



Langenscheidt
Grundwortschatz

Deutsch als Fremdsprache



Englisch – Deutsch



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Introduction

Dear Student,

This „Grundwortschatz Deutsch als Fremdsprache“ from Langenscheidt is designed to help you develop a comprehensive basic vocabulary of German words and phrases. The vocabulary has been selected on the basis of frequency of use and current relevance. As a result, we have included not only important terms from the digital world but also significant vocabulary specific to Austria and Switzerland.

Structure of this Book

The words and phrases in the book are **arranged by topic**, each covering a different aspect of everyday life. Then, to make learning easier, the vocabulary within the chapters is further grouped on the basis of meaning and context. For most words, there is also an example of the word in use in a **typical sentence**. Exceptions are specific terms such as food, animals and plants, the meaning of which can be clearly understood with the English translation.

Grammatical Information

The word type is specified for each word. Often there is more information:

- In the case of **nouns (n)**, you will also find the article and the form of the nominative plural.
- **Feminine forms denoting occupation or relationship** are, however, only listed in the singular, as the plural is usually formed regularly, e.g.

der Lehrer, die Lehrerin, Lehrer n: The feminine plural form **Lehrerinnen** is derived from the singular form **Lehrerin**.

Irregularly formed plural forms, on the other hand, are listed individually:

der Cousin, Cousins n

die Cousine, Cousinen n

- Where there is no distinct feminine plural form, the plural form is used for both genders:
der Erwachsene, die Erwachsene, Erwachsenen n m-f

- In the case of irregular verbs (*v-irr*), the forms of the third person singular are presented in the Präsens, Präteritum und Perfekt tenses. For verbs with a prefix such as **vorlesen**, **anziehen** or **aussehen**, you will find the irregular forms next to the corresponding verb without the prefix, e.g. **lesen, liest, las, hat gelesen**.
- In addition, certain verbs are separable and this is indicated by (*v-sep*) next to a verb.

Pronunciation and Sound Recording

You will find an overview of the most important rules of pronunciation of German on pages 9 – 12. There is also an audiobook that can be purchased separately (ISBN 978-3-468-93140-6): Professional speakers have recorded the complete vocabulary and the sample sentences, in both German and English, so that you have the opportunity to listen to and practice the vocabulary. This way, you can train your pronunciation and vocabulary with or without the e-book and use the recording to check your progress. Some sample sentences from the book edition were slightly modified to make listening comprehension easier for you.

Further Help

- For many words, you will find additional tips regarding usage or possible sources of error.
- In the Register you can quickly look up all the words in both languages.

Finally, we wish you lots of fun and success with this phrase book,

Your Langenscheidt editorial team!

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Pronunciation

This section will make you familiar with the sounds of German. You'll find the pronunciation of the letters and sounds explained below, together with their „imitated“ equivalents.

The German alphabet is the same as English, with the addition of the letter **ß**. It also uses the Umlaut on the vowels **ä, ü, ö** (see below for pronunciation).

Pronunciation Rules

- A lot of consonants (**b, d, f, g, h, k, l, m, n, p, ph, t, x**) are usually pronounced the same (or almost the same) as their English counterparts.
- But **b, d, g** at the end of a word are pronounced like **p, t, k**: **gelb, Rad, Tag**.
- The German **r** is formed in the throat and pronounced as if you were clearing your throat or gurgling.
- The letter **h** after a vowel is not pronounced. It just prolongs the vowel: **Bahn, sehr, wohnen, Uhr**.
- Double vowels, vowels + **h** and **ie** are always long: **Paar, Tee, fahren, sehr, spielen**.
- Vowels in front of double consonants are always short: **Treppe, Tasse, Bett**.

Stress

Generally, as in English, the first syllable is stressed in German, except when short prefixes are added to the beginning of the word. Then the second syllable is stressed (e.g. **bewegen** – to move, **gesehen** – seen). However, similar looking words can be stressed differently: **übersetzen** – translate vs. **übersetzen** – ferry over.

Consonants

Letter	Approximate Pronunciation	Example
b	1. at the end of a word or between a vowel and a consonant	like p in up ab, gelb, lieb, er liebt, er gibt, gib!
	2. elsewhere	like b in bed Bett, bis, lieben, haben, geben

c	variable, depending on the origin of the loan-word e.g.	like c in cat	Café, Computer, Coburg
		like ts in hits	Celsius, Celle
		like ch in chip	Cello, Cembalo
ch	1. after the back (darker) vowels a, o, u	like ch in Scottish loch , otherwise more like h in huge ; is pronounced in the throat	Bach, Tochter, doch, Bucht, Geruch
	2. after the front (brighter) vowels i, e, ä, ö, ü	no English equivalent; an approximation to this sound may be acquired by assuming the mouth-configuration for i (in hit) and emitting a strong current of breath; pronounced on the palate	nicht, mich, dich, sich, Licht, ehrlich, echt, Bäche, Töchter, Küche
	3. sometimes, especially before s	like k in kit	wachsen, wechseln, sechs
d	1. at the end of a word or between a vowel and a consonant	like t in eat	Kind, Rad, Land, Feld, Geld, widmen, Mädchen
	2. elsewhere	like d in do	Kinder, Räder, Länder, Felder, danke, baden
g	1. usually	like g in go	geben, Gast, fragen, Nagel, einige, aussteigen
	2. at the end of a word	like k in kit	Tag, Weg, Zug, steig ... aus
	3. in words with the ending -ig	like ch in deutsch nicht (see above ch no. 2)	fertig, lustig, eckig, König, einig, billig
j	usually	like y in yes	ja, Junge, Jacke
qu	usually	like k followed by v as in vat : like k-v	Qualität, Quittung
r	1. usually	no English equivalent, generally rasped at the back of the mouth	warum, warten, Rad, rot, Ernst, brav, froh
	2. sometimes at the end of a word or a prefix	unstressed like a in ago	er, wer, aber, erzählen, verkaufen

s	1. before or between vowels; voiced	like z in zoo	s ie, S onne, R ose, H ose, H äuser, d ieser
	2. before p and t at the beginning of a syllable, unvoiced	like sh in shut	S port, S piel, s pitz, S til, S tein, b estellen
	3. elsewhere; unvoiced	like s in sit	es i st, H aus, d ies, W eisheit
ß	always	like s in sit	groß, heiß, schließen, Fuß, Straße
sch	always	like sh in shut	s chnell, S chiff, M ensch, b ritisch
v	1. usually	like f in for	v ier, vielleicht, v iel, V ater, V erkehr, v erkaufen
	2. in most words of foreign origin	like v in voice	V ase, v egan, V elo, bravo
w	always	like v in voice	W agen, W ort, w ie, S chweiz, ob w ohl, ew ig
z	usually	like ts in hits	z eigen, Z entrum, Z oo, S alz, A rzt, f ranz ö sisch

Vowels

Letter	Approximate Pronunciation		Example
a	1. short	like a in French carte	Mann, hatte, alles, Ball
	2. long	like a in father	Vater, Rad, A abend, J ahr
ä	1. short	like ai in fair	L ärm, männlich
	2. long	like ai in fair , but long	z ählen, ern ä hren, w ählen, R äder
e	1. short (unstressed)	like e in bed	j edoch, R evolution
	2. long (stressed)	same sound, but long	W eg, j emand, s ehen
	3. at the end of a word	unstressed like a in ago	bitte, danke, ihre
	4. sometimes like ä	like e in let or ai in fair	Herr, fertig, E nde
	5. sometimes almost silent		gehen, sehen

i	1. short	like i in hit	billig, ich , immer, Ding, Linde
	2. long	like ee in meet	ihm, Bio , Stil , Tiger
ie	always long	like ee in meet	die, sie , sieht , Bier , Liebe
o	1. short	like o in long	voll, Ort , kommen , trotz
	2. long	same sound but long; no English equivalent	wohnen, Sohn , ohne , Ohr , rot , Boot
ö	1. short	like eu in French neuf	öffnen, können, Körper
	2. long	like er in fern or like eu in French feu	schön, höflich, Größe
u	1. short	like oo in book or foot	Nuss, Kuss, muss, und
	2. long	like oo in boot or ou in you	Uhr, Huhn, ruhig, Mut
ü/y	1. short	almost like the French u as in sur ; round your lips	Hütte, kümmern, brüllen, Glück, System, Rhythmus
	2. long	same sound but long	führen, Tür, Gefühl, berühmt, früh, Syrien

Diphthongs

ai, ei	always	like ey in eye	eigen, mein, frei, Eis , leise, Arbeit, Zeit, Mai
au	always	like ou in mouse	Maus, Haus, laufen, Auto, Pause
äu, eu	always	like oy in boy	Mäuse, Häuser, heute, neu, Euro, Feuer

People

Personal Information

der **Herr, Herren** *n*

- Das ist mein Chef, Herr Wagner.

Mr

- This is my boss, Mr Wagner.

der **Mann, Männer** *n*

- Er ist ein gut aussehender Mann.

man

- He's a good-looking man.

die **Frau, Frauen** *n*

- Wohnt in diesem Haus eine Frau Schneider?
- Brauchen Sie Hilfe, Frau Fischer?
- Der Roman heißt „Eine Frau von dreißig Jahren“.

Mrs; Ms; woman

- Is there a Mrs Schneider living in this house?
- Do you need any help, Ms Fischer?
- The novel is called "A Woman of Thirty".

➔ **Frau** is used both as a title and as a term for an adult female person.

der **Junge, Jungen** *n*

- In unserer Klasse sind nur drei Jungen.

boy

- There are only three boys in our class.

das **Mädchen, Mädchen** *n*

- Ein Mädchen hat meinen Schlüssel gefunden.

girl

- A girl found my key.

➔ **Mädchen** is used in German with the neuter article **das**, even though the real gender of a girl is feminine. So in German you say: Ich sehe **ein Mädchen, das** sich gerade die Haare kämmt. I can see a girl who is combing her hair. **Es** hat sehr schöne und lange Haare. She has very long and beautiful hair.

das **Kind, Kinder** *n*

- Im Juni erwarten wir unser drittes Kind.

child

- We're expecting our third child in June.

➔ **Das Kind** has a neuter gender in German, even though it may refer to either a boy or a girl.

heißen,

heißt, hieß, hat geheißen *v-irr*

- Er heißt Mario.

to be called

- He's called Mario.

der **Name, Namen** *n*

- Könnten Sie bitte Ihren Namen buchstabieren?

name

- Could you spell your name, please?

der Familienname , Familiennamen <i>n</i> Wie ist der Familienname deiner Mutter?	surname What's your mother's surname?
der Nachname , Nachnamen <i>n</i> Tragen Sie bitte hier Ihren Nachnamen ein.	last name Please enter your last name here.
der Vorname , Vornamen <i>n</i> Wie heißt du mit Vornamen?	first name What's your first name ?
ledig <i>adj</i> Ich bin nicht ledig. Mein Mann lebt in Mexiko.	single I'm not single. My husband lives in Mexico.
verheiratet <i>adj</i> Seit wann sind Sie verheiratet?	married Since when have you been married?
geschieden <i>adj</i> Peter und Lisa waren verheiratet. Jetzt sind sie geschieden.	divorced Peter and Lisa were married. Now they're divorced.
getrennt <i>adj</i> Ihre Eltern sind getrennt und leben in verschiedenen Wohnungen.	separated Their parents are separated and live in different flats.
verwitwet <i>adj</i> Er ist seit vielen Jahren verwitwet.	widowed He has been widowed for many years.
herkommen <i>v-sep-irr</i> Wo kommen Sie her?	to come from Where do you come from?
kommen aus <i>phrase</i> Sie kommt aus Berlin.	to be from She's from Berlin.
die Adresse , Adressen <i>n</i>	address
der Wohnort , Wohnorte <i>n</i>	(place of) residence
die Straße , Straßen <i>n</i>	street
die Hausnummer , Hausnummern <i>n</i>	house number
die Telefonnummer , Telefonnummern <i>n</i>	telephone number
die Handynummer , Handynummern <i>n</i>	mobile number

Character Traits

der **Charakter** *n*

- Er ist ein Mann von Charakter.

character

- He's a man of character.

die **Persönlichkeit**, **Persönlichkeiten** *n*

- Um hier zu arbeiten, braucht man eine starke Persönlichkeit.

personality

- You need a strong personality to work here.

nett *adj*

- Es war sehr nett von dir, mir zu helfen.

kind

- It was very kind of you to help me.

freundlich *adj*

- Elisabeth begrüßte uns mit einem freundlichen Lächeln.

friendly

- Elisabeth greeted us with a friendly smile.

unfreundlich *adj*

unfriendly

höflich *adj*

- Es war nicht höflich von Peter, uns so lange warten zu lassen.

polite

- It wasn't polite of Peter to keep us waiting so long.

unhöflich *adj*

impolite

sympathisch *adj*

- Ihre Chefin scheint eine sehr sympathische Frau zu sein.

pleasant

- Her boss seems a very pleasant woman.

unsympathisch *adj*

unpleasant

lieb *adj*

- Er wird manchmal wütend, aber er ist ein lieber Kerl.

good

- He loses his temper sometimes but really he's a good guy.

brav *adj*

- Sei ein braver Junge und spiele draußen im Garten.

good

- Be a good boy and play outside in the garden.

faul *adj*

- Du würdest nicht glauben, wie faul ich sein kann.

lazy

- You wouldn't believe how lazy I can be.

lustig *adj*

- Mein neuer Freund ist so lustig. Er kennt Hunderte von Witzen.

funny

- My new boyfriend is so funny. He knows hundreds of jokes.

ruhig *adj*

- Obwohl er den Test nicht bestanden hat, blieb sein Vater **ruhig**.

calm

- Even though he hadn't passed the test, his father stayed **calm**.

mutig *adj*

- Es war **mutig** von Paul, ins Wasser zu springen, um sie zu retten.

brave

- It was **brave** of Paul to jump into the water to save her.

feige *adj*

- Das war eine **feige** Lüge.

cowardly

- That was a **cowardly** lie.

ehrlich *adj*

- Ich bin froh, dass sie **ehrlich** zu mir war.

honest

- I'm glad she was **honest** with me.

die **Geduld** *n*

- Und dann hat er die **Geduld** verloren und wurde böse.

patience

- And then he lost his **patience** and became angry.

nervös *adj*

- Geh weg! Du machst mich **nervös**.

nervous

- Go away! You're making me **nervous**.

vorsichtig *adj*

- Sei **vorsichtig**, wenn du die Straße überquerst!

careful

- Be **careful** crossing the street.

unvorsichtig *adj***careless****schlau** *adj*

- Was für ein **schlaues** Mädchen du doch bist.

clever

- What a **clever** girl you are.

die **Dummheit, Dummheiten** *n*

- Seine **Dummheit** ist unglaublich.

stupidity

- His **stupidity** is incredible.

dumm *adj*

- Es gibt keine **dummen** Fragen, sondern nur **dumme** Antworten.

stupid

- There are no **stupid** questions, only **stupid** answers.

gewöhnt sein an *phrase*

- Ich bin daran **gewöhnt**, früh aufzustehen.

to be used to

- I'm **used to** getting up early.
-

Looks

Appearance

das **Aussehen** *n*

- Wir wollen dem Zimmer ein neues Aussehen verleihen.

aussehen *v-sep-irr*

- Mein Nachbar ist über 50, sieht aber zehn Jahre jünger aus.

hübsch *adj*

- Denkst du wirklich, sie ist hübsch?

attraktiv *adj*

- Emma ist das attraktivste Mädchen in unserer Klasse.

die **Schönheit** *n*

- Jeder bewundert ihre Schönheit.

schön *adj*

- Frau Becker hat zwei schöne Kinder.

hässlich *adj*

- Tim ist hässlich, aber er hat eine wundervolle Persönlichkeit.

das **Gesicht, Gesichter** *n*

- Albert lachte übers ganze Gesicht, als er mich sah.

das **Haar, Haare** *n*

- Susanna hat lange, schwarze Haare.

➔ **Haare** is used mostly in the plural in German. **Das Haar** (singular) usually refers to one single hair.

die **Figur** *n*

- Kein Zucker für mich, ich muss auf meine Figur achten.

groß *adj*

- Monika ist ziemlich groß für ihr Alter.

look

- We want to give the room a new look.

to look

- My neighbour is over 50, but he looks ten years younger.

pretty

- Do you really think she's pretty?

attractive

- Emma is the most attractive girl in our class.

beauty

- Everybody admires her beauty.

beautiful

- Mrs Becker has got two beautiful children.

ugly

- Tim is ugly, but he's got a wonderful personality.

face

- Albert had a big smile on his face when he saw me.

hair

- Susanna's got long black hair.

figure

- No sugar for me, I have to watch my figure.

tall

- Monika is quite tall for her age.

klein *adj*

- Der kleine, dicke Mann sah nicht sehr freundlich aus.
- Als Teenager war ich eher klein für mein Alter.

short; small

- The short, fat man didn't look very friendly.
- When I was a teenager I was rather small for my age.

schlank *adj*

- Benjamin isst nicht viel, weil er schlank bleiben möchte.

slim

- Benjamin doesn't eat much because he wants to stay slim.

dünn *adj*

- Der Arzt sagte mir, ich bin zu dünn und sollte etwas zunehmen.

thin

- The doctor told me I was too thin and should put on some weight.

dick *adj*

- Ich sollte mich gesünder ernähren, weil ich langsam dick werde.

fat

- I should eat more healthily because I'm slowly getting fat.

so wie *prep*

- Hannah ist etwas größer, sieht aber genau so aus wie ihre Mutter.

like

- Hannah is a bit taller but she looks exactly like her mother.

die Frisur, Frisuren *n*

- Du brauchst eine neue Frisur.

haircut

- You need a new haircut.

blond *adj*

- Obwohl Carlos aus Spanien stammt, hat er blondes Haar.

fair

- Although Carlos is from Spain he's got fair hair.

hell *adj*

- Nordeuropäer haben normalerweise helle Haut.

fair

- People from northern Europe usually have fair skin.

dunkel *adj*

- Der Manager trug einen dunklen Anzug und eine gelbe Krawatte.

dark

- The manager was wearing a dark suit and yellow tie.

➔ A colour can be described more precisely by adding the prefixes **hell** or **dunkel** to it: **Das Auto ist hellblau.** The car is light blue. **Das Heft ist dunkelgelb.** The book is dark yellow.

Clothes and Shoes

die **Kleidung**, **Kleidungen** *n*

- Sie verkaufen Jeans, Pullover, Jacken und andere Kleidung.

clothes

- They sell jeans, sweaters, jackets and other clothes.

➔ **Kleidung** is only used very rarely in the plural.

die **Mode**, **Moden** *n*

- Interessieren Sie sich für italienische Mode?

fashion

- Are you interested in Italian fashion?

anziehen *v-sep-irr*

- Zieh deinen Mantel an! Es wird kalt.
- Obwohl er fünf ist, muss seine Mutter ihn immer noch anziehen.

to put on; to dress

- Put your coat on. It's getting cold.
- Although he's five, his mother still has to dress him.

ausziehen *v-sep-irr*

- Haben Sie etwas dagegen, wenn ich meine Jacke ausziehe?

to take off

- Do you mind if I take off my jacket?

tragen,

trägt, **trug**, **hat getragen** *v-irr*

- Du solltest am Strand Hut und Sonnenbrille tragen.

to wear

- You should wear a hat and sunglasses on the beach.

anhaben *v-sep-irr*

- Heute hat sie ein grünes T-Shirt an.

to wear

- Today she is wearing a green T-shirt.

anprobieren *v-sep*

- Darf ich diese Hose anprobieren?

to try on

- Can I try these trousers on?

sich umziehen *v-sep-irr*

- Wo kann ich mich umziehen?

to change

- Where can I change?

j-m stehen *phrase*

- Dunkle Farben stehen dir am besten.

to suit sb.

- Dark colours suit you best.

passen *v*

- Dieses Kleid passt überhaupt nicht.

to fit

- This dress doesn't fit at all.

gut zu etw. passen *phrase*

- Diese Krawatte passt wirklich gut zu Ihrem Hemd.

to go well

- This tie goes really well with your shirt.

eng *adj*

- Dieser Rock ist zu eng.

tight

- This skirt is too tight.

weit *adj*

- Diese Jacke ist mir zu weit.
- Ich liebe es, weite Hemden und Hosen zu tragen.

wide; loose

- This jacket is too wide for me.
- I love wearing loose shirts and trousers.

kurz *adj*

- Karen würde nie einen kurzen Rock tragen.

short

- Karen would never wear a short skirt.

lang *adj*

- Sophie ging in einem langen roten Kleid aus.

long

- Sophie went out in a long red dress.

die **Kleidergröße, Kleidergrößen** *n*

- Welche Kleidergröße tragen Sie?

size

- What size do you take?

der **Mantel, Mäntel** *n***coat**die **Jacke, Jacken** *n***jacket**die **Hose, Hosen** *n***(pair of) trousers**die **Jeans, Jeans** *n f pl***(pair of) jeans**das **T-Shirt, T-Shirts** *n***T-shirt**der **Pullover, Pullover** *n***pullover; sweater; jumper**das **Kleid, Kleider** *n***dress**der **Rock, Röcke** *n***skirt**die **Bluse, Blusen** *n***blouse**das **Hemd, Hemden** *n***shirt**der **Anzug, Anzüge** *n***suit**die **Socke, Socken** *n***sock**der **Schuh, Schuhe** *n***shoe**der **Schlafanzug, Schlafanzüge** *n***(pair of) pyjamas**das **Nachthemd, Nachthemden** *n***nightdress**der **Slip, Slips** *n***(pair of) briefs**die **Unterhose, Unterhosen** *n***(pair of) briefs**der **Badeanzug, Badeanzüge** *n***swimsuit**der **Bikini, Bikinis** *n***bikini**die **Badehose, Badehosen** *n***swimming trunks**