

3 MINUTE GERMAN COURSE 1 RECAP NOTES



WHAT ARE RECAP NOTES?

In each course of the **3 Minute German** series, you will learn lots of words and phrases, but you'll also learn some other parts of the language such as:

- **Grammar points**
- **Pronunciation tips**
- **Accent explanations**

Whilst you'll have plenty of opportunities to practise all of this throughout the lessons, sometimes, it's nice to be able to quickly come back and recap some of the trickier aspects.

Rather than having to sit through the entire course again, you can use this **Recap Notes** booklet to refresh your memory with a short recap. You'll find a booklet for each course in the series; this booklet is purely for the language points made in 3 Minute German - Course 1 (lessons 1 to 9).

I hope you enjoy 😊

Danke

Kieran

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THE GERMAN S

In German, the letter **S** has two pronunciations: like a **Z** or like an **S**.

In front of a vowel

When you have an **S** in front of a vowel in German, it's usually pronounced like an English **Z**:

sehr	<i>zair</i>
also	<i>al-zoh</i>
person	<i>pair-zohn</i>
sieben	<i>zee-beughn</i>

At the end of a word

When an **S** comes at the end of a word in German, it's pronounced like the **S** in the English word "*sink*".

Preis	<i>price</i>
Reis	<i>rice</i>
Bus	<i>bus</i>

Double SS and ß

If you have a double S, or an Eszett (ß), you pronounce it like the S in the English word, "*sink*", again

wissen	<i>vih-seughn</i>
Fußball	<i>fuss-bal</i>
Fluß	<i>fluss</i>
dreißig	<i>dry-sik</i>
essen	<i>eh-seughn</i>

THE GERMAN Z

In German, the letter **Z** is pronounced as though you had the letters "**TS**" instead.

GANZ = *GANTS*

zehn	<i>tsayn</i>
zu	<i>tsu</i>
holz	<i>holtz</i>

THE GERMAN G

If the letter **G** is placed at the end of a word in German, it can either be pronounced like the **CH** in the Scottish word "*loch*", or like a **K**.

ig ending = *CH sound*

billig	<i>bill-ich</i>
Honig	<i>hon-ich</i>
traurig	<i>traow-rich</i>

If you have a **G** on the end of a word, but the letter before the **G** isn't an **i**, then you pronounce the **G** like a **K**.

Zug	<i>tsuk</i>
Tag	<i>tak</i>
Eintrag	<i>eyn-trak</i>



THE GERMAN V

The letter **V** in German is usually pronounced like an **F**.

vier	<i>fee-eugh</i>
voll	<i>fol</i>
Vater	<i>far-teugh</i>

However, occasionally, you'll hear the **V** pronounced like an English **V**. But that's usually in words that have come from other languages.

Reservierung	<i>reh-zair-vee-run(g)</i>
November	<i>noh-vem-beugh</i>

THE GERMAN W

The letter **W** in German should always be pronounced like the English letter **V** in the word **van**.

was	<i>vass</i>
wo	<i>voh</i>
wann	<i>van</i>
Wasser	<i>vah-seugh</i>
Wein	<i>vine</i>
zwei	<i>tsvy</i>
Schweiz	<i>shvyts</i>

THE GERMAN J

The letter **J** in German should always be pronounced like the English letter **Y**.

ja	<i>yahr</i>
Johann	<i>yoh-han</i>
jung	<i>yun(g)</i>

THE ESZETT (ß)

In German, there are certain words that have a double **SS**, and other words that have an **ß**. Generally, if the vowel sound is long, you should use an **ß**, but if the vowel sound is short, you should use a double **SS**.

Fluss	<i>floos</i>
Fuß	<i>fuss</i>

The best thing to do, however, is to learn how to spell the word when you learn it. That way, you won't need to think about it.

UMLAUTS Ö

The funny dots you see on top of the **ö** in **außergewöhnlich** are called an umlaut. The umlauts change how you pronounce the letter. Normally, an **O** in German is pronounced like the first **O** in the English word **o**ctopus. However, when you put an umlaut on top of it, the **Ö** is pronounced like the **U** in the English word **bu**rn.

Umlauts in German can appear over the letters **a**, **o** and **u**: **ä**, **ö** and **ü**.

ä is pronounced like the **ai** in **ai**r
ö is pronounced like the **u** in **bu**rn
ü is pronounced like the **ui** in **su**it

Hähnchen
schön
für

INDEFINITE ARTICLES

The words “a” and “an” are called **INDEFINITE ARTICLES** and, in German, there are two different words. There’s a masculine, a feminine and a neuter version.

Masculine	ein
Feminine	eine
Neuter	ein

The version you use depends on whether the noun it goes in front of is a masculine, feminine or neuter noun. This is called the **gender** of the noun.

You always put the word “**ein**” in front of nouns that are masculine or neuter, and the word “**eine**” goes in front of nouns that are feminine. The best way to know whether a noun is masculine or feminine is simply to learn its gender when you first learn the word; that way, you’ll always know that **Restaurant** is neuter but **Pizza** is feminine in German..

MASCULINE NOUNS

ein Kaffee	<i>a coffee</i>
ein Fisch	<i>a fish</i>

FEMININE NOUNS

eine Karotte	<i>a carrot</i>
eine Pizza	<i>a pizza</i>

NEUTER NOUNS

ein Hotel	<i>a hotel</i>
ein Restaurant	<i>a restaurant</i>

DEFINITE ARTICLES

The word “**the**” is called a **DEFINITE ARTICLE** and, in German, there are four different words. There’s a masculine, feminine, neuter and plural version.

Masculine	der
Feminine	die
Neuter	das
Plural	die

PLURAL NOUNS

For plural nouns, you use the article “**die**”. To make a German noun plural, there are three main rules:

1. ADD AN “S”

das Restaurant	<i>the restaurant</i>
die Restaurants	<i>the restaurants</i>

der Tee	<i>the tea</i>
die Tees	<i>the teas</i>

2. ADD AN “E”

der Fisch	<i>the fish</i>
die Fische	<i>the fish</i>

der Tisch	<i>the table</i>
die Tische	<i>the tables</i>

3. ADD AN “N”

die Karotte	<i>the carrot</i>
die Karotten	<i>the carrots</i>

die Person	<i>the person</i>
die Personen	<i>the people</i>



POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

The word “my” is a **POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVE** and, in German, there are four different versions. There’s a masculine, feminine, neuter and plural version.

Masculine	mein
Feminine	meine
Neuter	mein
Plural	meine

The possessive adjective you use depends on the gender of the noun, not on the person saying it.

WHAT’S A NOUN?

Generally speaking, a noun is a word that you can put “**the**” in front of. They can be singular or plural:

singular	plural
the hotel	the hotels
the boy	the boys
the idea	the ideas
the possibility	the possibilities

In German, nouns are words you can put “**der**”, “**die**” or “**das**” in front of, and they **always start with a capital letter**. They can be masculine, feminine, neuter or plural. You can usually make a noun plural by putting an “s” on the end.

masculine singular	masculine plural
der Hund (<i>the dog</i>)	die Hunde
der Mann (<i>the man</i>)	die Männer

feminine singular	feminine plural
die Katze (<i>the cat</i>)	die Katzen
die Frau (<i>the woman</i>)	die Frauen

neuter singular	neuter plural
das Kind (<i>the child</i>)	die Kinder
das Auto (<i>the car</i>)	die Autos

MASCULINE NOUNS

mein Kaffee	<i>my coffee</i>
mein Tee	<i>my tea</i>

FEMININE NOUNS

meine Pizza	<i>my pizza</i>
meine Karotte	<i>my carrot</i>

NEUTER NOUNS

mein Hähnchen	<i>my chicken</i>
mein Essen	<i>my food</i>

PLURAL NOUNS

meine Pizzas	<i>my pizzas</i>
meine Karotten	<i>my carrots</i>

KEY

Turn the page to learn about the accusative

	MASCULINE (ACCUSATIVE)	FEMININE	NEUTER	PLURAL
THE	DER (DEN)	DIE	DAS	DIE
A / AN	EIN (EINEN)	EINE	EIN	/
MY	MEIN (MEINEN)	MEINE	MEIN	MEINE

THE ACCUSATIVE CASE

When you have a sentence with an object, we say that the object is in the **Accusative Case**. This doesn't really make much difference except for when the object is a **masculine noun**. When a **masculine noun** is in the accusative case, the words for **"the"**, **"a"** and **"my"** change slightly.

Masculine accusative	THE	<i>den</i>
Masculine accusative	A	<i>einen</i>
Masculine accusative	MY	<i>meinen</i>

When the noun is the subject of a sentence, we say it's in the **Nominative Case**, and nothing happens. Compare the sentences below:

der Fisch ist lecker

the fish is delicious

("fish" is the subject of the sentence = **nominative case**)

ich möchte den Fisch

I would like the fish

("fish" is the object of the sentence = **accusative case**)

This only happens with masculine nouns; nothing happens to feminine, neuter or plural nouns:

das Hähnchen ist lecker

the chicken is delicious

ich möchte das Hähnchen

I would like the chicken

WHAT'S AN ADJECTIVE?

An adjective is a word that is used to describe something. However, a simpler explanation would be:

If you can put **"it is"** in front of a word, then it's most probably an adjective. So, in German, these would be words you can put **"es ist"** in front of:

it is good - **es ist gut**

it is fantastic - **es ist fantastisch**

it is delicious - **es ist lecker**

it is perfect - **es ist perfekt**

it is bad - **es ist schlecht**

FÜR MICH

The phrase "für mich" literally means "for me", but you can also use it as a way of giving your opinion. You can use it to mean "in my opinion" or "I think" if you put it in front of a phrase. However, after **"für mich"**, the next noun and verb have to switch around:

das ist gut - *that is good*

für mich, ist das gut - *I think that is good*

es ist schön - *it is beautiful*

für mich, ist es schön - *I think it's beautiful*