FREE PREVIEW

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From the alphabet to real conversation — in twelve weeks.

SAMPLE — THREE LESSONS FROM THE COMPLETE A1 COURSE

Grammar · Everyday Conversation · Workplace German

Each with its own glossary and mock test

A1
CEFR

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LESSON 1.1

Personalpronomen — Personal Pronouns

1.5 hours · Skills: [SPEAK] [LISTEN] [WRITE]

[WARMUP] WARM-UP (60 seconds)

I, you, he, she, it, we, they. English has seven pronouns for six relationships (there are two "you"s hiding — singular and plural — but English spells them the same). German has seven pronouns too, and one of them does double duty in a way that will save your life in polite conversation. Can you guess which?

[READ] CONCEPT

A pronoun replaces a noun so you don't have to keep repeating it. *Anna arbeitet. Anna ist müde* becomes *Anna arbeitet. Sie ist müde.* Before you can conjugate a single German verb, you need to know who "sie" is — because German verb endings change depending on the pronoun, and there is no way around learning both together.

PERSON	GERMAN	RESPELLING	ENGLISH	NOTE
1st sg.	**ich**	[ihy]	I	never capitalised mid-sentence
2nd sg. informal	**du**	[doo]	you	one friend, family, child
3rd sg. masc.	**er**	[air]	he / it	der-words → er
3rd sg. fem.	**sie**	[zee]	she / it	die-words → sie
3rd sg. neut.	**es**	[ess]	it	das-words → es
1st pl.	**wir**	[veer]	we	—
2nd pl. informal	**ihr**	[eer]	you (all)	a group of friends
3rd pl.	**sie**	[zee]	they	same spelling as "she" — context decides
2nd formal (sg. & pl.)	**Sie**	[zee]	you (formal)	**always capitalised, any number of people**

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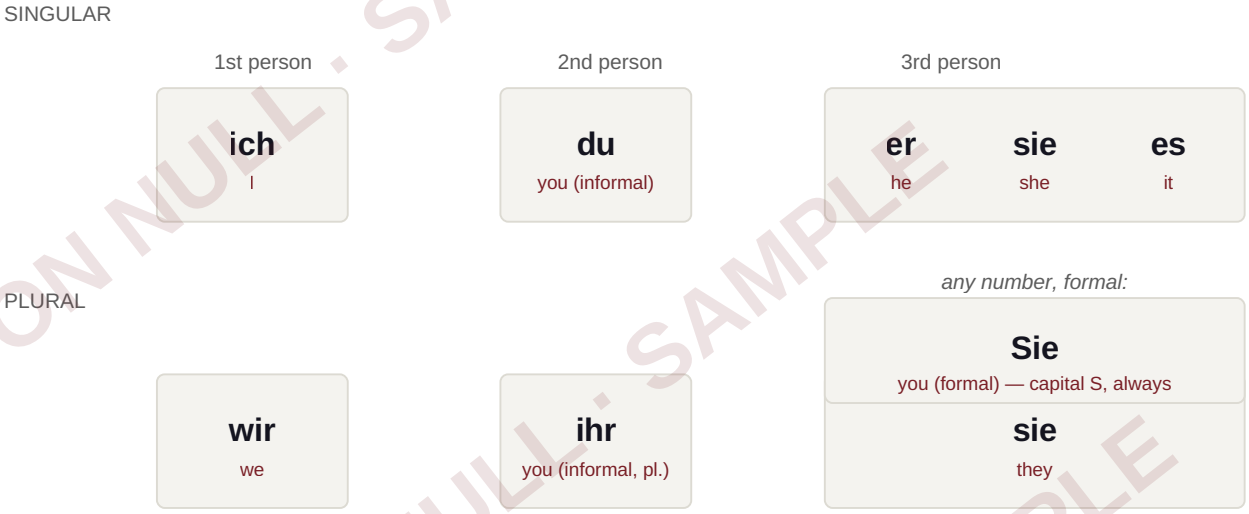


FIGURE 1.1 The seven pronoun slots. Notice sie fills three of them — she, they, and the base for formal Sie.

Achtung! Three traps hiding in one word. *sie* (lowercase) can mean "she" *or* "they" — only the verb ending and context tell you which. *Sie* (capitalised, anywhere in the sentence, not just at the start) always means the formal "you," whether you are speaking to one person or fifty. When reading, capitalisation is your only clue — so German never drops capital letters the way English text messages do.

Merkhilfe — matching pronoun to noun. German assigns a pronoun to a thing based on its grammatical gender, not its logical one. *der Tisch* (table, masculine) → *er* ("he" — but really just "it"). *die Lampe* (lamp, feminine) → *sie*. *das Buch* (book, neuter) → *es*. This feels strange at first; by Module 2 it will feel automatic.

[SPEAK] DIALOG 1.1 — WER IST DAS? (Who is that?)

Situation: Mia is showing Tom a photo of her family and friends.

Tom:	Wer ist das?	*Who is that?*
Mia:	Das ist meine Schwester. Sie heißt Lena.	*That is my sister. She is called Lena.*
Tom:	Und wer ist er?	*And who is he?*
Mia:	Das ist mein Bruder Paul. Er wohnt in Köln.	*That is my brother Paul. He lives in Cologne.*
Tom:	Und die zwei da? Sind sie deine Eltern?	*And those two there? Are they your parents?*
Mia:	Ja, genau. Sie wohnen auch in Köln.	*Yes, exactly. They also live in Cologne.*
Tom:	Und wie heißen Sie, Frau Meyer?	*And what is your name, Ms Meyer? (to Mia's mother, politely)*

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Frau Meyer:	Ich heiße Claudia. Freut mich!	*My name is Claudia. Pleased to meet you!*

*Notice: Tom uses **sie** for Mia's parents (they) and switches to **Sie** when he speaks directly to Mia's mother (formal you) — same spelling, completely different word.*

[WRITE] PRACTICE — LESSON 1.1

Exercise 1.1 A — Fill in the blank

Write the correct pronoun for each noun.

1. der Vater → _____
2. die Mutter → _____
3. das Kind → _____
4. die Bücher (plural) → _____
5. Herr und Frau Klein (talking politely, formal) → _____
6. du und ich (together) → _____

Exercise 1.1 B — Matching

1. ich	a. you (formal)
2. ihr	b. we
3. Sie	c. I
4. wir	d. you (informal, plural)

Exercise 1.1 C — Sentence reordering / translation

1. heißt / wie / du / ? → _____
2. ist / mein Bruder / das → _____
3. Translate: They live in Berlin. → _____
4. Translate: Is she your mother? → _____

Exercise 1.1 D — Multiple choice

1. Which pronoun is used for die Lampe? a) er b) sie c) es d) ihr
2. Sie (capital S) always means: a) they b) she c) you (formal) d) it
3. Which is correct for "you" speaking to one close friend? a) Sie b) ihr c) du d) er

[PAIR] Pair Activity 1.1 — Wer ist das?

Bring a photo (or describe someone from memory). Partner A points/describes; Partner B must respond using the correct pronoun: *Ist das dein Bruder? — Ja, er heißt...* Five rounds, then swap.

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[TEST] MINI-TEST 1.1

10 questions · 10 points

1. Fill in: das Auto → _____
2. Fill in: die Kinder (plural) → _____
3. True or false: sie can mean both "she" and "they." _____
4. Multiple choice — Sie is always: a) lowercase b) capitalised c) only for one person d) only for women
5. Translate: He is my father. → _____
6. Translate: We live in Munich. → _____
7. Fill in the formal "you": Wie heißen _____, bitte?
8. Matching: 1. du 2. ihr 3. er 4. es — a) it b) he c) you (pl. informal) d) you (sg. informal)
9. Correct the error: Ich bin dein Lehrer. Er heißt Frau Braun. (What's wrong?)
10. Translate: Are you (formal) Mr Wagner? → _____

[RECAP] QUICK RECAP — LESSON 1.1

- German has seven pronoun forms for eight roles — *sie* covers "she," "they," and forms the base of formal "you."
- Pronoun choice for objects follows grammatical gender: *der → er, die → sie, das → es.*
- *Sie* (capital, any position in the sentence) is always the formal "you" — singular or plural.
- *du/ihr* are informal; *du* for one person, *ihr* for a group.
- Capitalisation is your only clue in writing — never drop it, even in a text message.

[GOAL] **Can-Do Checkpoint** — [ ] I can list all German personal pronouns [ ] I can choose the right pronoun for a noun based on its article [ ] I can tell sie (she/they) apart from Sie (formal you) in writing [ ] I know when to use du vs ihr vs Sie

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GLOSSARY — LESSON 1.1

Every new word from this lesson, in one place for quick review.

German	English
ich, du	I, you (informal)
er, sie, es	he, she, it
wir, ihr	we, you (informal plural)
sie / Sie	they / you (formal, any number)
heißen	to be called/named
Freut mich!	Pleased to meet you!
der Bruder, die Schwester	brother, sister
wohnen	to live/reside

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[TEST] MOCK TEST — LESSON 1.1

Personalpronomen · 10 questions · 10 points · 10 minutes

1. Translate: I am called Anna. (1)
2. Fill in: _____ heißt Tom. (er/sie/es) (1)
3. Which pronoun is always capitalised, for any number of people? (1)
4. Translate: We live in Berlin. (1)
5. Fill in: _____ wohnt in München. (Sie, formal singular) (1)
6. True or false: "sie" can mean both "she" and "they." (1)
7. Translate: Pleased to meet you! (1)
8. Fill in: Das ist meine Schwester. _____ heißt Lena. (1)
9. Match: du — a) formal "you" b) informal "you" c) "we" (1)
10. Translate: My brother lives in Hamburg. (1)

[TIP] What this lesson builds toward

- Every verb ending in German depends on which pronoun you use — this is the foundation for Lessons 1.2–1.9.
- Getting du/Sie right from day one means you'll never sound impolite by accident.

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LESSON 3.3

Essen & Trinken — Ordering in a Café/Restaurant

[SPEAK] [LISTEN] [WRITE] [READ] · 4 hours

[WARMUP] WARM-UP (60 seconds)

This is the longest lesson in Module 3, because eating out combines almost every skill so far: möchten (Module 2.5), Akkusativ objects (Module 2), numbers and prices (Module 0), and polite requests. Master this scene and you've mastered a genuine survival skill.

[READ] CONCEPT — THE FULL RESTAURANT SCRIPT

STAGE	GERMAN	ENGLISH
Getting a table	Haben Sie einen Tisch für zwei Personen?	Do you have a table for two?
Asking for the menu	Die Speisekarte, bitte.	The menu, please.
Ordering	Ich möchte den Fisch, bitte.	I'd like the fish, please.
Ordering a drink	Ich nehme ein Wasser, bitte.	I'll take a water, please.
Asking about ingredients	Ist das vegetarisch/vegan?	Is this vegetarian/vegan?
During the meal	Das schmeckt sehr gut!	That tastes very good!
Asking for the bill	Die Rechnung, bitte. / Zahlen, bitte.	The bill, please.
Paying	Zusammen oder getrennt?	Together or separately?
Tipping	Das stimmt so. (when rounding up, no change needed)	Keep the change.

ESSEN — FOOD		TRINKEN — DRINKS	
das Brot, -e	bread	das Wasser	water
der Käse, -	cheese	der Kaffee, -s	coffee
das Fleisch	meat	der Tee, -s	tea
der Fisch, -e	fish	der Saft, -¨e	juice
das Gemüse	vegetables	das Bier, -e	beer
das Obst	fruit	der Wein, -e	wine
der Salat, -e	salad	die Milch	milk
die Suppe, -n	soup	mit/ohne Eis	with/without ice

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Achtung! "Zahlen, bitte!" gets the bill — never expect it automatically. Unlike some countries, German restaurants virtually never bring the bill unprompted. You must ask. Also, splitting the bill by item ("getrennt") is completely normal and the waiter will simply ask each person what they had.

Merkhilfe — schmecken uses dative logic (preview of Module 4.6). "It tastes good to me" is *Es schmeckt mir gut*, but for A1 purposes, the simple *Das schmeckt gut!* (That tastes good!) works perfectly and is what you'll hear and say most often.

Kulturtipp — tipping (Trinkgeld) is modest and rounded. 5-10% is typical, usually rounded up rather than calculated precisely: a €18.50 bill often becomes €20. State the total you want to pay when handing over cash — "Zwanzig, bitte" — rather than leaving coins on the table, which is less common in German-speaking countries than in some others.

[SPEAK] DIALOG 3.3 — IM RESTAURANT (At the Restaurant)

Situation: Wale and his friend Suri order a full meal.

Kellnerin:	Guten Abend! Haben Sie einen Tisch reserviert?	*Good evening! Do you have a table reserved?*
Wale:	Nein, aber haben Sie einen Tisch für zwei?	*No, but do you have a table for two?*
Kellnerin:	Ja, natürlich. Hier, bitte. Die Speisekarte.	*Yes, of course. Here, please. The menu.*
Suri:	Danke. Ist die Suppe vegetarisch?	*Thanks. Is the soup vegetarian?*
Kellnerin:	Ja, die ist vegetarisch.	*Yes, it is vegetarian.*
Wale:	Gut, ich möchte die Suppe und ein Bier.	*Good, I'd like the soup and a beer.*
Suri:	Und ich nehme den Salat und ein Wasser, bitte.	*And I'll take the salad and a water, please.*
(later)	Zahlen, bitte! — Zusammen, bitte.	*The bill, please! — Together, please.*

[WRITE] PRACTICE — LESSON 3.3

Exercise 3.3 A — Fill in the blank

1. Ich _____ den Fisch, bitte. (möchten)
2. Die _____, bitte. (menu)
3. Die _____, bitte. (bill)
4. Ist das _____? (vegetarian)

Exercise 3.3 B — Matching

1. Zahlen, bitte!	a. Keep the change.

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2. Zusammen oder getrennt?	b. The bill, please!
3. Das stimmt so.	c. Together or separate?

Exercise 3.3 C — Sentence reordering / translation

1. bitte / ich / Wasser / nehme / ein → _____
2. Translate: Do you have a table for four? → _____
3. Translate: This tastes very good! → _____

Exercise 3.3 D — Multiple choice

1. To ask for the bill, you say: a) Danke schön b) Zahlen, bitte c) Bitte schön d) Guten Appetit
2. "Das stimmt so" means: a) that's correct grammar b) keep the change c) I disagree d) the bill is wrong
3. Which is a polite way to order? a) Ich will Kaffee b) Gib mir Kaffee c) Ich möchte einen Kaffee, bitte d) Kaffee!

[PAIR] Pair Activity 3.3 — Im Restaurant (Role Play)

One partner is the waiter, one the customer. Act out the full script: greeting, menu, ordering two courses and a drink, asking about a dietary restriction, and paying (split the bill). Then swap roles with a different "menu."

[TEST] MINI-TEST 3.3

10 questions · 10 points

1. Fill in: Haben Sie einen _____ für zwei Personen?
2. Fill in: Ich _____ den Salat. (nehmen)
3. Translate: The menu, please. → _____
4. Translate: Is this vegan? → _____
5. Translate: The bill, please! → _____
6. True or false: German waiters usually bring the bill automatically after the meal. _____
7. Multiple choice — "getrennt zahlen" means: a) pay together b) pay separately c) don't pay d) pay in advance
8. Matching: 1. das Gemüse 2. das Obst 3. der Fisch 4. das Fleisch — a. fruit b. fish c. meat d. vegetables
9. Correct the error: Ich möchte ein Kaffee. (fix the article)
10. Translate: We'd like the soup and two beers, please. → _____

[RECAP] QUICK RECAP — LESSON 3.3

- Full restaurant script: table → menu → order (möchte/nehme) → eat → bill (Zahlen, bitte) → pay.
- Always ask for the bill explicitly — it's never brought automatically.

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- möchte + Akkusativ noun is the standard, polite way to order.
- Tipping is modest (5-10%) and usually stated as a rounded total, not left as loose change.

[GOAL] **Can-Do Checkpoint** — [ ] I can order a full meal politely from start to finish [ ] I can ask about dietary restrictions [ ] I can ask for and pay the bill, including splitting it [ ] I can comment that food tastes good

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GLOSSARY — LESSON 3.3

Every new word from this lesson, in one place for quick review.

German	English
die Speisekarte	the menu
bestellen	to order
möchte	would like (polite)
die Rechnung	the bill
Zahlen, bitte!	The bill, please!
zusammen oder getrennt?	together or separate (paying)?
das Trinkgeld	the tip
Guten Appetit!	Enjoy your meal!

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[TEST] MOCK TEST — LESSON 3.3

Essen und Trinken · 10 questions · 10 points · 10 minutes

1. Translate: I would like a coffee, please. (1)
2. What do you say to ask for the bill? (1)
3. Fill in: Ich _____ eine Pizza. (bestellen, ich-form) (1)
4. Translate: Together or separate? (1)
5. What does "Guten Appetit!" mean? (1)
6. True or false: "möchte" is more polite than "will." (1)
7. Translate: The menu, please. (1)
8. Fill in: Wir zahlen _____. (together) (1)
9. Match: das Trinkgeld — a) the bill b) the tip c) the menu (1)
10. Translate: Enjoy your meal! (1)

[TIP] What this lesson builds toward

- This exact script works at any café or restaurant in a German-speaking country — practice it until it's automatic.
- möchte (Module 3.3) quietly teaches you a whole polite-request pattern you'll reuse everywhere.

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LESSON 4.2

Berufe — Job Titles & the -in Feminine Rule

[SPEAK] [READ] · 2 hours

[WARMUP] WARM-UP (60 seconds)

You met the -in feminine pattern back in Lesson 2.1's gender rules. This lesson puts it to full use: nearly every German profession has a matching male and female form, and the transformation is almost always the same simple move — add -in.

[READ] CONCEPT — THE -IN PATTERN

MASCULINE (der)	FEMININE (die)	ENGLISH
der Lehrer	**die Lehrerin**	teacher
der Arzt	**die Ärztin**	doctor (umlaut added)
der Ingenieur	**die Ingenieurin**	engineer
der Verkäufer	**die Verkäuferin**	salesperson
der Student	**die Studentin**	student
der Koch	**die Köchin**	cook (umlaut added)

Achtung! Some feminine forms add an umlaut, not just -in. der Arzt → die Ärztin, der Koch → die Köchin, der Anwalt → die Anwältin. There's no simple predictive rule for exactly which ones get an umlaut — treat these as vocabulary to learn individually alongside the base pattern.

60 COMMON PROFESSIONS (SELECTED)	FEMININE	ENGLISH
der Lehrer	die Lehrerin	teacher
der Arzt	die Ärztin	doctor
der Krankenpfleger	die Krankenpflegerin	nurse
der Ingenieur	die Ingenieurin	engineer
der Programmierer	die Programmiererin	programmer
der Anwalt	die Anwältin	lawyer
der Koch	die Köchin	cook/chef
der Kellner	die Kellnerin	waiter/waitress

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der Verkäufer	die Verkäuferin	salesperson
der Friseur	die Friseurin	hairdresser
der Polizist	die Polizistin	police officer
der Elektriker	die Elektrikerin	electrician
der Manager	die Managerin	manager
der Journalist	die Journalistin	journalist
der Buchhalter	die Buchhalterin	accountant
der Architekt	die Architektin	architect
der Wissenschaftler	die Wissenschaftlerin	scientist
der Handwerker	die Handwerkerin	tradesperson/craftsperson
der Student	die Studentin	student
der Rentner	die Rentnerin	retiree

der Lehrer
masculine, base form

die Lehrerin
+ -in

die Lehrerinnen
plural: -in → -innen

Plural of -in nouns doubles the n and adds -en: die Lehrerin → die Lehrerinnen (Family 4 from Lesson 2.2).

Some professions, like der/die Fotograf(in), keep the same base for both — check the umlaut cases individually.

FIGURE 4.2 Masculine → feminine → feminine plural, using der Lehrer as the model.

> **Kulturtipp — gender-neutral language is an active, evolving topic in German.** Forms like *Lehrer*innen*, *LehrerInnen*, or *Lehrende* (a gender-neutral participle form) appear increasingly in official and progressive contexts, aiming to include all genders. For A1 purposes, the traditional der/die -in pattern above is what you'll encounter most often and is universally understood.

[SPEAK] DIALOG 4.2 — WER MACHT WAS? (Who Does What?)

Situation: At a family gathering, young Timo asks his aunt Basma about everyone's jobs.

Timo:	Was ist Onkel Karl von Beruf?	*What's Uncle Karl's profession?*
Basma:	Er ist Ingenieur. Und Tante Rita ist Ärztin.	*He's an engineer. And Aunt Rita is a doctor.*
Timo:	Und du, Tante Basma?	*And you, Aunt Basma?*
Basma:	Ich bin Programmiererin. Und Opa war früher Koch!	

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		I'm a programmer. And Grandpa was a cook back then!
Timo:	Wow! Und was ist Mama?	*Wow! And what is Mum?*
Basma:	Deine Mama ist Lehrerin, das weißt du doch!	*Your mum is a teacher, you know that!*

[WRITE] PRACTICE — LESSON 4.2

Exercise 4.2 A — Give the feminine form

1. der Lehrer → _____
2. der Arzt → _____
3. der Koch → _____
4. der Student → _____

Exercise 4.2 B — Matching

1. der Anwalt	a. accountant
2. der Buchhalter	b. lawyer
3. der Elektriker	c. electrician

Exercise 4.2 C — Sentence reordering / translation

1. ist / meine Schwester / Ärztin → _____
2. Translate: My brother is a chef. → _____
3. Translate: The lawyers (fem., plural) are here. → _____

Exercise 4.2 D — Multiple choice

1. Plural of die Lehrerin: a) die Lehrerine b) die Lehrerinnen c) die Lehrerins d) die Lehrer
2. der Arzt becomes feminine as: a) die Arztin b) die Ärztin c) die Arztin d) die Artztin
3. Which is a gender-neutral form sometimes seen in modern German? a) Lehrer*innen b) Lehrerss c) Lehrerung d) Lehrena

[PAIR] Pair Activity 4.2 — Berateraten (Guess the Job)

Partner A mimes or describes a profession without naming it (in German). Partner B guesses, stating both the masculine and feminine forms.

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[TEST] MINI-TEST 4.2

10 questions · 10 points

1. der Verkäufer → feminine: _____
2. der Friseur → feminine: _____
3. der Polizist → feminine: _____
4. True or false: all feminine professions simply add -in with no other change. _____
5. Multiple choice — die Ärztinnen is: a) singular feminine b) plural feminine c) plural masculine d) singular masculine
6. Translate: My aunt is a lawyer. → _____
7. Translate: He is a journalist. → _____
8. Matching: 1. der Handwerker 2. der Wissenschaftler 3. der Rentner — a. scientist b. tradesperson c. retiree
9. Correct the error: Sie ist ein Ärztin.
10. Translate: My mother is a teacher, and my father is an engineer. → _____

[RECAP] QUICK RECAP — LESSON 4.2

- Most feminine professions add -in to the masculine form: Lehrer → Lehrerin.
- Some also add an umlaut: Arzt → Ärztin, Koch → Köchin — learn these as exceptions.
- The plural of -in professions doubles the n: Lehrerin → Lehrerinnen.
- Gender-neutral forms (Lehrer*innen) are increasingly common in modern, progressive German.

[GOAL] **Can-Do Checkpoint** — [ ] I can name at least 20 professions in both masculine and feminine forms [ ] I can pluralise feminine profession nouns [ ] I recognise gender-neutral profession forms when I see them

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GLOSSARY — LESSON 4.2

Every new word from this lesson, in one place for quick review.

German	English
der Beruf, die Berufe	the profession/job, jobs
der Verkäufer / die Verkäuferin	salesperson (m./f.)
der Programmierer	programmer
arbeiten als	to work as
die Firma, die Firmen	the company, companies
der Kollege / die Kollegin	colleague (m./f.)
Was machst du beruflich?	What do you do for work?
seit	since/for (a duration)

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[TEST] MOCK TEST — LESSON 4.2

Berufe · 10 questions · 10 points · 10 minutes

1. Translate: I work as a programmer. (1)
2. Fill in the feminine form: der Verkäufer → die _____ (1)
3. How do you ask "What do you do for work?" (1)
4. Translate: My colleague works at a big company. (1)
5. True or false: German job titles change form for the speaker's gender. (1)
6. Fill in: Ich arbeite _____ Lehrer. (as) (1)
7. Translate: She has worked here since 2020. (1)
8. Match: die Firma — a) colleague b) company c) profession (1)
9. Translate: He is a salesperson. (1)
10. Name the German word for "profession." (1)

[TIP] What this lesson builds toward

- The -in feminine pattern here (Verkäufer→Verkäuferin) applies to dozens of job titles — learn the rule once, use it everywhere.
- This vocabulary feeds directly into Module 4.4's phone and email scripts for the workplace.

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Tips & Ideas — Getting the Most Out of This Course

[READ] HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The three lessons you just saw are a genuine cross-section of the full course — not cherry-picked easy examples. Every lesson in the complete book follows this same shape: a short warm-up, a clear concept explanation with a custom diagram, a real dialogue, four exercise formats, a glossary of new words, and a mock test to prove you've actually got it.

> **Do one lesson per sitting, not one module.** Each lesson is built to take 60–90 minutes, including the mock test. Trying to rush a whole module in one go is the single most common way learners burn out — the spacing between sessions is doing real work for your memory.

[GOAL] A SIMPLE WEEKLY RHYTHM

DAY	WHAT TO DO
Mon / Wed / Fri	One new lesson each (concept + exercises + mock test)
Tuesday / Thursday	Redo one mock test from earlier in the week, no notes
Weekend	Re-read the module's glossary out loud; nothing new

> **Achtung! Don't skip the mock tests.** It's tempting to read a lesson, nod along, and move on. The mock test is what actually tells you whether the grammar stuck — treat a low score as useful information, not a failure, and simply redo that lesson's exercises before retesting.

[TIP] THREE HABITS THAT MAKE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE

- **Say the dialogues out loud.** Reading silently and speaking use different parts of your brain — the course is designed around real conversations for exactly this reason.
- **Keep a running glossary of your own.** Copy any word you had to look up twice into a single running list — by Module 3 this becomes your fastest personal review tool.
- **Retest yourself after a week, not right after.** Testing yourself the same day you learned something measures short-term memory, not real learning. A week later is where it counts.

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> **Kulturtipp.** Every module in the complete course ends with its own full module test, a complete answer key, and a vocabulary list — the same structure you just saw for three individual lessons, but covering everything you learned across the whole module at once.

This has been a short preview of **Deutsch von Null** — the complete course covers 8 modules, 271 pages, and a full mock certification exam.

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