said she *had worked* a lot. (6)

MODAL VERBS + Konjunktiv I · (*modal verb + infinitive*)

The indirect discourse (the paraphrase) is expressed with a modal verb in Konjunktiv I + the lexical verb is an infinitive.

Treat these forms the same as if they were simplex Konjunktiv I. Put the modal into the same time as that of the frame.

(You may need to paraphrase the modal, especially if the report is in past time.)

The following examples show Konjunktiv I in a modal verb the paraphrased modal in English:

frame present / Konj I = present modal: Die Leiterin sagt, sie *müsse* viel *arbeiten*. - The director says she *has to work* a lot. (3)

frame past / Konj I = past modal: Die Leiterin sagte, sie *müsse* viel *arbeiten*. - The director said she *had to work* a lot. (7)

frame past / Konj I = past modal: Die Leiterin hat gesagt, sie *müsse* viel *arbeiten*. - The director said she *had to work* a lot. (7)

frame present / Konj I = pres. modal: Die Leiterin sagt, sie *solle* viel *arbeiten*. - The director says she *is supposed to work* a lot. (3)

frame past / Konj I = past modal: Die Leiterin sagte, sie *solle* viel *arbeiten*. - The director said she *was supposed to work* a lot. (7)

frame past / Konj I = past: Die Leiterin hat gesagt, sie *solle* viel *arbeiten*. - The director said she *was supposed to work* a lot. (7)

WERDE (future) · (*werde + infinitive*)

The indirect discourse (the paraphrase) is expressed with *werden* in Konjunktiv I + the lexical verb as an infinitive.

If the frame is in present time and the form of Konjunktiv I is *werde* then *werde* translates to *will*.

If the frame is in past time and the form of Konjunktiv I is *werde* then *werde* translates to *would*.

The following examples show Konjunktiv I as *werde* and how that translates into English:

frame in present / Konj I = will: Die Leiterin sagt, sie *werde* viel *arbeiten*. - The director says she *will work* a lot. (4)

frame in past / Konj I = would: Die Leiterin sagte, sie *werde* viel *arbeiten*. - The director said she *would work* a lot. (8)

frame in past / Konj I = would: Die Leiterin hat gesagt, sie *werde* viel *arbeiten*. - The director said she *would work* a lot. (8)

QUICK REFERENCE CHART:

When analyzing Konjunktiv I, apply the following hierarchy of analysis:

Read the German text and find the *time* of the frame, either past or present.

Determine the *form* of Konjunktiv I (simplex, perfect, modal, or *werde*).

Read down the chart to find the time of the paraphrase for the English equivalent.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Time of frame	The frame is in present time				The frame is in past time			
Form of Konjunktiv I	simplex	perfect	modal	<i>werde</i>	simplex	perfect	modal	<i>werde</i>
Time of paraphrase (or form of English verb)	present	past	pres modal + infinitive	<i>will</i> + infinitive	past	remote past	past modal + infinitive	<i>would</i> + infinitive

Example Analysis:

Der Vorsitzende betonte, der Ausschuss *habe* einen lobenswerten Entschluss *getroffen*. (6)

frame verb = betonte (past) · discourse/Konjunktiv I = *habe getroffen* (perfect) · time of the English paraphrase = remote past
(The chairman emphasized that the committee *had reached* an admirable decision.)

More Examples:

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|--|---|
| (1) Sie <u>behauptet</u> , sie <i>kenne</i> den Täter. | She claims, she <i>knows</i> the perpetrator. |
| (5) Sie <u>behauptete</u> , sie <i>kenne</i> den Täter. | She claimed, she <i>knew</i> the perpetrator. |
| (2) Sie <u>behauptet</u> , sie <i>habe</i> den Täter <i>gekannt</i> . | She claims, she <i>knew</i> the perpetrator. |
| (6) Sie <u>behauptete</u> , sie <i>habe</i> den Täter <i>gekannt</i> . | She claimed, she <i>had known</i> the perpetrator. |
| (3) Sie <u>behauptet</u> , sie <i>wolle</i> den Täter <i>kennen</i> . | She claims, she <i>wants to know</i> the perpetrator. |
| (7) Sie <u>behauptete</u> , sie <i>wolle</i> den Täter <i>kennen</i> . | She claimed, she <i>wanted to know</i> the perpetrator. |
| (4) Sie <u>behauptet</u> , sie <i>werde</i> den Täter <i>kennen</i> . | She claims, she <i>will know</i> the perpetrator. |
| (8) Sie <u>behauptete</u> , sie <i>werde</i> den Täter <i>kennen</i> . | She claimed, she <i>would know</i> the perpetrator. |

KONJUNKTIV ZWEI IN PLURAL

Konjunktiv I is not used in the plural except with the verb *sein*. In the plural Konjunktiv II is used to indicate indirect speech.

Konjunktiv II is used sometimes in the singular with verbs other than *sein*. See the following examples:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Die Ärztin <u>glaubt</u> , ihre Patienten <i>hätten</i> ein Virus. (Konj II) | The doctor <u>believes</u> her patients <i>have</i> a virus. |
| Die Bürger <u>sagen</u> , sie <i>seien</i> unzufrieden. (Konj I) | The citizens <u>say</u> they <i>are</i> dissatisfied. |
| Die Bürger <u>sagen</u> , sie <i>wären</i> unzufrieden. (Konj II) | The citizens <u>say</u> they <i>are</i> dissatisfied. |
| Die Bürger <u>sagen</u> , sie <i>wären</i> unzufrieden <i>gewesen</i> . (Konj II) | The citizens <u>say</u> they <i>were</i> dissatisfied. |
| Die Bürger <u>sagen</u> , sie <i>seien</i> unzufrieden <i>gewesen</i> . (Konj I) | The citizens <u>say</u> they <i>were</i> dissatisfied. |
| Der Blinde <u>meint</u> , er <i>habe</i> seine Sicht wieder. (Konj I) | The blind man <u>thinks</u> he <i>has</i> his sight again. |
| Der Blinde <u>meint</u> , er <i>hätte</i> seine Sicht wieder. (Konj II) | The blind man <u>thinks</u> he <i>has</i> his sight again. |
| Der Bundeskanzler <u>behauptet</u> , die Ostdeutschen <i>würden</i> in kurzer Zeit mit ihrer Lage <i>zurechtkommen</i> . | |
| The chancellor of the republic <u>claims</u> that the East Germans <i>will deal</i> with their situation in a short time. | |