



Kauderwelsch

Deutsch: Englische Ausgabe

# German

## word by word



### Numbers

|    |        |    |          |      |         |
|----|--------|----|----------|------|---------|
| 1  | eins   | 11 | elf      | 30   | dreißig |
| 2  | zwei   | 12 | zwölf    | 40   | vierzig |
| 3  | drei   | 13 | dreizehn | 50   | fünfzig |
| 4  | vier   | 14 | vierzehn | 60   | sechzig |
| 5  | fünf   | 15 | fünfzehn | 70   | siebzig |
| 6  | sechs  | 16 | sechzehn | 80   | achtzig |
| 7  | sieben | 17 | siebzehn | 90   | neunzig |
| 8  | acht   | 18 | achtzehn | 100  | hundert |
| 9  | neun   | 19 | neunzehn | 1000 | tausend |
| 10 | zehn   | 20 | zwanzig  |      |         |

### Date

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| gestern           | yesterday              |
| heute             | today                  |
| morgen            | tomorrow               |
| übermorgen        | the day after tomorrow |
| letzte Woche      | last week              |
| morgens           | in the morning         |
| nachmittags       | in the afternoon       |
| abends            | in the evening         |
| täglich/jeden Tag | every day              |
| früh              | early                  |
| spät              | late                   |
| jetzt             | now                    |
| bald              | soon                   |
| nie               | never                  |
| immer             | always                 |
| manchmal          | sometimes              |
| pünktlich         | in time                |

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**Kauderwelsch**

Bob Ordish

**German**

*Word by word*



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## This language guide is different!

**W**hy? Because it enables you to actually speak the language and understand the people.

How? Apart from the things they have in common with any other language book such as vocabulary, model sentences, etc., the books in the Kauderwelsch series have the following special features:

They explain enough of the **grammar** in simple terms for you to get speaking right away without hours of drudgery, even if you're not word perfect.

All the examples used are translated twice: **word by word** and into proper English. The literal version shows you exactly how the sentence in the foreign language is constructed, the very basis of the language's structure. This is important because a language may have a completely different way of building sentences or mode of expression than English. Without a literal rendering, it's often virtually impossible

to locate the function of individual words.

The **authors** writing for this series are travellers who've learnt the language in the country itself. So they know exactly what the people say in everyday life and how they say it. This is helpful, because a language as it is spoken is frequently much simpler and more direct than in literature.

Especially important in a country are **body language, gestures** and **rules of behaviour**. Without getting this right, even the best speaker will find it hard to make proper contact. That's why all the books in this series also focus on non-verbal communication.

**These language guides aren't grammar books, but much more than a phrase book!** They can help you, if you put in a little time and effort, to get a whole lot more out of your visit than a "speechless" tourist ever could.

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## Introduction

“**T**here’s no point learning German. They all speak English.”

Well, yes and no – or **jein** as the Germans would say – **ja + nein**. On the one hand, it’s true that particularly the young Germans do speak English – although less so in the area which used to be East Germany. There is no doubt that you can survive with English. But is that all you want? Even in Germany, a many people don’t speak enough English to keep up a proper conversation and, even if your own German is limited, you’ll get people on your side by at least making the effort. You’d be amazed how much goodwill – even a basic knowledge of German – is worth.

The language can seem pretty daunting at times, though, and the Germans themselves say: **Deutsche Sprache, schwere Sprache!** – “German language, difficult language!”. Whereas, say, French or Spanish are relatively accessible to English-speakers because vocabulary and word order are so similar, German is usually entirely impenetrable to the uninitiated. This is because, although the two languages are both “Germanic” in origin, they have developed away from each other over the past several hundred years and been subject to different influences in that time. English also used to have a lot of the gram-





matical constructions I introduce in the first half of this book. They are long since gone. So too is a lot of the old Germanic vocabulary, gradually replaced by terms from the French, Latin, Greek or Italian. These are the reasons why, despite being Germanic, English nevertheless seems closer to the Romance languages.

One of the first things that will strike you is the length of many German words. At first, when you see the likes of *Selbstbestimmungsrecht*, you are likely to do a double-take. However, this is much less of a problem than you would think. It is just that German frequently joins words together which in English are written separately and, with experience, you learn where one word ends and the next one starts: *Selbstbestimmungsrecht*, “self-determination right” or, more correctly, “right of self-determination”. A great help is that German is phonetic, i.e., it is spoken as it is written. Just think of what students of English have to go through when confronted with “bow”, “bough”, “though”, “thought” and suchlike. With German, once you’ve learned the rules, you’ll always know how a word is pronounced, even if you’ve never seen it before.

A bigger problem is word order: German is written “the wrong way round”. So much so that Mark Twain, the great American humorist, said that the language had to be read “in a mirror”. Another memorable summing up, which I heard from a British soldier stationed in Germany, was that you “don’t know till the end whether they’re going to kiss you or kick you” – a reference to the



verb often coming at the end of the sentence. The situation is, of course, more complicated than this. Suffice to say here that, with regard to word order, English and German really are very different. You will realize this just by looking at the examples later on, without my giving you every single rule which would defeat the object of this book.

The Peter Rump language learning technique, originally devised for German-speakers, is equally suitable for English-speakers wishing to learn German. The great strength of the system is that, by providing both a literal as well as a proper (in this case) English translation, it shows you exactly how the foreign language is built up. Since, as I said above, English and German sentence structure often differs so much, this technique is invaluable. Example:

**Weißt du, ob sie schon angekommen sind?**

*know you whether they already arrived are*  
Do you know if they've already arrived?

Unless you wish to study German properly you won't master all the grammatical complexities. But that's not the aim of this book, which is simply to enable you to cope with some measure of success in the situations travellers find themselves in. If you are looking for an exhaustive account of German grammar, you will have to proceed beyond this book.

*We have completely revised the book and adopted the new spelling effective since 1999. There have been ongoing discussions about the use of the spelling reform, die Rechtschreibreform, and only the children are forced to learn the new spelling at school. The entire press has agreed on adopting the new rules only partially and ordinary people will remain writing the old way. So don't be confused, when you come across a different spelling – it is likely to be spelled according to the old rules.*



**Listen to the pronunciation examples using your smartphone! You'll find a QR code in selected chapters of this book. You can also listen to the phrases on our website: [www.reise-know-how.de/kauderwelsch/046](http://www.reise-know-how.de/kauderwelsch/046)**

Also included is basic information on Germany, not only regarding accommodation, food, etc. but also the political system and German society. Even though it is so easy to travel to and around Germany these days, in many ways it is still something of a “mystery” country to the Anglo-Saxon world. Cultural links with France have always been much closer, and very many more English-speakers know French than German. It would also be naive to pretend that Germany has fully recovered its reputation among nations since the Nazi period and, although the vast majority of Germans now living had nothing to do with this, the country was until recently divided and militarily occupied as a direct result of it.

However, Germany isn't all fairy-tale castles, beer halls and boat trips along the Rhine. Without at least some knowledge of the language, and therefore the ability to raise yourself above the immediate tourist circuit, the essence of the country will pass you by.



## Pronunciation & stress

**T**he German alphabet is the same as the English plus some additional letters: ä, ö, ß, ü.

### stress

The stem of the word is stressed, e.g. **gehen** in **gehen**, “go-to”, i.e. “to go”. Many prefixes, i.e. particles placed on the beginning of verbs such as **gehen**, are stressed: **ausgehen** in **ausgehen**, “out-to-go”, i.e. “to go out”

### pronunciation

#### consonants

|          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
| <b>b</b> | <b>Bett</b> (bed)<br><b>ab</b> (off)          | as in English “ <b>b</b> ed”<br>at the end of a word or syllable like “p” as in “ <b>m</b> ap” |
| <b>c</b> | <b>Celle</b> (a town)<br><b>Camping</b>       | like “ts” as in “let’s”<br>otherwise like “k” as in “ <b>k</b> ill”                            |
| <b>d</b> | <b>denken</b> (to think)<br><b>Hund</b> (dog) | like “d” in “ <b>d</b> ead”<br>at the end of word or syllable like “t” in <b>c</b> at”         |
| <b>f</b> | <b>folgen</b> (to follow)                     | as “f” in “to <b>f</b> ollow”  |

### Numbers

*In order to make counting easier for you, every page has its number written in German.*



# Pronunciation & stress

## Kauderwelsch Pronunciation Trainer

If you would like to listen to the most important German phrases in this book spoken by a native speaker, your book shop can supply you with the **Pronunciation Trainer** for the book.

It is also available from our Internet shop: [www.reise-know-how.de](http://www.reise-know-how.de)

All sentences in the book which can be heard on the **Kauderwelsch Pronunciation Trainer** are marked with an ear: . You can find out more about the Pronunciation Trainer on our website: [www.reise-know-how.de](http://www.reise-know-how.de)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>g</b> <b>geben</b> (to give)  | as “g” in “to <b>give</b> ”, never “j” as in “ <b>jump</b> ”   |
| <b>Tag</b> (day)   | at end of word or syllable like “ck” as in “ <b>back</b> ”   |
| <b>heilig</b> (holy)   | preceded by -i at end of word, often a cross between “ch” in Scot. “ <b>loch</b> ” and “h”.              |
| <i>This sound is also often heard instead of “ck” in words such as “<b>Tag</b>” above.</i> |  |
| <b>h</b> <b>Hand</b> (hand)  | as in “ <b>hand</b> ”, never dropped –   |
| <b>gehen</b> (to go)   | unless its purpose is to lengthen a preceding vowel  |
| <b>j</b> <b>ja</b> (yes)   | German “jay” (yot), always like English “y” in “ <b>yes</b> ”  |
| <b>k</b> <b>Kern</b> (core, nuclear)   | as in English “ <b>kiss</b> ”, “ <b>core</b> ”   |
| <b>Ecke</b> (corner)   | as in English, often written as “ck”   |
| <b>l</b> <b>Milch</b> (milk)   | like English „l” but purer, never the dark “l” of the Southeast of England, which sounds more like a “w” |
| <b>m</b> <b>Mutter</b> (mother)  | like “m” as in English “ <b>mother</b> ”   |
| <b>n</b> <b>Name</b> (name)  | like “n” in “ <b>name</b> ”  |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>p</b> <b>Panne</b> (breakdown)          | like “p” in “ <b>P</b> aul”  |
| <b>q</b> <b>Quatsch</b><br>(nonsense)      | as in English, always followed by “u”; not as in “queen” but “kv” as in “Mac <b>V</b> itie”  |
| <b>r</b> <b>rennen</b> (to run)            | in the South often similar to trilled Scottish “r”; in standard “High German” rolled at the back of the mouth, like French “r” but lighter |
| <b>s</b> <b>Sonne</b> (sun)                | before or between vowels like “z” in “zone”  |
| <b>Haus</b> (house),<br><b>Tasse</b> (cup) | At the end of a word or if doubled (= ss) like “s” in “ <b>s</b> ave”  |
| <b>Stadt</b><br>(town, city)               | before “p” and “t” as “sh” in “ <b>s</b> hall” if a word begins with this combination  |
| <b>springen</b><br>(to jump)               | in the middle of a word like “ <b>s</b> tone” or “ <b>s</b> pider”   |
| <b>ist</b> (is),<br><b>Kasper</b> (Joker)  |  |
| <b>t</b> <b>Tasse</b> (cup)                | like “t” in “ <b>t</b> ooth”   |
| <b>w</b> <b>warten</b> (to wait)           | like “v” in “ <b>v</b> ery”, not English “w”   |
| <b>x</b> <b>Hexe</b> (witch)               | like English “x” in “ <b>i</b> nd <b>x</b> ”   |
| <b>z</b> <b>Zigarette</b><br>(cigarette)   | like “tz” in “ <b>Ri</b> tz”, not “z” as in “ <b>z</b> ebra”   |





# Pronunciation & stress

## consonantal combinations

|             |  |   |
|-------------|--|---|
| <b>ch</b>   | <b>Loch</b> (hole)                         | after a, o, u like “ch”<br>in Scottish “ <b>loch</b> ”  |
|             | <b>ich</b> (I)                             | sometimes,<br>especially after <b>i</b> ,<br>like a cross between<br>“h” and “sh”               |
|             | <b>Wachs</b> (wax)                         | before <b>-s</b> like “ <b>x</b> ” in<br>“ <b>wax</b> ”   |
| <b>ng</b>   | <b>singen</b> (to sing)                    | “-ng” as in “ <b>sing</b> ”   |
| <b>ph</b>   | <b>Philharmonie</b><br>(philharmonic hall) | “ph” as in English<br>“ <b>philharmonic</b> ”   |
| <b>sch</b>  | <b>Schiff</b> (ship)                       | like “sh” as in “ <b>ship</b> ”   |
| <b>ß</b>    | <b>Straße</b><br>(road, street)            | <b>ß</b> = “ss” and is used<br>to show that the<br>preceding vowel is<br>long, e.g. “shtrahsse” |
| <b>ss</b>   | <b>Kuss</b> (kiss)                         | like “ss” in “ <b>masses</b> ”<br>The preceding<br>vowel is short.                              |
| <b>tsch</b> | <b>Klatsch</b> (gossip)                    | like “ch” in<br>“ <b>church</b> ”   |

(cs)

