

Herzlich willkommen!

Time 00:40

Instructor: Guten Tag, guten Tag, herzlich willkommen! Zum Deutschkurs German 1. Guten Tag, herzlich Willkommen, herzlich Willkommen zum Deutschkurs German 1. Ok, generally do you get the sense what I'm trying to say? Yes or no?

[students: yes]

Instructor: yeah, so what did you understand by whatever is there on the screen or what I just said?

[students: welcome to german class, good day, heartiest welcome to the course german 1]

Instructor: good day, hearty welcome to the german course or to the course german 1. So as you see it is, once you get into the flow of the language, it is not very difficult to understand quite a bit of it. You can if you just take a little bit of effort, you can understand a lot of things. Today especially languages are very internationalized, you know?

So you have for example what we have here, the entire paraphernalia which is, which is info tech. Info tech has changed the vocabulary of so many languages. You know for example, you have the mouse, what do you do with the mouse? Click. So in english it is "click" in german it is "klicken" and so on and so forth. So you'll find a computer, is although the german language has another word for computer, which is "Rechner".

But, in today's day and age, "computer" is accepted as a german word, ok. So, you'll find that a lot of, there are a lot of commonalities because of the last, let's say 300 years of globalization, we do have a lot of exchange between languages and so it is not entirely foreign. When we get into a foreign language we discover that it is not entirely foreign.

Yeah, guten Tag.

[students: guten Tag.]

Instructor: guten Tag.

[students: guten Tag.]

Time 04:04

Instructor: herzlich willkommen zum Deutschkurs German Eins. Don't have to repeat that. Herzlich willkommen zum Deutschkurs German Eins, "Eins". German 1, German Eins. So, with these two or three phrases, we will begin the course, with a few questions. So, let's start with what you know about Germany, to what you think about Germany, why you have decided to learn the German language. Very simple questions, where is Germany?

[students: Europe]

Instructor: Europe. Where in Europe?

[students: somewhere in the middle]

Instructor: somewhere in the middle of Europe. If you take the western and the eastern borders of Europe what would you think would be the western border and where would be the eastern border roughly?

[students: western would be England and France, Ireland, and eastern -- Turkey]

Instructor: eastern, Turkey okay. Further north?

[students: Norway]

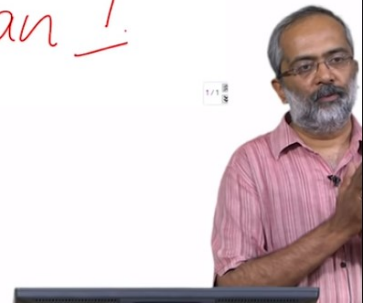
Instructor: Norway, that's really farthest north. Ok, so basically, roughly we know that, or we can take Russia for example also is a Eurasian country right? Russia is, a part of it is in Europe, part of it is in Asia, so it's called a Eurasian country. Turkey, which is the city which is half in Asia half in Europe?

[students: Istanbul]

Instructor: Istanbul. So if you take roughly this border on the eastern side and let's say, Ireland but Iceland -- Iceland is also in Europe right? Iceland is also counted as a European country, isn't it further west of Ireland? Probably, anyway, so, and to the south? Where would be the border of Europe in the south?

[students: all the Mediterranean countries; Greece, Italy...]

Guten Tag!
Herzlich willkommen!
zum Deutschkurs - German I.



Time 06:49

Instructor: yeah, the Mediterranean is a very important geographical marker for Europe because it is the southern border of Europe in a sense. And then the Mediterranean separates which two continents?

[students: Africa and Europe]

Instructor: yeah so north African countries and south European countries and then the Mediterranean between them, right. So somewhere in the centre of this entire land mass you have Germany which is quite correct.

It is said to be in “central” Europe. So to say Germany is a central European country. A little more to the west than to the east, perhaps, but yes. Any idea about what are the bordering nations of Germany?

[student: france]

Instructor: what are the bordering nations of India, let's start with that. We start from the south east, Srilanka, ok then?

[students: Bangladesh, Bhutan]

Time 07:47

Instructor: Bangladesh, further right from Bangladesh?

[students: Myanmar]

Instructor: Myanmar, then Bhutan, Nepal, China, Afghanistan, Pakistan, so this is a ring around India. So similarly if you try and imagine the map of Germany, then what would you get? Let's start with the northwest corner of Germany and come down southwest, south, southeast, east, northeast. What would you have around Germany?

[students: Poland]

Instructor: northwest corner.

[students: Netherlands]

Instructor: ok lets start with Poland. Poland is towards what? It is towards the east of Germany. Ok, so if you start with Poland then we can come clockwise. After Poland?

[students: Austria]

Instructor: yeah Austria is towards south east of Germany. Okay, France, which side? Yes, Germany shares its western border with France and southwestern as well. Yes, Czech Republic on the East again.

Instructor: Any other countries that you know which lie in that vicinity, which perhaps share a border with Germany? Slovenia, yeah it is more to the southeast, but Slovenia I think doesn't have a border with Germany, it has a border with Austria. Switzerland, of course.

Where is Switzerland vis a vis the German landmass? South- southwest is Switzerland. So if you look at the German map then the south is Austria from the southeast, and Switzerland from the southwest and it is a contiguous German speaking area.

So Switzerland also, a large part of it is German speaking, Austria is of course German speaking, so it is a contiguous land mass. Any other countries that you think have a border with Germany? Apart from France -- let's see, we've come Switzerland, France, then go further up, northwest.

[students: Italy]

Time 10:30

Instructor: Italy is to the... Italy is a Mediterranean country, it's to the south ok. And Italy again doesn't have a border with Germany. It has a border with Austria, yes, but not with Germany.

But on the west, above France? Netherlands yes, and Belgium has a border with Germany? Aachen, yeah, so Belgium very small corridor. Belgium, Netherlands and to the north? One more country and then we're done with geography class ok? Sweden, no, Sweden doesn't have a border with Germany but Denmark yes. Denmark has a border with Germany.

And so you see, it is a very strategically located country actually because it really shares a border with a lot of other countries. Do you know whether Germany has a sea coast or not? You don't think it does, ok. Anybody thinks it does? Well, it has, it has a coastline. It has a coast and it has sea ports as well ok, it has a lot of inland river ports but it also has sea ports.

Any port city you know of Germany? Not airport -- airport city? Frankfurt ok. Port city? Any German ports? Which German cities do you know? Let's see.

Hamburg, Hamburg is a big port city in Germany. Otherwise? Munich is not a port, Munich has an airport but not a port. **[Stuttgart]** no they're inland.

Duesseldorf has a river port, Duesseldorf doesn't have a sea port. But it's ok, so Hamburg is to the north and where is the sea in Germany?

In India it is very simple no, in India if you talk about Indian geography then it is very simple. What do we have as our northern border?

Instructor: The Himalayas and as you come down south from the Himalayas what happens? What happens to the terrain? You come down, **[it gets flatter]** it gets flatter. You come down to the plains. Ok, so it is high in the north and then the shelf moves downwards as you come south. Then of course in the south you have other hills like the Western Ghats, or the Eastern Ghats to an extent etc. the Vindhyas, in the middle. So you have some hills but in general the shelf is from the north to the south.

When you think of Europe, what... there's the Mediterranean of course, in the south of Europe, what is the mountain range in Europe. **[the Alps]** Alps.

Time: 13:46

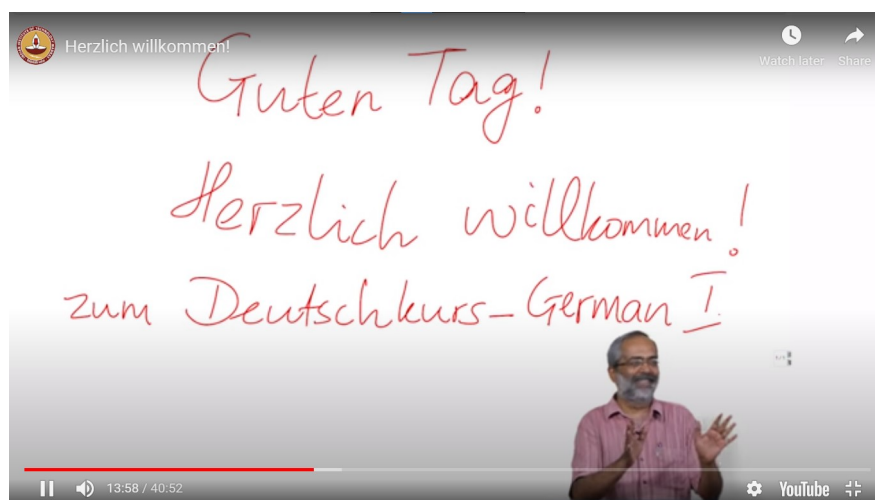
Instructor: And which countries would you associate with the Alps? **[Switzerland]** Switzerland is first of course, then? That is the Bollywood effect, because Bollywood, all Shah Rukh Khan films are filmed in Switzerland, that's why. And that is also in Switzerland in a place called Interlaken, and most of our troupes go to Interlaken to film songs. But anyway, Switzerland, Austria, Germany itself, France has partly some Alps, Italy also, northern Italy.

And so with respect to the German geography where is all this? To the north, south, east west? **[south]** to the south. So the German, southern border of Germany is primarily the Alps or the mountainous region. And as you move north, it flattens out into plains. So the shelf is the reverse of what it is in India. In India it is high in the north and the sea coast to the south. And Germany, it is high in the south, sea coast to the north.

So if you imagine the flow of the rivers in India, many of them have their origin in the Himalayas and then they flow through the plains to either the Bay of Bengal, all of them go to the Bay of Bengal, very few go to the Arabian Sea anyways. Which is the only river that goes to the Arabian Sea? Major river. **[Indus]** Indus is in Pakistan. Narmada, yes. Narmada goes into the Arabian Sea.

Ok so, the German rivers, you have to imagine. Which is the major German river? **[Rhein]** the Rhein yeah of course, the Rhein is probably the most iconic German river, and the Rhein has its origins somewhere on the border of Switzerland and Germany, and it flows northwards.

It's very difficult for us to imagine that water can flow northwards perhaps, but it flows northwards. And then of course flows into France as well and also defines the border between some of the countries over there. I suppose we can easily identify the capital of Germany. No? **[Berlin]** yeah, Berlin.



Time 16:20

Instructor: And in which part of Germany do you think Berlin is? **[northeastern?]** eastern, eastern central roughly, ok.

One of the things we will be covering in this course also will be a little bit of history, a little bit of well geography also we'll cover somewhat. But a little bit of history, a little bit of the political scenario or developments in Germany etc. that also we'll be covering alongside learning the language.

I would like to ask you, why, first of all, what are your impressions about Germany. What do you think about -- free association -- when you think about German, Germany what is it that you think about?

[students: industrialization]

Instructor: ok, industry lets say. What kind of industry?

[students: automobiles]

Instructor: automobiles, yeah. Ok so when you say German you think "cars".

[student: breweries]

Instructor: breweries, see what the associations are, I mean, first it's the car then it's the beer ok, breweries so basically instead of saying "industrialization" we can say "cars". Germans and their cars, ok.

Instead of "brewery" we can say "Germans and their beer".

What other associations you have with Germans, Germany, German Language. Say anything, as long as it is, please use parliamentary language, that's the only condition. Don't use unparliamentary words, that's the only thing that I'm saying. You can't think of anything about Germany other than cars and beer?

[ship making] ship making is also yes, it is also an important part although Germany was never a big naval power actually in that sense. But ship making also yes, ship making in the north there are some places where ship making used to happen, yes.

Time 18:48

Instructor: [watches] watches ok, so watch. Then what can we develop from there? What does the watch tell you? Time.

Germans and their time, their punctuality that is one of the well, commonly held beliefs or prejudices about Germans and their time. Then?

[mines] what kind of mines? Coal mines. Which area, any idea? Ok, to the west of Germany. Steel and coal of course, steel and coal usually go together. So, steel industry and coal mines, yes.

[student: like we have rice and chapati they have potato and breads]

Instructor: breads and potato ok, that's also fine. Potato especially yes, potato is another cliché about Germany. What is a "cliché"?

[student: something that's used too often]

Instructor: yeah, something that's too commonplace and [cringy] cringy, why do you cringe? Yeah, it is because it is almost abused. Excessive use, and then it has lost its meaning and then that's why you cringe when you talk in clichés. But, yeah, we need to also come up with some clichés about Germany and German and the Germans.

Three clichés that we have come up with now are; potatoes, beer and cars. Others are geographical realities etc etc. But what do you think about when you think about Germany, which is the person who comes to mind?

[students: Hitler]

Instructor: But still, Hitler yeah, what comes to mind? When you think about Hitler what comes to mind?

[students: world war]

Instructor: so all these things are there no? Second World War, and so what about Second World War, what about Hitler?

[students: dictator]

Time 21:28

Instructor: dictator yes, that is one thing. But now we're moving to history and this again becomes not really a cliché.

The cliché is of course, time also is there, the German punctuality, the German eating potato, or the Germans drinking beer, or the Germans driving their car, or the Germans playing? **[football]** football. Germans playing football is also another thing, but any tennis stars? German tennis stars? **[Zverev]** anyway, Angelique Kerber, ok I think people are not into tennis over here.

Anyway when we were growing up and learning German, there were huge German tennis stars. Biggest German tennis stars have you heard of any? Somebody who's record Serena Williams recently broke, in terms of maximum number of singles grand slam titles won? **[Steffi Graf]** yes, Steffi Graf of course was a heart throb when we were growing up.

Then Boris Becker, he was of course one of the youngest ever Wimbledon champions, I think he became a champion at 16 or 17. He won Wimbledon men's, not junior. So, yeah Boris Becker and...

So we have tennis, we have football, cars, beer, etc. etc. all this put together, why are you guys learning German?

[student: it's used in many countries in Europe, it's spoken in many countries.]

Instructor: in which countries is it spoken? Actually that's a good point. Which countries is German spoken in, apart from Germany? Austria, Switzerland, maybe there are some German speakers in Belgium. Netherlands, no, Dutch. Denmark, Danish.

Actually that's it. Primarily German is spoken only in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. There are of course small minorities in Luxemburg, in Belgium. Have you heard of a country called Liechtenstein, which is locked between southeast Germany and western Austria? It's a very small place, I think Liechtenstein won't be bigger than Adyar, including IIT Campus that is, that's the country. With a capital of a place called Vaduz, that's the capital of Liechtenstein.

But that's all I mean, in the sense that German is spoken only in this one sphere. Then there are German speaking minorities. You see the Germans had two major empires you know? And their influence extended right up to which sea? Somewhere near Russia, the Black Sea.

Time 25:06

Instructor: So all these things now will become suddenly a reality. Otherwise Black Sea and all, who talks in India about the Black Sea, nobody talks about the Black Sea. But once you start looking at where the German rivers are flowing for example, then geographical markers such as the North Sea, or the Baltic Sea, or the Black Sea, suddenly these become realities.

Because there are German rivers that originate in the Alps in Germany, and then flow eastwards into the Black Sea. And then there are rivers like the Rhein which again originate in the same place but flow northwards. Ok, anyway.

So my question again, because it is an important language, you said. It's not spoken in too many countries but still it is an important language because?

When you talk about engineering especially, then you talk about German engineering. And German engineering, it is also an important language because it is still scientifically and technologically an evolved language. Ok, we don't have for example, in the Indian languages, we don't have those many terms, we don't have that much of terminology to describe all of technology as yet, because technology developed there. And so you have the technological terms in those languages.

So it is a scientifically and technologically very important language. It is the economic powerhouse of Europe, so economically it is an important language, and it is important because all business in Germany happens in German. So learning German is important because Germany as an economic power, as a technological power as a scientific research destination is an important country.

It has very high educational standards and indicators. So that is how the language becomes important. It's not that too many people speak German, I mean, the number of German speakers in the world might be maybe 100 million or 120 million maximum, which is 10 or 12 crores not more than that.

Anyway, any other reasons why you... why are you learning German?

[student: a lot of research papers are written in German, that's why I think it's better to learn that language instead of looking at the translation of that paper we can directly read that as it was originally written]

Instructor: so because it might give you access to scientific knowledge, to research, that is one reason. Other reasons why? Why do you learn German *Sashirekha*?

Time 28:15

[TA: I love languages and so I wanted to learn German because I thought it was a very old language and interesting language which has similarities to Sanskrit so that was the reason.]

Instructor: but you've studied architecture right, studied architecture and then started learning German so, because you love languages.

I mean, I started learning German in school because it was offered in my class 9 instead of Marathi, it was offered so I took it. Because I scored well in Marathi and I was eligible to take German. So I took German and just began liking and learning German and I kept on learning it till I finished my PhD.

So why did you register for this course?

[student: I thought it would be cool to learn an international language]

Instructor: so why aren't you saying that? Why are you learning German?

[student: because I want to learn another language that's all, it's a new language and it's close to English.]

Instructor: that we will see during the course of this semester. Why are you learning German?

[student: new language]

Instructor: anybody who is learning German not because it's a new language?

[student: my mom had travelled to Germany and Switzerland when she was in college, so she learnt German and I also wanted to]

Instructor: that's a wonderful reason

[student: some courses in German universities are German only, so maybe so that I can communicate in German]

Instructor: so you plan to go to a German university [yes] ok, so that you can take courses which are also in German. Ok good. Then you should say all those things no. Then second, **[new language]** new language, old language,

Time 30:31

[student: it's one of the top countries for job opportunities, so it'll be helpful]

Instructor: yeah lot of German learning, Sashirekha also teaches in something called the Goethe Institute and there the number of people learning German is increasing very fast in India because Germany is also opening up as a job destination for Indians in a big way. Yes?

[student: new language, that's all]

Instructor: new language

[student: primarily because of what he said, like a lot of research papers are written in German, a lot of scientific research papers.]

Instructor: so there is some motivation to have access to that bit of knowledge which German might offer. Learning german might open up that, yeah... **[just wanted to learn]** just wanted to learn, that's actually the best reason ok,

[student: Germany has some relation to this college so I just wanted to see how it is.]

Instructor: in fact that's a very important point because it is only, I think only, IIT Madras where you have a full time professor for German, I mean no other IIT has that.

And of course it was established in cooperation with West Germany at that time. And it is probably the only IIT which has, in a sense, nurtured the relationship with the original cooperating country. So yeah, German language learning at IIT Madras also is a kind of a tradition and is an important part of this institute.

[student: I just wanted to learn a new language, higher studies -- maybe.]

Instructor: "maybe" but not sure? **[like to work in Germany]** "like to work in Germany", very good, very clear. **[new language, like to work in Germany]** good,

[student: new language, it's probably very cliched at this point but new language]

Instructor: new language,

[student: I had German in 7th and 8th so I want to build up on it, brush up...]

Time 32:56

Instructor: “build up, brush up” what exactly? [**brush up on it first and then build up on it**] ok, and?

Instructor: research paper of course, you said.

So anyway, it's important for us to also realise why it is that we're going into this, why is it that we want to. Because you know, encountering a new language, and I'll end today's class with this, basically opens up a completely new world.

You know because, my mother tongue is Marathi, I've been taught in school in English, I have lived half my life in Hindi speaking areas, and I have learnt German since 1980, that's when I began learning German.

So I'm fairly at home in all these four languages but you realise that, most of us as Indians are also minimum -- Bilingual, minimum. I mean we have a mother tongue, hopefully you're still familiar with what your mother tongue is, and we can communicate in that -- we can understand the world through that language, a very important thing.

And then you learn a new language and you begin to see that the language itself shapes the world differently. You know, and so I'll give you one simple example of what is awaiting you when you start learning German, or rather the horror scenarios of learning German -- it's gender distinction.

So if you go into English for example, if you're sitting in the classroom, you have gender distinction in English, how many genders do you have in English grammar? Which three genders? Masculine, Feminine, Neuter -- three genders.

And suppose, who all would you associate here with masculine gender? The male people over here. With the feminine gender, all the female people. And with the neuter gender, all the non-living objects over here.

That will completely change in German. Not entirely, I mean the male members will still be male, the female members will still be feminine, but all the inanimate objects, they also have arbit genders in German.

Ok so for example a wall, what is your guess, is it masculine, feminine, neuter? Masculine, anybody for neuter? Feminine?

Time 36:00

Instructor: Yeah the wall is feminine. Ok let's get that. Then you have for example, the black board or the green board, the board -- masculine, feminine, neuter? Feminine also.

Then you have the ceiling, feminine? Well your guess is not correct, it's neuter.

The floor? Masculine.

Table? Masculine.

Book? Who said neuter? Yes, the book is neuter.

Camera? Feminine.

So, I would still be categorised as masculine, Sashirekha would still be categorised as feminine, the laptop would be masculine, the camera would be feminine, the stylus would be -- I don't know. [**der Stift**] der Stift, Masculine.

The ballpoint pen would be masculine.

The keyboard will be feminine.

The cellphone will be neuter. And so on and so forth.

So, see the gender distinction is actually wonderfully arbit. I would say "wonderfully" in the sense that now that I've learnt German for almost 40 years, I can afford to say "wonderfully arbit". It causes a bit of a problem in the beginning but there's a very simple solution to it. Which is that like we learn words in any new language -- we learn the word for "book", "book *yane kitaab*" "*kitaab yane book*"; or "*vahi yane notebook*"; *ya* "*kursi matlab chair*".

All these words we learn in a new language, we don't need to learn the gender in English, it's obvious. But in German you just learn the gender.

So when you learn the word for let's say, "the book" we don't have the book here but if you learn it as "das Buch" it's the neuter gender. If you learn the word for the ballpoint pen, it's a short form, it's called a "Kuli", when you learn the word "Kuli" you learn it as "der Kuli" -- masculine. So the "der" will tell you it's masculine.

Das Buch will tell you it is neuter.

Time 38:43

Instructor: And the wall, “Wand”, just like you spell w-a-n-d but it's pronounced “waand”, “die Wand”.

So “die, der, das” three gender distinctive words like “the”. The wall, the book and the ballpoint pen -- “die Wand”, “das Buch”, “der Kuli”. And it's just that when you learn the vocab you just learn it this way.

So with that now I will stop here, and just complete your registration, and I will also tell you about the textbook when we meet next time.

I will just say, “Auf Wiedersehen!” (x4) is a standard “bye”, “Auf Wiedersehen”. Or “Tschuess!” (x2) which is also “ciao”, ok “Tschuess”.

So “Auf Wiedersehen”, you can also say “Auf Wiedersehen” [**Auf Wiedersehen**].

Ok, thanks, bye.

Auf Wiedersehen!
Tschüß!



KEY WORDS: German greetings, welcome to German course, about Germany, German geography, study in Germany, Switzerland, German cliches, learn German, gender in German language