

Machen wir jetzt eine Pause!....Let's take a break now.  
Machen wir eine Pause von fünf Minuten!....Let's take a five-minute break.

**Exercises:**  
**Übungen:**

A. Guided Communication. Formulate the question that would elicit the given answer:

Model: Was ist das? Das ist die Kreide.  
Wer ist das? Das ist die Studentin?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Das ist die Tür.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Das ist die Tafel.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Das ist der Professor.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Das ist der Kugelschreiber.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Das ist die Lehrerin.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Das ist der Student.

(See answer key ( *Lösungen* ) and correct.)

## Teil 1,5

Sind Sie Deutsche oder Amerikanerin?  
Ich bin Amerikanerin.

### *sein*

Perhaps the most important verb in German is the verb *sein*. This verb corresponds to the verb *to be*. Thus far you have used only one form, *ist*. In this section you will learn three more forms.

### infinitive: *sein*

First of all, the form *sein* is known as the infinitive. The infinitive is the base form of the verb, the form that is listed in dictionaries. As you will see, the forms of *sein* do not look much like the infinitive, and for this reason we say that the verb is *highly irregular*. As you saw in the example sentences and in the exercises you have completed, verbs are not used in isolation, but rather, in sentences. You have also seen that verbs always have subjects. Until now, the subject of all of the sentences you have been using

has been *Das*:

Das ist die Kreide. Das ist das Heft. Das ist der Assistent.

It is now time to learn some more pronoun subjects. Here are two of the most often used English pronouns and their German equivalents:

I.....*ich*      you.....*Sie*

The verb *sein* agrees or "matches up" with these pronoun subjects as follows:

*Ich bin*      *Sie sind*  
*I am*      *You are*

This kind of "matching up" is called **subject-verb agreement**. When you learn new verbs and their forms in the future, you will have to learn to associate the correct form with the subject.

Note: The pronoun *ich* is capitalized only when it is the first word in a sentence. The pronoun *Sie* is always capitalized. This is the exact reverse of English practice. You can observe this in the example sentences in the next section.

### occupations and nationalities

When an American identifies his or her occupation or nationality the word *a* or *an* is used:

Are you a German?.....No, I'm *an* American.  
Are you a student?.....No, I'm *a* salesperson.

In German the equivalent for *a* or *an* is not used. The noun is used alone:

Sind Sie Deutscher?.....Nein, ich bin Amerikaner.  
Sind Sie Student?.....Ja, ich bin Student.

### female members of nationalities and professions

If one is identifying a woman as a member of a profession or nationality, the suffix *-in* is normally used:

Lehrer teacher (male)      Lehrerin teacher (female)  
Amerikaner American (male)      Amerikanerin American (female)

Sometimes an *umlaut* ("") is added to the feminine form:

Arzt physician (male)      Ärztin physician (female)  
Anwalt lawyer (male)      Anwältin lawyer (female)

Sometimes the feminine form ends in *-e*:

Deutscher German (male)      Deutsche German (female)

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Learn the following words for male and female members of professions and nationalities:

Amerikaner/Amerikanerin American  
Kanadier/Kanadierin Canadian  
Mexikaner/Mexikanerin Mexican  
Deutscher/Deutsche German  
Österreicher/Österreicherin Austrian  
Schweizer/Schweizerin Swiss  
Engländer/Engländerin English

Student/Studentin university student  
Lehrer/Lehrerin teacher  
Professor/Professorin professor  
Assistent/Assistentin assistant, TA  
Sekretär/Sekretärin secretary  
Chef/Chefin boss  
Kellner/Kellnerin waitperson  
Verkäufer/Verkäuferin salesperson  
Arzt/Ärztin physician  
Anwalt/Anwältin lawyer

Note: For the noun *Professor* the primary stress is on the *e*: *Proféssor*. For the feminine noun *Professorin* the primary stress is on the second *o*: *Professórin*.

### Useful Classroom Expressions

The following expressions will enable you to express some basic problems or needs:

You need help: **Helfen Sie mir bitte.**

You have a question: **Ich habe eine Frage.**

You want to find out what something means: **Was bedeutet xxxxxxxx bitte?**

You want to know the German word: **Wie sagt man xxxxxxxx?**

You don't understand something: **Ich verstehe das nicht.**

You lost the page: **Auf welcher Seite bitte?** or **Wo sind wir bitte?**

You want something repeated: **Wiederholen Sie das bitte.** Or: **Wie bitte?**

### Exercises:

#### Übungen:

A. Situation: Assume that you are Mary Hopkins, a secretary from Lexington, Kentucky. How would you answer these questions?

1. Wer sind Sie? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Woher sind Sie? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Sind Sie Amerikanerin? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Sind Sie Studentin? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Situation: Assume that you are Peter Schmidt, a young doctor from Bremen. How would you answer these questions?

1. Wer sind Sie? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Sind Sie Amerikaner? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Woher sind Sie? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Sind Sie Student? \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Situation: Assume that you are Ronald Lightfoot, a waiter from Toronto. How would you answer these questions?**

1. Wer sind Sie? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Sind Sie Amerikaner? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Sind Sie aus Ottawa? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sind Sie Student? \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Situation: Assume you are Juanita Mendez, a teacher from El Paso, Texas. How would you answer these questions?**

1. Wer sind Sie? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Sind Sie Mexikanerin? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Woher sind Sie denn? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sind Sie Studentin? \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Free Communication. Answer the following questions truthfully. Write your answers double-spaced on 8 1/2" x 11" paper and hand them in to your instructor. This will allow your teacher to check your written work and offer advice for improvement.**

1. Wer sind Sie?
2. Sind Sie Engländer/Engländerin?
3. Woher sind Sie?
4. Sind Sie Anwalt/Anwältin?
5. Sind Sie Lehrer/Lehrerin