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Kursbuch

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an·sehen
das
die

die Folge, -n
das Foto, -s
gut
Guten Tag
hören
Ihr/e

in
ist → sein
mein/e
meinen

der Name, -n
passieren
sein (Verb)
Sie
die Sprache, -n
sprechen; du sprichst,
er spricht
der Tag, -e
und
was?
wer?

Seite 9

aus
bisschen
Deutsch
ein bisschen
ein/e
Englisch
Finnisch
Finnland
heißen

ich
kommen
sagen
zu·ordnen

Seite 10

der Abend, -e
auf

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to look at
here: this, that
the (definite article, femi-
nine)
consequence
photo, photograph
good
hello (literally, “good day”)
to hear
your (possessive article, for-
mal address)
in
is → to be
my (possessive article)
to mean, to be of the
opinion
name
to happen
to be
you (formal)
language
to speak

day
and
what?
who?

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here: from
little, little bit
German
a little bit
a/an (indefinite article)
English
Finnish
Finland
to be called: my/your/his/
her name is ...
I
to come
to say
to put in order

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evening
here: until

auf Wiedersehen

bei
die Dame, -n
danke
die Frau, -en
gute Nacht
guten Abend
guten Morgen
hallo
der Herr, -en
international
der Kurs, -e

die Mama, -s
meine Damen und Herren
der Morgen
die Musik (nur Singular)
die Nacht, -e
oh
tschüs
6 Uhr
das Wiedersehen (nur Singular)
willkommen

Seite 11

ah ja
der Dank (nur Singular)
dann
die Entschuldigung, -en

es
fragen
herzlich
Herzlich willkommen!
ja
die Kollegin, -nen
mit
nein
nicht
stimmen
suchen
viel
vielen Dank
wie?

wissen; ich weiß, du weißt,
er weiß
zeigen

Seite 12

aber
auch

goodbye (literally: “until we
see each other again”)
here: at
lady
thank you
here: Mrs. and/or Ms.
good night
good evening
good morning
hallo
here: Mr.
international
course, also referring to a
class that one takes
mama
ladies and gentlemen
morning
music
night
oh
bye!
6 o'clock
seeing each other again
welcome

Page 11

oh yes
thanks, gratitude
then (adverb of time)
pardon (here: excuse me,
pardon me)
it
to ask
heartily, sincerely
Welcome!
yes
colleague (female)
with
no
not
to be correct or accurate
to look for, seek
much, a lot
thanks a lot
literally: how? here: what?
As in what did you say?
to know (as in factual know-
ledge)
to show

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but
also, too

1 Indefinite Articles and Negative Articles (*Unbestimmter Artikel und Negativartikel*)

a Indefinite Article

examples singular

m	<i>Ist das ein Apfel?</i>	Is that an apple?
n	<i>Das ist ein Brötchen.</i>	That's a roll.
f	<i>A ist vielleicht eine Tomate.</i>	Maybe A is a tomato.
plural	<i>Im Korb sind Birnen.</i>	In the basket are pears.



Indefinite articles are used when mentioning an individual person or thing for the first time in a conversation or text.

The indefinite article *ein* uses the same endings as the possessive article *mein* – the feminine takes an *-e* on the end. There is, however, no indefinite article in the plural, and this absence of any article is called *Nullartikel* in German (zero article).

b Negative Article

examples singular

m	<i>Das ist doch kein Apfel, oder?</i>	That's not an apple, is it?
n	<i>Ich möchte heute kein Ei.</i>	I don't want an egg today.
f	<i>Karl isst keine Pizza.</i>	Karl doesn't eat pizza.
plural	<i>Haben Sie heute keine Kiwis?</i>	Don't you have any kiwis today?

Kein and *keine* (again, the same forms as *mein* and *meine*) is used in place of an indefinite article or a zero article to negate that noun. Notice that in German, the noun is negated in these instances, not the verb (as in the English I **don't** want ... and **don't** you have **any** ...). Note, too, that while a plural noun might not have an article if it is positive (i.e. *ich habe Äpfel*), that *keine* will still be used to make it negative (*ich habe keine Äpfel*).

2 Nouns: singular and plural (*Nomen: Singular und Plural*)

example *Sind das Äpfel? Nein, Birnen.*

In German, nouns form their plurals in several ways:

a Some take fixed endings:

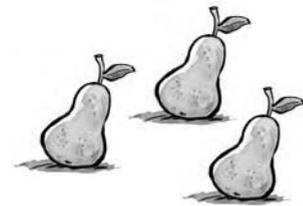
-e	<i>Brot – Brote</i>
-(e)r	<i>Ei – Eier</i>
-(e)n	<i>Tomate – Tomaten</i>
-s	<i>Kivi – Kiwis</i>

b While others add an umlaut to an *a*, *o*, or *u* in the noun:

Apfel – Äpfel

And still others combine an ending together with an umlaut:

Wurst – Würste
Haus – Häuser



9 Communication Strategies: A bit more about *bitte*

examples *Das ist doch kein Apfel, oder? Wie bitte?* That's not an apple, is it? Excuse me?/Pardon?/What?

As mentioned in Chapter 1, *wie* is more than just “how”. To ask someone to repeat what you didn’t hear or understand, *Wie bitte?* is the most common way.

examples *Hast du Tomatensoße? (Ja,) hier bitte.* Do you have [any] tomato sauce? (Yes.) Here you are./Here you go.

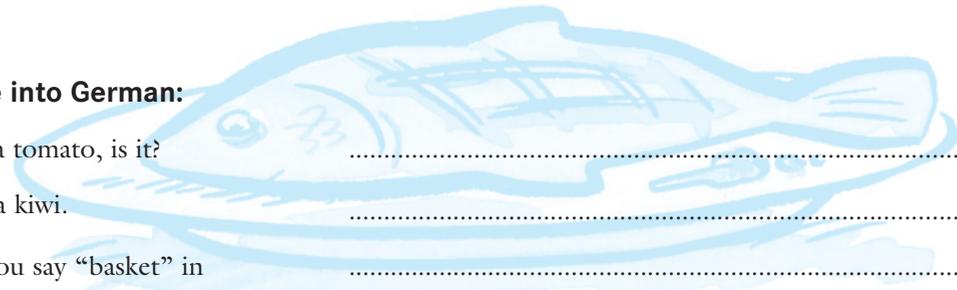
In addition to “please”, *bitte* also conveys courtesy when handing something to someone.

10 Translate into English:

- a** *Was kostet ein Pfund Rindfleisch?* ?
 – *3,99 Euro.*
- b** *Ist du gern Fisch? – Ja, sehr gern.* ?
- c** *Möchten Sie sonst noch etwas?* ?
 – *Nein danke, das ist alles.*

11 Translate into German:

- a** This isn’t a tomato, is it? ?
 – No, it’s a kiwi.
- b** How do you say “basket” in ?
 German? – In German, a basket ?
 is called “Korb“.
- c** Do you have any bananas? ?
 – No, I don’t have any bananas.
 But I do have oranges. *Aber ich*
- d** Bananas cost 4.50 € a kilo.
 – Huh? How much?



Familiarity and Understanding

Eating out *auf Deutsch*

Other than spotting a dog quietly lying at its owner's feet in a restaurant, the most surprising thing for North Americans dining in German restaurants is the question *Ist hier noch frei?* (Is this seat taken?). Particularly in *Biergärten* and other less formal establishments, it is standard practice to sit at any table where there is room. Sharing a table with strangers does not mean sharing a meal or conversation – it's just a practical use of limited space.

Smoking is still far more prevalent in central Europe than in North America. Though there is growing public support for smoke-free areas, it is not yet as common. Restaurants are now smoke-free, in other public areas like at airports or train stations one still finds special areas for smokers.



Toasting

When drinks are served, whether alcoholic or not, it is customary to say *Prost!* and raise glasses before drinking. It is not formal, rather a matter of course. One also hears *Zum Wohl!* often, more so when drinking wine.

Check, please

After telling the server that you would like to settle up, if you are not alone, the question *Zusammen oder getrennt?* will follow. Unlike the American expectation that one person will pay the check, in the German-speaking countries there is no such assumption.

Tipping, too, is different. The service is included in the price of the meal, so the tip is truly a gratuity, and 5–10 % is sufficient. The easiest way to tip is to simply round up to the next Euro or Franc, maybe two, three tops.

You say *Kartoffel*, and I say *Erdapfel* ...

As mentioned in the previous chapter, names of food items can vary greatly across the German-language landscape. The standard name *Kartoffel* can be replaced near the French border with *Erdbirne* (“ground pear”) then *Erdapfel* (“ground apple”) in Bavaria and Austria and even with *Herdapfel* (“stove apple”) in Switzerland. Since in French a potato is called *pomme de terre* (apple of the ground), one can assume some interaction at some point in history. The same thing happens with tomatoes, carrots and other produce items.