

## WEEK 2, LESSON 2

### Title of the Lecture: Verben, W-Fragen, Ja-Nein Fragen, Imperativ

Instructor (M) : Guten Morgen !

M: Can one of you quickly summarize what is there on the Screen ?

Student : So, We learnt about how the three genders and the plural form are written for different Nouns. There we have learnt the use of indefinite articles and definite articles as well. Basically each Noun in German has a gender associated with it and we have to say it with the article each time we mention the Noun.

M: Yeah ! We have to learn it with the article. We need not say it with the article each time, but definitely, we have to learn it with the article. See each Noun even in English has a gender. But in English the genders are pretty obvious.

M: The Table and the Chair and the Wall and the Ceiling don't have a gender in English they are all Neuter. But in German the three genders are distributed in a manner that we cannot predict. Ok, so that is why it is important to learn the gender of each Noun. So when you learn each Noun, learn the gender along with it.

M: For example when you learn the Noun Buch for Book, then learn it as 'das' Buch. So you know that it stays Neuter. When you learn the Noun Kamera, then learn it as 'die' Kamera. Ok, and Laptop as 'der' Laptop.

M: And is everyone clear about what is definite article and indefinite article? Yes or No? (2 mins) Is there anyone who has any doubt about what we mean by definite article and indefinite article ?

M: Since the genders are not predictable, so what else is there on the Screen ?

M: Das ist ein Laptop. Der Laptop ist neu. Er kostet Fuenf hundert Euro. What is the role of 'er' over here ?

Student : It with the gender of the Laptop.

M: Because of the gender of the Laptop, we are using ?

Student : 'er'.

M: So er will correspond to der.

M: So, similarly, Das ist eine Kamera. Die Kamera ist modern. Sie kostet hundert Euro. Und, Das ist ein Buch. Das Buch heist Netzwerk. Es kostet acht Euro.

M: Distinction between Noun and Pronoun is also clear to all of us ? That once we use a Noun then in the following speech or sentences, we can replace the Noun with the Pronoun.

M: The Pronoun to be used in German will be in consonance with the gender of the Noun. In English it is all 'it'. This is a Laptop. The Laptop is new. 'It' costs Five hundred Euro. This is a

Camera. The Camera is new. 'It' costs a hundred Euro. This is a Book. The Book is new. And 'it' costs Eight Euros. All three will be 'it' because all three are Neuter.

M: But in German, which pronoun we use will be determined by the gender of the Noun. Das sind Buecher. Die Buecher heissen Netzwerk. Sie kosten Sexzehn Euro. What's happening here ?

Student : We are writing it in plural forms.

M: Yeah !

Student : And in plural forms there are no genders.

M: Correct ! ... A little louder ?

Student : In plural forms we don't specify the genders.

M: The gender distinction is there in the singular form. In plural form it is all kind of genderless. Ok.

Student : And we use 'die' and 'sie' in plural form.

M: 'Die' and 'sie' in the plural form. Everything is 'die' and 'sie'. And what about the word Buecher ?

Student : Buecher is the plural form of 'Book'.

M: Buch. Ok, Buch and Buecher (2). That is one of the ways in which pronunciations will function. Yeah, we have Das Buch, Die Buecher. Please note the way the sound of 'ch' will soften, if you have, here there is no 'umlaut' Buch 'Kh', here there is an 'umlaut' Buecher. It's a combination of Kh and Ch, but Buecher is Ok, in day to day language, we'll say die Buecher. Ok.

M: This kind of a thing will happen very often. The sound of the ch, if the vowel gets an umlaut, then we also did the alphabet no, yesterday ? So you've done the umlaut. If a e or u get the umlaut, then the 'Kh' will get softened to 'Kh and Sh' or Sh. (6.05 mins)

M: Sie kosten Sechszehn Euro. (writes on the blackboard)

M: 'Die' Laptops. And die Kamera ? 'Die' Kameras. Instead of Kamera, I'll take ... ?

Student : Lampe ?

M: Die Lampe. Das ist die Lampe. Die Lampe. The word is clear, die Lampe ?

M: Die Lampen. ... (underlines the last alphabets of each plural form) .....

M: These are the singular and plural. What can you observe ? What is your observation about the.... ? This thing we've done that all of them in the plural, the specific genders are there only in the singular. What else can you observe ?

Student : There's no consistent way to form plurals....

M: Yeah ! The plural is not formed only in one way. Ok. Which is also actually the case in English? In English also you have different ways of, I remember my Grammar classes, we also used to learn certain specific ways of making the plurals of Nouns in English. But mostly it is in English adding an 's'. That's the most common way of making a plural.

M: How many of you play 'Scrabble' ? How many of you like to play Scrabble ?

Students: ... Some raise their hands ...

M: Late in a game of Scrabble, 'S' is the most useful letter to get. If you get an 'S', you're sure to almost go on to win the game, later on, in the end of the game. You have an eight letter word, you simply add an 's' somewhere to make a plural and get all the points. (8:13 mins)

M: But, you're quite right, there is no one single way of making the plural. Which means what ? What was the inference for us when we saw that the gender is arbitrary, what did we say we have to do ?

Student : Sir, we have to learn the noun with the article.

M: Yes, we have to learn noun with articles. Now we see that the plural is also is not consistent, or not a single way of making the plural, then ?

Student : We have to learn the Noun with the article and the plural.

M: You have to learn the Noun with the article and the plural. When you come across a new noun, for example if you come across the word Das Buch, or Book then it should go down in your head as das Buch, die Buecher, (2) die Lampe, die Lampen, (2) der Laptop, die Laptops. (2)

M: Any other Noun that you have come across ? Not in English.

Student : Der Tisch ?

M: Tisch, der Tisch. Der Tisch, die Tische. In fact it is a good example. In fact it is again a good way of making the plural. Der Tisch, die Tische. (2) Any other Noun ?

M: Der Koolie, die Koolies..... Noch etwas Handies like Laptops.

M: What is the 'Uhr' ? Watch .... Henceforth, whenever I write a Noun for anybody on the smart board, or on the 'smarter' board. If I'll indicate the gender with either r, s or e and not der, das or die. If I write an e in front of the word uhr, it means it is die uhr, its feminine gender. And plural we don't need to indicate, plural is always die.

M: So die Uhr will become die Uhren. Die Uhr, die Uhren. (2)

M: Have you done the word for chair ? Der Stuhl.(3) Its almost like the way we say 'Stool' in English, but also one thing to note is this combination of letters 'st'; if it is in the beginning of a word, like what is the word for 'to Study' ? (11.12 mins)

Students : Studieren.

M: ... (louder) .... 'Shtudieren' not Studieren, so the 'S' becomes the 'Sh'. So if a word begins with 'St' then it is 'Sh' or 'Sht'... What is the word for 'Language' ?

Students : Sprache ?

M: ... (louder)... No.

Students : Shprachen ?

M: Yeah ! Sp in the beginning of a word not 'Sp', but 'Shp'.. Shprache. So 'Sp' and 'St' this combination, if a word begins with that, it's a 'Sh'. Shtudent, Shtudieren, Shprache, Shprechen.

M: Similarly, der 'Shtuhl' is a Chair. ...(writes on black board) .. die Shtuehle (2). Der Shtuhl, die Shtuehle.

M: So, to cut a long story short, I think the picture on the board makes it clear that, basically, please make it a habit (2) to learn any new noun with its gender and its plural.

M: I would learn the vocabulary that we did today in the class as der Tisch, die Tische, das Buch, die Buecher, die Lampe, die Lampen, der Laptop, die Laptops, der Stuhl, die Shtuehle, die Uhr, die Uhren. Ok, that's the way it needs to be imprinted in the early stages.

M: Once that happens, See, no language is entirely arbitrary. If a language were entirely arbitrary, you wouldn't have a language. Then each person would make his or her rules every time they spoke. That's not possible. So there are patterns, there are patterns even in German. There are patterns which you can recognize. When you have sufficient vocabulary you can recognize the patterns.

M: That plurals are made following certain conventions following certain patterns. Some books might also give you 'rules'. Some books might say there are 12 different rules or 14 different rules of making the plural. There's no point in learning that, instead you learn 50 words it would be more useful than learning 14 rules. Ok. Please learn the gender and the plural along with the new Noun every time.

M: I don't know if you remember that at one point in time there was a Volkswagen ad, which ended with Volkswagen, Das Auto. I think most of you might remember that.

M: Actually it is the gender of Auto, das Auto is the Car. Ok ! Das Auto.

M: From nouns then we come to the pronouns. I think, ich, du, er, sie, es and the big Sie, you're familiar with that. Ich – wir, du – ihr and er, sie, es is - sie. This we've already done er, sie, es is - sie we saw in the example with Nouns and plurals.

M: The big 'Sie', which is the formal 'You', which is like in Hindi the 'Aap', that can be used for singular or plural. Which basically means, if we are talking to each other formally then I can address one person saying, Wie heissen Sie, Lalita ? Or I can address all of you saying, Welche Shprache schprechen Sie alle ? So that Sie can be used for addressing one person or many persons.

M: Not the case with 'du'. If we're at an informal level, then I would ask, Wie heist du, Akash ? But if I'm to address all of you together, I would use 'ihr'. Welsche Sprachen schprecht ihr ? Ok! Woher kommt ihr ?

M: I think it's time to do a song, Ich komme aus Bohn. ...(laughs) ... I also have, we'll play it in the class. Maybe we'll make, .... Nobody sings ?

Students : Everyone.... (15:55 mins)

M: Then everyone has to sing ! This is the complete, so called, conjugation table that we need to again have learnt. There's nothing to be explained here apart from what this is. Can somebody say, what this is ?

Student : These are Verb conjugations....

M: These are Verb conjugations.

Student : Like, when you want to say that I am coming, or you are coming, like that... So, with different persons it will have different endings.

M: Yeah ! So why is that important ?

Student : When you're speaking, you should know which form of the Verb to use....

M: Yeah ! For different persons we use different forms. I mean the Verb has different forms. And when you learn a new verb, you also learn its conjugation. Ok. Let's say not that, but when we speak, we make a sentence, we're describing something that happens, or something that is, which means there is a Verb there. And that verb we have to know which form it has to take.

(17.01 mins)

M: When I am talking about myself, certain form, you, certain form, he, she, it, certain form. If we are all saying that we learn German, it's a certain form. etc.

M: I have said this before but again, if you take most verbs in English have only he, she, it is usually with an 's'. If you just take the verb 'read' for example, I read, you read, they read, he, she, it reads. That's the only different form.

M: In German, there are more forms and this is the Standard Conjugation table. The endings are clearly marked on the right side, that is the way the regular verbs will work. All the three verbs are Ok ? Gehen is to ?

Students : Go .....

M: Arbeiten ?

Students : Work .....

M: And Lernen is to Learn.

M: What is happening is you're cutting out the 'en' at the end and taking the root of the verb, and then you're applying the endings to that root. Where the root ends with 't' then you add an

extra 'e', so that you can separate the two 't's that you would have to otherwise use. That's why it is Ich arbeite, but du arbeitst is a bit difficult to say – du arbeitest, er, sie, es arbeitet, wir arbeiten, ihr arbeitet, Sie arbeiten.

M: Lernen is simple. Ich lerne, du lernst, er, es, sie lernt, wir lernen, ihr lernt, Sie lernen.

M: Gehen, can somebody conjugate gehen here in class ? You can take a minute to write it down, if you need to.

Student : Ich gehe, du gehst, er, sie, es geht, wir gehen, ihr geht, Sie gehen.

M: Sie ?

Student : Gehen.

M: We can, in g e h e n ... (alphabets) ... the 'h' sound has to be a little subdued, gaen, not gehen but gaen. The others are perfect. Ich gehe, du gaest, not gehst, er geht, wir gehen, ihr gaet, Sie gaen.

M: Then Verb conjugation is also something that you will have to also learn. (19.30 mins)

M: I might as well mention right here that as you see there is a pattern in which the verbs are conjugated right ? There is a pattern. And I said that this is the pattern the regular verbs will follow.

M: If you have a term called 'regular' verbs, then it implies that there are 'irregular' verbs. Which is also the case in several languages, so there are irregular verbs in German as well. For which there will be slightly different ways of conjugating the verb.

M: Mostly what will happen (2). That every verb will have a vowel, like kommen for example has 'o' as the vowel, or lernen has 'e' as the vowel, root vowel. What is the verb for to speak ? Sprechen. What is the question that we asked ?

Student : Welche Sprachen Sprechst du ?

M: Welche .... ?

Student : Welche Sprachen Sprichst du ?

M: Yeah ! We say, du .... The verb itself is Sprechen, du sprichst (2). But ich spreche, no change in ich. Wir sprechen, wir sprechen Deutsch, no change, du sprichst, Sie ? No, Sie in the sense 'You'.

Student : Sprechen.

M: Sprechen.

M: Ok, so we have our conjugation as ich spreche, du sprichst, er, sie, es spricht, wir sprechen, ihr sprecht and sie, Sie sprechen.

M: This would be the entire conjugation table for sprechen which is to speak, clear ? As you can clearly see ....( circles 'ri' for conjugation of du and er, es, sie) .... that this is the only irregularity in the entire conjugation. Otherwise this is exactly entirely like 'lernen'. Ich lerne, du lernst, er lernt, wir lernen, ihr lernt, Sie lernen.

M: But only for du and er, there is a change in the vowel, and that change will be the same for both du and er, everytime a verb is irregular, or for every verb that is irregular.

M: So that's the only thing that happens, the vowel changes mostly.

Student : What's the difference between small sie at the end or small sie along with er ?

M: ... (marks the sie in both the places) ... What is the difference ? This word this sie is 'she' he, she, it, this is 'they' and this is 'You' but formal, respectful.

M: There are three sies, I agree, but you will clearly notice which 'sie' is meant. Ok. Because, first of all, the verb will be conjugated differently. If the verb ending in a 't' then obviously it is 'she'. Otherwise, you're stuck with either they or You.

M: Now normally, these words are not going to float somewhere in isolation that you will have to decide they or You. They will be part of a sentence, the sentence will be part of a paragraph, the paragraph will be part of a text.

M: So there is always a context. From the context it will be clear what it is. For example very quickly I'll just do this .... Sie sprechen, we'll do a nice word for..., 'Franzoesich' (2) What is Franzoesich ?

Students : French.

M: French. Ok Franzoesich ! Sie sprechen Franzoesich. Now if this sentence is there in isolation floating around somewhere, without any head or tail, with no context, then the ambiguity is not resolved. What does this mean ? Does this mean they are speaking French or does this mean You are speaking French, that is not resolved because this 's' has to be capital since it is the first word of the sentence and then we know that the conjugation of 'they' and the formal 'You' are the same. (25 mins)

M: But that will almost never happen, because there will be, in fact that will never happen because the use of a pronoun actually means that there is a context in which the Noun has already appeared.

M: I'm doing this sentence because actually in one stupid test, this sentence was given to translate. Ok. And then you have to agree that the translation can be both correct, "You speak French." or "They speak French." Both are right. Ok.

M: But that is the only situation in which that ambiguity cannot be resolved. Otherwise there are enough indicators for us to tell which 'sie' it is.

M: The last element for today that we're going to do, actually there are two of them, I hope I can quickly go through both, It's not very difficult, but I'm taking you back to the first things that we learnt, to introduce ourselves.

M: Could we have one volunteer asking me all the questions that we learnt ?

Student : Wie heisst du ? (26:14 mins)

M: Ich heisse Milind.

Student : Woher kommst du ?

M: Ich komme aus Pune.

Student : Wo wohnst du ?

M: Ich wohne in Chennai.

Student : Welche sprachen sprechen sie ?

M: Ich spreche Marathi, Hindi, English und Deutsch.

Student : Was sind deine hobbies ?

M: Meine hobbies, meine hobbies sind Facebooken, Whatsappen, ich habe noch keine Instagram, aber ich spiele auch Basketball, ich sehe gern Filme, ich lese gern Buecher.

Student : Wie ist deine handnummer ?

M: Always concerned with the identity, Wie ist dein name ? Wie ist deine adresse ? Wie ist deine handnummer or telefonnummer, whatever it is. So - Wie. But the demo is done. If you look at all the questions that were asked, what was the first word, the beginning letter of the first word ? W, what's the letter W, 'way'.

M: So das sind alle Way – Fragen.(2) Frage is a question and fragen is questions, 'way' fragen, W – Questions. Wie ist dein name ? Woher kommst du ? Wo wohnst du ? Was sind deine hobbies ? Welche sprachen sprichst du ? etc.

M: Since we've done numbers, you can also take one more W - questions, which is - Wie alt bist du ? (2) Ich bin Fuenfsich. (2) ... (asks Students) Wie alt bist du ?

Students : .... (buzz) ...

M: Achtzehn, it's a huge difference, the difference is 62 years, between achtsich and achtzehn. So, Wie alt bist du ? is also one more question you can write down later on, and you can just say a number, that is a sufficient answer. Ich bin fuenfsich. Ok.

M: So, all these are W - questions 'W' – fragen. But there is also another way, Is your name Rekha ?

Students : .... (buzz) .....



M: English, I'm talking in English. No. Is your name Lalita ? Yes. Are you from Delhi ? Do you speak Chinese ? Do you speak Hindi ?

Student : Ja !

M: So, what kind of a question is this ?

Students : Yes – No Question.

M: A yes – no question. And what is happening in the yes – no question ? It is not beginning with a 'W' word but is beginning with what actually ? Is, Do you, are, what is this ? Is a verb, it begins with a verb.

M: Ja – Nein fragen, we have 'W' – fragen, we have Ja – Nein fragen. Ja is Yes, Nein is No. Ja – Nein fragen. First listen, you will have time to write, If you're teaching a language, I really like the way you're sitting in the class. That's the way to sit, don't get conscious. Just fold your hands and listen to what's happening, if there is time, ....

M: It's a very 'terrible' sight to see students buried in their note books and writing something while I'm trying to speak.

M: 'W' – fragen und Ja – Nein fragen. Ok. Wie heisst du ? (2) Ist eine 'w' frage.

M: Heisst du Maria ? If I ask, heisst du Maria ? The answer would have to begin with .... If I ask Heisst du Rekha ?

Student : ... (buzz) ...

M: Nein ! The answer would have to begin with either Ja or Nein. And the structure is clear in front of you, it has no 'W' word and it begins with the verb. Heisst du Maria ? Ja, Ich heisse Maria. Or Nein ich heisse ... something else.

M: Wohnt er in Pafos ? Wo ist Pafos ? ... (laughs) ... I don't know where Pafos is ?

M: Wohnt er in Chennai ? Nein, er wohnt in Hyderabad. Kommen sie aus England ? (2)

Student : Nein.

M: Nein, ich komme aus Indien. Or, Ist das richtig ? Richtig is that right, or correct ? Ja, das ist richtig. So basic form of a Yes – No question. And you can easily make out the reply to each of these questions would have to begin with either Ja or Nein. (31.20 min) And then the rest of it can follow.

M: ... (writes on blackboard) ... This question we know, Was trinken Sie gern ? Is it clear ?

Students : ... (buzz) ...

Student : What is the difference between 'Was' and 'Wie' ?

M: In German there is a difference between was and wie, in English also there is a difference, just like difference between 'What' and 'How'. Ok. But it is not a one to one correspondence

between English and German. It is not as if every time we use 'What' in English, we have to use 'Was' in German, the two languages are different. Ok.  
(32.00 min)

M: So some of the expressions which in English are with 'what', in German they are with 'wie' and not with 'was'. That's a language specific difference.

M: So, Was trinken Sie gern ? Is clear ? It means What do you like to drink ?

M: How would you ask, Do you like to drink, (let's say) Juice ? Or, Do you drink juice ? Do you drink Coffee ?

Students : ... (buzz) ... Trinkst du Saft ?

M: No we will keep to this Sie... (writes on the blackboard) ... Trinken Sie Saft ? or Coffee ?

Student : Kaffee.

M: How would you say this sentence ?

Students : ... (buzz) ... Trinken Sie Kaffee ?

M: A little louder.

Student : Trinken Sie Kaffee ?

M: Ja, trinken Sie Kaffee ? It's a question, so the tone always gets a rises at the end. Trinken Sie Kaffee ? or Heisst Sie Lalita ? Ja, ich trinke kaffee. In a statement it falls at the end, right?

M: So, Trinken Sie Saft ?

M: ... (replaces question marks with exclamation marks) ... Suppose I just change the punctuation, how would you say this ?

Students : ... (buzz) ... Trinken Sie Kaffee ! .... Trinken Sie Kaffee !

M: No I can still hear it rising it's still a question. Be German, be a little more authoritative in saying it.

Student : Trinken Sie Kaffee !

M: Correct, if the tone is different, a yes – no question can become a command. Trinken Sie Kaffee ? Ja oder nein, yes or no. But Trinken Sie Kaffee ! No yes, no no. You better drink it. I mean I'll put a gun to your head and say, Trinken Sie Kaffee ! Ok.

M: So, If I put it politely, with intonation and all that, it means it's a question, and you have to say yes or no. If I don't intonate that way, ...(laughs) ... it means it is not a question you better drink it.

M: So this is called an Imperativ. Something is imperative means that you have to do it, no ? Imperative basically, in English Grammar it is a request or a command. Ok.

M: So, very simple, a yes – no question and the Imperativ in German have the same structure, only the intonation is different. Ok.

M: As I said, Trinken Sie Kaffee ? is yes or no. Trinken Sie Kaffee ! Means shut up and drink the Coffee.

M: Ok. Yeah ! with that, I'm done.

..... (Music and Tributes.....) ..... (35:34 mins)

**Keywords: German verbs, W-questions, Yes-No (Ja-Nein) questions, Imperative with Sie**