

# 1

# Deutsch und Englisch

## Words That Are Similar in German and English; How to Say "The" in German

German is spoken by about 120 million people as their mother tongue. Can you name the countries where German is spoken? Where are they?

You'll have fun learning German, and it will probably be easier than you think. Do you know why? Well, first of all, German and English are both members of the same family of languages: German and English are both Germanic languages. So there are lots of words that are identical or nearly identical in both German and English. In time, you will come to see the similarities between German and English in words that, on first glance, do not look similar at all. Also, there are many German words that have a slightly different spelling but can be recognized instantly by anyone who speaks English.

Let's look at some German words and pronounce them the German way. Your teacher will show you how.

### 1

Words that are exactly the same in English and German:

blond	der Arm	die Bank	das Auto
elegant	der Ball	die Garage	das Baby
gold	der Bus	die Giraffe	das Hotel
intelligent	der Finger	die Hand	das Radio
modern	der Hunger	die Nation	das Restaurant
normal	der Motor	die Party	das Sandwich
warm	der Name	die Person	das Sofa
wild	der Paragraph	die Tour	das Taxi
	der Park	die Vase	das Tennis
	der Plan		das Theater
	der Pullover		das Zebra
	der Ring		
	der Sport		
	der Tiger		
	der Tourist		
	der Tunnel		
	der Winter		
	der Wolf		
	der Zoo		

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Here are some German words that look or sound almost like English words.  
Repeat them aloud after your teacher:

blau	der Amerikaner	die Biologie	das Bett
braun	der Balkon	die Bluse	das Bier
dick	der Bruder	die Erde	das Buch
dumm	der Elefant	die Familie	das Haus
dünn	der Fisch	die Frucht	das Programm
grün	der Freund	die Gitarre	das Telefon
hier	der Garten	die Klarinette	das Wasser
interessant	der Kaffee	die Klasse	das Wetter
jung	der Mann	die Lampe	das Zentrum
kalt	der Onkel	die Liste	
kühl	der Präsident	die Maschine	
lang	der Salat	die Maus	
laut	der Schuh	die Mathematik	
reich	der Sommer	die Milch	
rot	der Wein	die Musik	
rund		die Nummer	
imitieren		die Schule	
reparieren		die Schwester	
schwimmen		die Sekretärin	
singen		die Suppe	
studieren		die Tomate	
tanzen		die Trompete	
trinken		die Universität	
		die Violine	

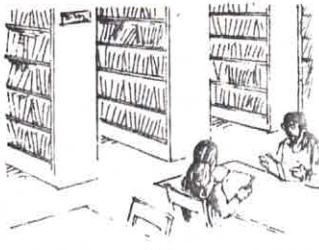
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Some German letters have two dots, „, called **Umlaut** (vowel change). The letters ä, ö, ü are pronounced differently from a, o, u. Listen carefully to your teacher when you learn to pronounce words with an Umlaut.

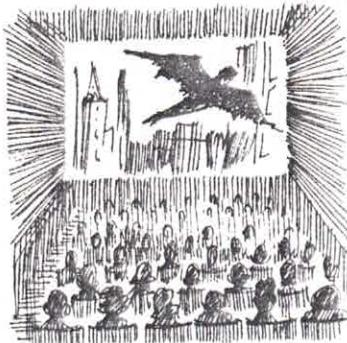
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Of course, there are many words that are quite different from the English words that have the same meaning. These words you must memorize. You will probably be able to learn many of them easily by connecting them with some related English word. For example, **der Hund** (*dog*) is related to *hound*; **die Platte** (*record*) is related to *plate*, a fairly flat round object; **das Schwein** (*pig*) is related to *swine*.

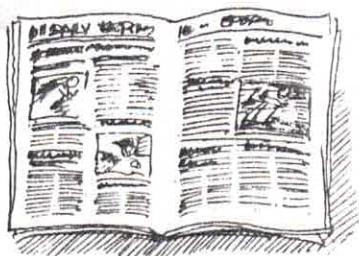
Here are some more words to add to your German vocabulary:



die Bibliothek



das Kino



die Zeitung



die Blume



der Junge



das Mädchen

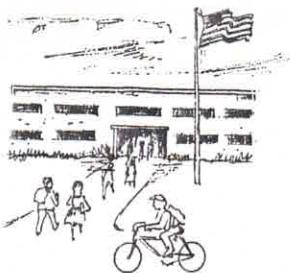


der Mann



die Frau

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die Schule



der Stuhl

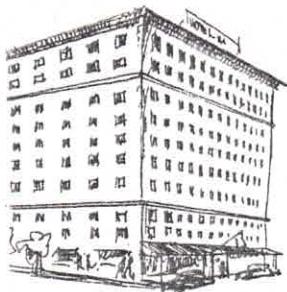
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Well, so much for vocabulary. Let's learn a little German grammar. Did you notice the words **der**, **die**, and **das** before all of the nouns? These three words are the German words for "the." That's right. German has three words for "the" in the singular: **der**, **die**, and **das**. The reason is that all German nouns, unlike English nouns, have GENDER. Nouns are either MASCULINE (m.), FEMININE (f.), or NEUTER (n.): **der** is used before masculine singular nouns; **die** is used before feminine singular nouns; **das** is used before neuter singular nouns.

How do you tell which words are masculine, which are feminine, and which are neuter. With some words, it's very easy. Obviously, **Mutter** (*mother*), **Schwester** (*sister*), and **Frau** (*woman*) are feminine; **Vater** (*father*), **Bruder** (*brother*), and **Mann** (*man*) are masculine; **Buch** (*book*), **Heft** (*notebook*), and **Haus** (*house*) are neuter. But why is **Salat** masculine and **Tomate** feminine? And why is **Mädchen** neuter? There really is no logical reason. So, the only way to learn German nouns is with the word for *the*. You don't memorize **Tiger** but **der Tiger**, not **Musik** but **die Musik**, not **Haus** but **das Haus**, and so on.

Did you notice anything else that's special about German nouns? That's right. German nouns begin with a capital letter regardless of where they appear in the sentence.

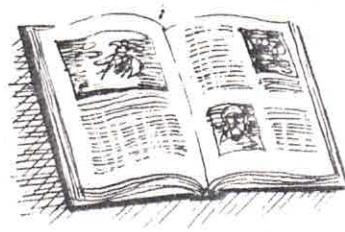
Now that you have learned some German words and grammar, let's see if you can figure out the meaning of these ten sentences. Repeat them aloud after your teacher:



1. Das Hotel ist modern.



2. Die Klasse ist intelligent.



3. Das Buch ist gut.



4. Der Tunnel ist lang.



5. Der Präsident ist blond.



6. Die Familie ist reich.



7. Der Elefant ist dick.



8. Die Giraffe ist dünn.



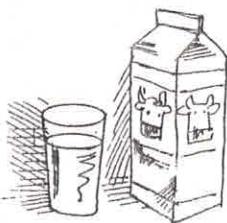
9. Die Trompete ist laut.



10. Der Kaffee ist braun.

**3 Aufgabe 1**

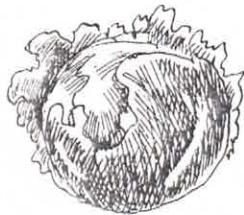
Ausgezeichnet! Here are ten more:



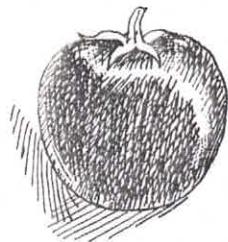
1. Die Milch ist kalt.



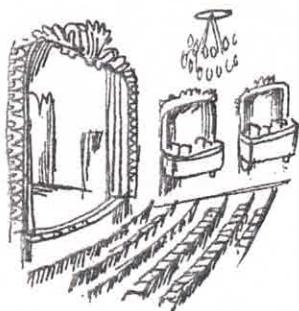
2. Der Tiger ist wild.



3. Der Salat ist grün.



4. Die Tomate ist rot.



5. Das Theater ist elegant.



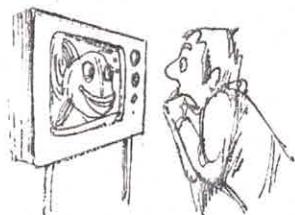
6. Die Suppe ist warm.



7. Die Garage ist klein.



8. Die Liste ist lang.



9. Das Programm ist interessant.



10. Die Frage ist schwer.

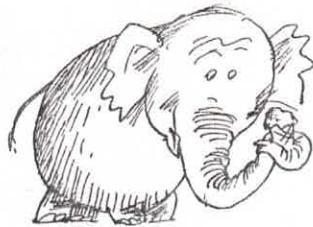
## ÜBUNGEN

A. Match the following words with the correct pictures:

das Baby  
der Elefant  
die Gitarre  
das Kino

das Buch  
der Garten  
der Hund

die Bluse  
die Giraffe  
die Tomate



1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_

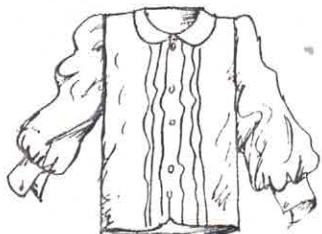
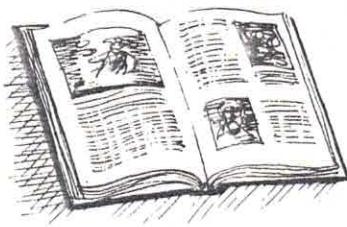
4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

10 Aufgabe 1



7. \_\_\_\_\_

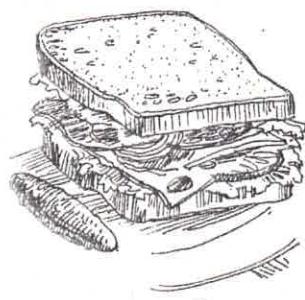
8. \_\_\_\_\_



9. \_\_\_\_\_

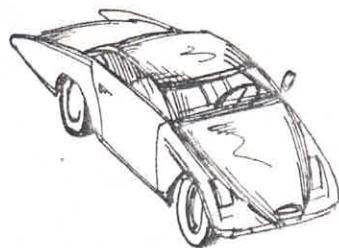
10. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Label the following pictures. Make sure to use der, die, or das:



1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_

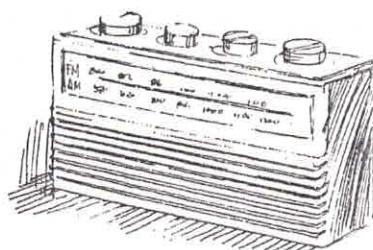


6. \_\_\_\_\_



7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_



9. \_\_\_\_\_



10. \_\_\_\_\_

12 Aufgabe 1



11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_



13. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

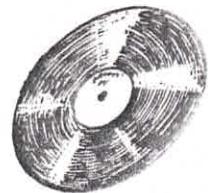


15. \_\_\_\_\_

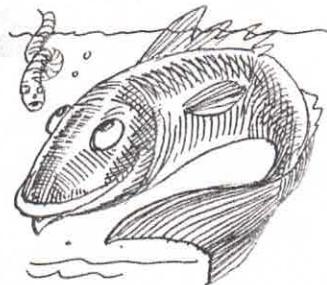
16. \_\_\_\_\_



17. \_\_\_\_\_



18. \_\_\_\_\_



19. \_\_\_\_\_



20. \_\_\_\_\_

C. Write the German word for *the (der, die, das)* before each noun:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Park

11. \_\_\_\_\_ Mädchen

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Elefant

12. \_\_\_\_\_ Klasse

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Sport

13. \_\_\_\_\_ Mann

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Person

14. \_\_\_\_\_ Auto

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Restaurant

15. \_\_\_\_\_ Theater

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Universität

16. \_\_\_\_\_ Salat

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Stuhl

17. \_\_\_\_\_ Bruder

8. \_\_\_\_\_ Baby

18. \_\_\_\_\_ Bluse

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Tunnel

19. \_\_\_\_\_ Kino

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Familie

20. \_\_\_\_\_ Garten

**14 Aufgabe 1**

**D.** Ja (yes) oder nein (no). If the statement is true, write richtig (correct). If it is false, write falsch (false):

1. Der Elefant ist dünn. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Das Schwein ist intelligent. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Der Kaffee ist braun. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Das Bier ist warm. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Der Sommer ist kalt. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Die Schule ist populär. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Der Ball ist rund. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Der Tunnel ist lang. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Der Tiger ist dumm. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Die Tomate ist blau. \_\_\_\_\_

**E.** Give your opinion by completing each sentence with one or more of the adjectives listed at right. (There may be several possible correct answers.)

1. Der Ball ist \_\_\_\_\_. blond  
blau
2. Das Auto ist \_\_\_\_\_. lang  
warm
3. Der Wein ist \_\_\_\_\_. modern  
interessant
4. Der Bus ist \_\_\_\_\_. dünn  
rund
5. Der Präsident ist \_\_\_\_\_. intelligent  
kalt
6. Die Sekretärin ist \_\_\_\_\_. .
7. Das Hotel ist \_\_\_\_\_. .
8. Das Wetter ist \_\_\_\_\_. .
9. Der Mann ist \_\_\_\_\_. .
10. Das Buch ist \_\_\_\_\_. .

**6**

Here is something else to remember about German nouns. German can string together words to form a new compound noun. Some compound nouns consist of several words strung together. Sometimes letters are added or left off words to make the compound sound better, but the gender of the compound is always the same as the last noun in the string. Examples:

**das Telefon + das Buch = das Telefonbuch**

**das Telefon + die Nummer = die Telefonnummer**

**die Tomate + n + die Suppe = die Tomatensuppe**

**rot + der Wein = der Rotwein**

**der Winter + der Sport + das Programm = das Wintersportprogramm**

Can you figure out the meanings of the compound nouns?

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## ÜBUNG

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**F.** Now let's see how well you can make compound nouns and guess their meanings:

1. das Tennis + der Ball =

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2. die Hand + der Schuh =

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3. das Radio + das Programm =

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4. das Gold + der Fisch =

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5. der Sommer + die Schule =

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6. die Mathematik + das Buch =

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