

## Look out for the following icons throughout the book:



### 'Shortcut' Phrase

Easy-to-remember alternative to the full phrase



### Q&A Pair

'Question-and-answer' pair – we suggest a response to the question asked



### Look For

Phrases you may see on signs, menus etc



### Listen For

Phrases you may hear from officials, locals etc

### LANGUAGE TIP

### Language Tip

An insight into the foreign language

### CULTURE TIP

### Culture Tip

An insight into the local culture

## How to read the phrases:

- Coloured words and phrases throughout the book are phonetic guides to help you pronounce the foreign language.
- Lists of phrases with tinted background are options you can choose to complete the phrase above them.

## These abbreviations will help you choose the right words and phrases in this book:

<b>f</b>	feminine	<b>pl</b>	plural
<b>inf</b>	informal	<b>pol</b>	polite
<b>m</b>	masculine	<b>sg</b>	singular
<b>n</b>	neuter		

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Learn about German, build your own sentences and pronounce words correctly.

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## Travel Phrases

Ready-made phrases for every situation – buy a ticket, book a hotel and much more.



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## **Menu Decoder**

Dishes and ingredients explained – order with confidence and try new foods.

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## **Two-Way Dictionary**

Quick reference vocabulary guide – 3500 words to help you communicate.

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## INTRO

## German

Deutsch doytch

## Who Speaks German?

OFFICIAL  
LANGUAGEGERMANY  
AUSTRIA  
LIECHTENSTEIN  
BELGIUM  
SWITZERLAND  
LUXEMBOURG

## Why Bother

Don't be put off by the fact that German tends to join words together to express a single notion – it's not hard to tell parts of words, and you'll have fun recognising 'the Football World Cup qualifying match' hidden

within *Fussballweltmeisterschaftsqualifikationsspiel*!

## Distinctive Sounds

The **ü** (pronounced as 'e' with rounded lips), plus the throaty **kh** (like in the Scottish *loch* or the name Bach) and **r** (a bit like gargling).

# 100 MILLION

speak German as their first language

# 80 MILLION

speak German as their second language

## German in the World

It's not usually described as romantic, but its role in science has long been recognised, and the German language lays claim to some of the most famous works ever printed – just think of the influence of Goethe, Nietzsche, Freud and Einstein.

## German in Germany

Each year the *Gesellschaft für deutsche Sprache* (Society for German Language) publishes an *Unwort des Jahres* (Unword of the Year) and several runners-up – usually unloved words that dominated the media that year. The 2017 'unword' was *Alternative Fakten* ('alternative facts').

## False Friends

Warning: many German words look like English words but have a different meaning altogether, eg *Chef* **sh**ef is boss, not chef (which is *Koch* **ko**kh in German).

## Language Family

West Germanic – close relatives include English, Dutch, Afrikaans, Frisian and Yiddish.

## Must-Know Grammar

German words can have a number of different endings, depending on their role in the sentence. There's also a formal and informal word for 'you' (*Sie* **zee** and *du* **doo** respectively).

## Donations to English

Numerous – you may recognise *kindergarten*, *kitsch*, *waltz*, *hamburger*, *poodle* ...

## 5 Phrases to Learn Before You Go

- 1** ▶ **Do you accept credit cards?**  
**Nehmen Sie Kreditkarten?**  
nay·men zee kre·deet·kar·ten

Cash is still king in Germany, so don't assume you'll be able to pay by credit card – it's best to enquire first.

- 2** ▶ **Which beer would you recommend?**  
**Welches Bier empfehlen Sie?**  
vel·khes beer emp·fay·len zee

Who better to ask for advice on beer than the Germans, whether at a beer garden, hall, cellar or on a brewery tour?

- 3** ▶ **Can I get this without meat?**  
**Kann ich das ohne Fleisch bekommen?**  
kan ikh das aw·ne flai·sh be·ko·men

In the land of *Wurst* and *Schnitzel* it may be difficult to find a variety of vegetarian meals, especially in smaller towns.

- 4** ▶ **A (non)smoking table, please.**  
**Einen (Nicht)rauchertisch, bitte.**  
ai·nen (nikht·)row·kher·tish bi·te

Germany and Austria have only partial smoking bans, so you may want to choose where to sit in cafes, bars and restaurants.

- 5** ▶ **Do you run original versions?**  
**Spielen auch Originalversionen?**  
shpee·len owkh o·ri·gi·nahl·fer·zi·aw·nen

German cinemas usually run movies dubbed into German – look for a cinema that runs subtitled original versions.

## 10 Phrases to Sound Like a Local

**Hey!** :: **Hey!** :: *hei*

**Great!** :: **Toll!** :: *tol*

**Cool!** :: **Spitze!** :: *shpi·tse*

**No problem.** :: **Kein Problem.** :: *kain pro·blaym*

**Sure.** :: **Klar!** :: *klahr*

**Maybe.** :: **Vielleicht.** :: *fi·laikht*

**No way!** :: **Auf keinen Fall!** :: *owf kai·nen fal*

**It's OK.** :: **Alles klar.** :: *a·les klahr*

**What a pity!** :: **Schade!** :: *shah·de*

**Doesn't matter.** :: **Macht nichts.** :: *makht nikhts*

# Understanding

## KEY PHRASES

**Do you speak English?**

Sprechen Sie Englisch? **pol**  
Sprichst du Englisch? **inf**

*shpre·khen zee eng·lish*  
*shprikhst doo eng·lish*

**I don't understand.**

Ich verstehe nicht.

*ikh fer·shtay·e nikht*

**What does ... mean?**

Was bedeutet ...?

*vas be·doy·tet...*

**Q Do you speak English?**

Sprechen Sie Englisch? **pol**  
*shpre·khen zee eng·lish*  
Sprichst du Englisch? **inf**  
*shprikhst doo eng·lish*

**Q Does anyone speak English?**

Spricht hier jemand Englisch?  
*shprikt heer yay·mant eng·lish*

**A I speak a little (German).**

Ich spreche ein bisschen (Deutsch).  
*ikh shpre·khe ain bis·khen (doytsh)*

**Q Do you understand (me)?**

Verstehen Sie (mich)?  
*fer·shtay·en zee (mikh)*

**A I (don't) understand.**

Ich verstehe (nicht).  
*ikh fer·shtay·e (nikht)*

**I'd like to practise German.**

Ich möchte Deutsch üben.  
*ikh merkh·te (doytsh) ü·ben*