# Kapitel 2

**Note**: *Please don't let the length of this document worry you. It is simply meant to be a resource to help you learn the chapter vocabulary. In the past, we just asked students to learn the chapter vocabulary, without providing a document like this. Feedback from students indicated that they would find it helpful to have a list of examples and mnemonic ideas they could refer to when studying this vocabulary. That is the purpose of this list. If you have time to read through it once or twice as we recommend, and then refer back to it as you study the chapter vocabulary, that's great. If you run out of time and aren't able to read through the entire document, don't worry! Just know that if you're having trouble learning (or using!) a word, you may be able to find some help by referring to this list.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Die Familie und die Verwandten** | **The Family and (the) Relatives** | **Collocations/Examples/Mnemonics** |
| der Bruder, ¨- | brother | Cognate  O Bruder, wo bist du? [for Coen Brothers fans ☺] |
| der Cousin, -s | (male) cousin |  |
| die Cousine, -n | (female) cousin |  |
| die Eltern (pl.) | parents | **Elter**n sind **älter** [=older] / **Elter**n are your **elder**s  I ask my **Elt**ern for G**eld** [=money]  Die besten **Elt**ern der W**elt** [=in the world] |
| der Enkel, - | grandson | My **Enkel** is very short - he's down around my **ankle** |
| die Enkelin, -nen | granddaughter |  |
| das Enkelkind, -er | grandchild | Enkel + Kind = Enkelkind |
| die Familie, -n | family | *Pronounced "Famili-uh," not "Famili"* |
| die Frau, -en | wife | Sie sind Mann und Frau  Das ist meine Frau |
| die Geschwister (pl.) | siblings; brothers and sisters | Sounds like "sister"  Hast du Geschwister? ==> e.g. Ja, ich habe einen Bruder und eine Schwester *OR* Ja, ich habe zwei Geschwister *OR* Nein, ich habe keine Geschwister. |
| die Großeltern (pl.) | grandparents | Groß [sort of like "grand"] + Eltern [=parents] = Großeltern |
| die Großmutter, ¨- | grandmother | Groß [sort of like "grand"] + Mutter = Großmutter |
| der Großvater, ¨- | grandfather | Groß [sort of like "grand"] + Vater = Großvater |
| der Hund, -e | dog | You ain't nothin' but a **Hound** **Dog**, cryin' all the time |
| der Junge [-en], -en | boy | Der **Junge** ist **jung** |
| die Katze, -n | cat | Cognate |
| das Kind, -er | child | Be **kind** to **Kind**er  **Kinder**garten! |
| die Leute (pl.) | people | No **loite**ring means no **people** should hang around  junge Leute, viele Leute, nette [=nice] Leute  Auf der Party waren [=were] viele junge Leute  L**eute** von h**eute** = people of today, modern people  *[But: I see dead people = Ich sehe tote ~~Leute~~ Menschen [*The Sixth Sense*]]* |
| das Mädchen, - | girl | Connected to English "maiden and "maid"  *All nouns with the diminutive -chen ending are neuter; this is why it's* ***das*** *Mädchen, instead of die.* |
| der Mann, ¨-er | husband | Sie sind Mann und Frau  Das ist mein Mann |
| die Mutter, ¨- | mother | Cognate |
| der Neffe, [-n], -n | nephew | Cognate |
| die Nichte, -n | niece | Du bist **nicht** meine **Nichte**! |
| die Oma, -s | grandma | Think of "**o**ld **ma**"? (But don't tell your grandma ☺) |
| der Onkel, - | uncle | Cognate |
| der Opa, -s | grandpa | Think of "**o**ld **pa**"? (But don't tell your grandpa ☺)  Or think of your grandfather lighting the cheese on fire in a Greek restaurant and yelling "**Opa**!" |
| die Schwester, -n | sister | Cognate  krank = sick ==> Krankenschwester = nurse ["sister of the sick"] |
| der Sohn, ¨-e | son | Cognate |
|  |  |  |
| die Tante, -n | aunt | Cognate  Don't t**aunt** my **Tante**!  *"Tante Emma-Laden" ["aunt Emma store"] is an expression for a little neighborhood store* |
| die Tochter, ¨- | daughter | Cognate |
| der Vater, ¨- | father | Luke, ich bin dein Vater! [OK, he doesn't say "Luke"] |
| die Verwandten (pl.) | family, relatives | Ich besuche [=visit: see below!] meine Verwandten in Deutschland.  Ich habe Verwandte in Deutschland.  I have pictures of my Ver**wand**te on my **Wand**  *This noun comes from an adjective and may sometimes have other endings (e.g. Ich habe viele Verwandt****e****) - don't worry about that for now.* |
| **Die Universität und die Studienfächer** | **The University and (the) Subjects of Study** |  |
| das Hauptfach, ¨-er | major (area of study) | das Fach = a compartment [==> area of study]  die **Haupt**stadt = capital city; die **Haupt**straße = main street; die **Haupt**sache = the main thing  Ich studiere Deutsch als Hauptfach [or simply: Ich studiere Deutsch] |
| Was haben Sie als Hauptfach? | What's your major? |  |
| der Kurs, -e | course | Cognate [==> der Deutschkurs, der Physikkurs] |
| das Nebenfach, ¨-er | minor (area of study) | neben = beside ==> "the beside-subject" |
| das Semester, - | semester |  |
| das Studienfach, ¨-er | academic subject | studieren + Fach [=subject] ==> Studienfach |
| Welche Fächer haben Sie? | What courses are you taking? |  |
| das Arabisch | Arabic |  |
| die Betriebswirtschaftslehre (BWL) | business administration | die Wirtschaft = the economy; Volkswirtschaft = Economics ["the people's economy"]]; wirtschaften = to manage resources; der Betrieb = a business; -lehre is a suffix indicating a subject a LehrerIn may teach ==> Betriebswirtschaftslehre (or just Betriebswirtschaft) is the study of how businesses manage resources  I **bet** studying **Bet**riebswirtschaft will make me rich  Does die **Wirtschaft** work by **witchcraft**?? |
| die Biologie | biology |  |
| die Chemie | chemistry |  |
| das Chinesisch | Chinese |  |
| das Deutsch | German | Easy ☺ |
| das Englisch | English |  |
| das Französisch | French |  |
| die Geschichte | history | Meine N**ichte** [see above!] studiert Gesch**ichte**  *"Die Geschichte" also means "story," so "story" and "history" are even closer in German than in English* |
| die Informatik | computer science | Computers process **information** ==> **Informatik** |
| das Ingenieurwesen | engineering | Cognate. *The suffix "wesen" is often used for technical areas of study, and is connected to the philosophical concept of "Wesen" for the essence of something* |
| Internationale Beziehungen (pl.) | international relations | die Beziehung = relationship (romantic or abstract). Contains the verb *ziehen*, to pull. Fun to think about. |
| die Kunst | art | der/die Künstler(in) = artist  der Kunststoff = plastic ["artificial stuff"]  ***Kunst****halle Detroit is a Museum of Contemporary Art founded in Detroit in 2010. Google it and visit!*  Think of **K**irsten D**unst** painting something? |
| die Mathematik (Mathe) | mathematics (math) |  |
| die Medizin | medicine |  |
| die Musik | music |  |
| die Pädagogik | education, pedagogy | Cognate: a **pedagogue** is a teacher |
| die Philosophie | philosophy |  |
| die Physik | physics | Pronounce the "y" as if it was a short "ü" |
| die Politikwissenschaft | political science | wissen = to know; die Wissenschaft = science ==> Politikwissenschaft = political science |
| die Psychologie | psychology |  |
| das Russisch | Russian |  |
| die Soziologie | sociology |  |
| das Spanisch | Spanish |  |
| die Volkswirtschaft | economics | das Volk = the people; die Wirtschaft = the economy ==> Volkswirtschaft = "the people's economy"  For "Volk," think of "Volkswagen," "the people's car"  See also "Betriebswirtschaftslehre" above! |
| **Die Monate** | **The Months** |  |
| der Januar | January |  |
| der Februar | February |  |
| der März | March |  |
| der April | April |  |
| der Mai | May |  |
| der Juni | June |  |
| der Juli | July |  |
| der August | August |  |
| der September | September |  |
| der Oktober | October |  |
| der November | November |  |
| der Dezember | December |  |
| das Jahr, -e | year | Cognate |
| der Monat, -e | month | Cognate; related, as in English, to "Mond" [=moon] |
| Wann haben Sie Geburtstag? | When is your birthday? | die Geburt = birth [note the similarity burt-birth]  der Tag = day ==> der Geburtstag = birthday.  Ich habe am ersten Januar Geburtstag |
| am ersten Januar | on the first of January | **erst** sounds like (and means) f**irst**  erstens = firstly (==> zweitens, drittens, viertens…) |
| im Januar | in January |  |
| **Die Wochentage** | **The Days of the Week** |  |
| der Montag | Monday |  |
| der Dienstag | Tuesday | Tuesday is the 2nd day of the week (and Tue sounds like "two"); "di-" is a prefix meaning "two" (e.g. Carbon **Di**oxide) ==> **Di**enstag, 2nd day of the week |
| der Mittwoch | Wednesday | Mittwoch is the middle [Mitte] of the week [Woche] |
| der Donnerstag | Thursday | The reindeer names "Donner" and "Blitzen" come from German "Donner" [**thu**nder] and "Blitz" [lightning], and "thunder" starts with the same "thu" as "**Thu**rsday" |
| der Freitag | Friday | Cognate |
| der Samstag (Austria, Switzerland, southern Germany) | Saturday | **Sa**mstag - **Sa**turday; **Son**ntag - **Sun**day |
| der Sonnabend (northern Germany) | Saturday | Maybe think of this as the eve [==> evening: **Abend**] of **Sonn**tag? |
| der Sonntag | Sunday | die Sonne = the sun ==> Sonntag = Sunday |
| der Arbeitstag | work day | arbeiten = to work; arbeiten + der Tag = der Arbeitstag |
| der Tag, -e | day | Cognate *(German "g" often corresponds to English "y": Tag - day; sagen - say; Auge - eye; gelb - yellow)* |
| die Woche, -n | week | Cognate *(German "ch" often corresponds to English "k": Woche - week; machen - make; suchen - seek)* |
| das Wochenende, -n | weekend | Woche + Ende = Wochenende |
| der Wochentag, -e | day of the week; weekday | Woche + Tag = Wochentag |
| am Sonntag | on (this) Sunday | Use "am" for days and dates: Am Sonntag, am 1. Mai, am Montagmorgen [=on Monday morning] |
| am Wochenende | on the weekend |  |
| heute | today | heute morgen = this morning; heute Abend = this evening; heute Nachmittag = this afternoon  **Heu**te mache ich **Heu** ["Today I make hay" - but this is not an expression in German ☺]  *"heute" is the name of one of the main German news shows (in the ZDF, the "2nd" channel: Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen); its competitor on the "1st" channel is "Die Tagesschau"* |
| Was haben wir heute? | What day is it today? | Literally "What (day/date) do we have today?" |
| Was ist heute? | What day is it today? | heute = today |
| sonntags | on Sundays (in general) | Works like English (adding the -s to turn "Sonntag" into "sonntags"). *Note that "Sonntag" is a noun and is capitalized (saying "der Sonntag" makes sense), while "sonntags" is an adverb and is not capitalized (saying "der sonntags" makes no sense).*  Similarly: montags, dienstags etc. |
| die Uhr | clock; o'clock | Es ist 5 Uhr = It's 5 o'clock  5 Stunden = 5 hours [we'll learn this later]  *Think of the ancient Sumerian city of* ***Ur****. The division of the hour into 60 mins originates with the Sumerians.* |
| die Zeit, -en | time | Cognate. *(German "z" often corresponds to English "t": Zeit - time; zwei - two; zehn - ten; zwanzig - twenty; zu - to)*  die Zeitmaschine = time machine  der Zeitgeist = the spirit of the times - a German word often used in English  Ich habe Zeit / Ich habe keine Zeit  to spend time = Zeit verbringen: Wir verbringen viel Zeit zusammen [=together]  *For doing something several* ***times****, use* ***mal****: Ich habe* Titanic *acht mal gesehen. 3 mal 3 = 9; einmal = once; Es war einmal… = Once upon a time there was…* |
| Wie viel Uhr ist es? | What time is it? | Literally: "How many o'clock is it?" |
| Es ist... (Uhr). | It's... (o'clock). |  |
| (fünf) Minuten nach (eins) | (five) minutes after (one) | But normally simply: Es ist fünf nach eins (1:05). *Similarly: zehn nach eins, Viertel nach eins, zwanzig nach eins. BUT: fünf vor halb zwei (1:25); halb zwei (1:30)* |
| (fünf) Minuten vor (zwei) | (five) minutes to (two) | But normally simply: Es ist fünf vor zwei (1:55)  *Similarly: zehn vor zwei, Viertel vor zwei, zwanzig vor zwei. BUT: fünf nach halb zwei (1:35); halb zwei (1:30)* |
| halb (zwei) | half past (one) (i.e., halfway to two) | Remember: "**halfway to two**." Practice this! |
| der Mittag | noon | Refers to the time around noon, rather than specifically to 12:00 pm.  Sounds like "**mid**-**day**." [Remember Tag = day]  heute Mittag = today at noon; morgen Mittag = tomorrow at noon; gestern Mittag = yesterday at noon  *If you want to say that you'll do something specifically* ***at*** *12:00, use "um 12": Treffen wir uns um 12 = Let's meet at noon; Um 12 habe ich keine Zeit; Der Film ist um 12. You cannot say "~~um Mittag~~." "Am Mittag" is possible, and is used especially in the names of radio and TV shows airing around noon. "Um die Mittagszeit" is also possible and means "sometime around noon." Also not possible: "~~5 nach Mittag~~," "~~Viertel nach Mittag~~," "~~halb Mittag~~" etc.*  If you want to say that you'll do something **around** noon, use "gegen Mittag": Treffen wir uns gegen Mittag = Let's meet around noon; Gegen Mittag habe ich Zeit = I have time around noon.  *(zu) Mittag essen = to have lunch: Wo willst du Mittag essen = Where do you want to have lunch; Willst du mit mir (zu) Mittag essen? = Do you want to have lunch with me? Was hast du zu Mittag gegessen? = What did you have for lunch?* |
| die Mitternacht | midnight | Cognate  At midnight = um Mitternacht; kurz nach/vor Mitternacht = shortly after/before midnight; bis Mitternacht = until (or by) midnight |
| Viertel nach (eins) | quarter past (one) | Viertel = quarter; nach = after |
| Viertel vor (zwei) | quarter to (two) | Viertel = quarter; vor = before |
| abends | in the evening(s) | Abend = evening [remember "Guten Abend"] ==> abends = in the evenings *[just like e.g. "Sonntag" becomes "sonntags," "on Sundays"]*  Sie arbeitet von morgens bis abends = She works from morning to night (every day) |
| morgens | in the morning(s) | Morgen = morning [remember "Guten Morgen"]  Es ist 2 Uhr morgens = It's 2 in the morning  Ich stehe um 5 Uhr morgens auf = I (normally) get up at 5 in the morning; Ich bin um 5 Uhr morgens aufgestanden = I got up at 5 in the morning |
| um (sechs) Uhr | at (six) o'clock | Use *um* for all times of the clock, and also with military time: um sechs Uhr, um Viertel nach sechs, um zwanzig Uhr, etc. |
| gegen (sieben) Uhr | around (seven) o'clock | Ich komme gegen sieben (Uhr)  Hast du gegen sieben Zeit? |
| von (neun Uhr) bis (zehn Uhr) | from (nine o'clock) until/to (ten o'clock) | Von 12 bis eins haben wir Harrypotterologie. |
| **Aktivitäten des Alltags** | **Everyday Activities** |  |
| an•fangen | to start | New**fang**led ideas are just getting started.  "Anfangen" and "beginnen" are mostly interchangeable; "anfangen" is a bit more colloquial.  Wann fängt die Sendung [=TV show] an? - Um 8 Uhr.  Wir fangen an zu singen.  Fangen Sie an! |
| an•kommen | to arrive | Contains the word "kommen," "to come."  Wann und wo kommst du an? Am 3.3. um 3 Uhr in Dresden? - Nein, du Dummkopf. Ich komme am 8.8 um 8 Uhr in Aachen an. |
| an•rufen | to call up (on the phone) | anrufen = to call on the phone: Ich rufe Al an  Ruf mich an (vielleicht) = Call me (maybe)  Rufst du oft [=often] deine Eltern an?  Picture yourself making a phone call (an**ruf**en) on the **roof**, or a **ruf**fian making a prank call  *telefonieren = to be on the phone: Ich telefoniere mit Al*  *Er telefoniert immer = He's always on the phone*  *Ich telefoniere gern = I like to talk on the phone*  rufen = to call [directly, without a phone]: Meine Mutter ruft mich. |
| auf•hören | to stop (happening/doing something) | Hören Sie auf, mein Eis zu lecken = Stop licking my ice cream  Ich muss mit dem Rauchen aufhören = I have to stop smoking; Ich höre auf zu rauchen = I stop smoking  Hör auf! = Stop! [doing/saying that]  Hör auf damit! = Stop that!  Der Regen hat aufgehört.  *Why the connection to "hören" [to hear]? One theory is that, when you sense danger, you* ***stop*** *whatever you're doing and* ***listen*** *for what's going on.* |
| auf•stehen | to get up, get out of bed; to stand up | One of the many possible meanings of the prefix "auf-" is "up": e.g. "aufwärts" = upwards; "Auftrieb" is the force that "lifts" an airplane up; "Aufschwung" is an upswing in the economy. "Stehen" = "to stand" ==> aufstehen = stand up, get up [Unexpectedly analogous: aufessen = to eat up, i.e. to finish one's food]  Stehen Sie auf!  Ich stehe früh/spät auf = I get up early/late |
| auf•wachen | to wake up | "wachen" sounds like "wake"; "auf-" can mean "up" (see above) ==> aufwachen = wake up  Anna! Anna! Anna! Wach auf! [Annas Albtraum]  Ich wache normalerweise [=normally] um 9 Uhr auf. |
| aus•machen | to turn off | **Machen** Sie das Licht **an**: "**Make** the light **on**."  **Machen** Sie das Licht **aus**: "**Make** the light **out**." |
| beginnen | to begin | "Anfangen" and "beginnen" are mostly interchangeable; "beginnen" is a bit more formal.  Wann beginnt die Sendung [=TV show]?  Wir beginnen zu singen.  Beginnen Sie! |
| besuchen | to visit | Ich besuche meine Verwandten [=relatives: see above!] in Deutschland.  Contains the verb "**suchen**," "to look for, to **seek**": when you **visit** someone, you are "**seeking** them out." |
| bleiben | to stay, remain | Ich bleib(e) im Bett = I'm staying in bed [Also the title of an old Nena song (maybe not her best work)]  Bleiben Sie hier!  Colloquially, "Wo bleibst du?" means something like "Where are you? Get a move on!"  A common tongue twister: *Blaukraut bleibt Blaukraut und Brautkleid bleibt Brautkleid.* [Brautkleid = wedding dress; Blaukraut = red cabbage, which is actually sort of reddish blue, and is also called Rotkohl]  *For staying in a hotel or with a friend, use "wohnen" or "übernachten" ["to overnight"]: Ich ~~bleibe~~ wohne/übernachte in einem Hotel/bei einem Freund.*  Mein **Blei**stift **blei**bt hier! [Picture that friend always borrowing your pencil & then sticking it in his ear ☺] |
| ein•kaufen | to shop (especially for buying groceries) | kaufen = to buy; einkaufen gehen = to go shopping  Ich kaufe ein Buch/ein Haus/ein T-Shirt/Bier ~~ein~~.  Ich gehe einkaufen. Ich muss [=have to] einkaufen gehen. Ich kaufe gern ein [=I like to go shopping].  Bei Aldi kann man billig [=cheaply] einkaufen.  For non-grocery shopping, use "**shoppen**" informally! |
| fern•sehen | to watch TV | Like "far-seeing"  Ich sehe (nicht) gern fern = I (don't) like to watch TV  *To say that you are watching a specific show, use "schauen," "sehen," or "gucken":*  *Ich sehe/schaue/gucke die Nachrichten [=news]* |
| finden | to find; to think that something is... | Wie findest du den Film? - Ich finde ihn beschissen.  Wo ist das Baby? Ich kann es nicht finden.  Tic Tac Toe: "[Ich find dich scheiße](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7HyGa2YFg4)" (1995) |
| fliegen | to fly | Cognate  **Fliegen** **Fliegen** [=flies]? - Ja, **Fliegen** **fliegen**. |
| fragen | to ask | die Frage = question (Ich habe eine Frage)  Teachers love it when you ask questions, because questions are Supercali**frag**ilisticexpialidocious ☺  *Surprisingly, "to ask a question" is not "Eine Frage fragen," but rather "Eine Frage stellen."* |
| gehen | to go | Cognate. Also means "to walk."  Gehen wir! = Let's go! [see below for more examples!] |
| nach Hause gehen | to go home | nach Hause = (to) home; zu Hause = at home *[More generally, however, "zu" usually means "to"; "nach" means "after" (as in "5 nach 12") much more often than it means "to"]*  Ich gehe nach Hause = I'm going home  Gehen wir zu mir/dir nach Hause! = Let's go to my/your place! [We'll learn about *mir/dir* later] |
| schlafen gehen | to go to bed | schlafen = to sleep [cognate]; gehen = to go ==> schlafen gehen = to go to sleep |
| spazieren gehen | to go for a walk | Ich gehe gern im Wald [=in the forest] spazieren.  Gehen wir spazieren! = Let's go for a walk!  When you go **spaz**ieren, you are moving around in **spac**e. OR: Picture crowds of pilgrims/tourists **walking** on the Camino de Santiago in **Spa**in. |
| haben | to have | Cognate |
| Angst haben | to be afraid, anxious | The word "angst" has made it into English, as a term for a sort of generalized dread or fear: adolescent angst, existential angst.  An **angst**rom is a unit of length equal to 10-10 meters. **Angst** makes you feel small - as small as an **angst**rom?  Ich habe Angst / Ich habe keine Angst / Ich habe ein bisschen Angst. Hab keine Angst = Don't be afraid.  Ich habe **Angst** *vor* G**angst**ern = I'm afraid *of* gangsters |
| Durst haben | to be thirsty | "Durst" sounds like "thirst"  Ich habe großen Durst = I'm very thirsty |
| frei haben | to have time off | Literally "to have free"  Ich habe am Montag frei = I have Monday off  Ich habe einen Monat frei = I have a month off  Ich habe um halb vier frei = I'm off at 3:30 |
| gern haben | to like | Ich habe gern Geschichte = I like History  *But: this expression is mostly used for saying that you like someone a lot: "Ich hab dich gern." The normal verb for saying one likes something (or someone) is "mögen," which we will learn in chapter 4: Ich mag Spaghetti; Ich mag dich [less strong than "Ich hab dich gern"]; Ich mag Deutsch; Ich mag Babys.* |
| Hunger haben | to be hungry | Cognate (literally: "to have hunger")  Ich habe einen Bärenhunger = I'm **very** hungry (like a bear)  Ich habe Hunger auf SPAM = I'm hungry for SPAM |
| nicht gern haben | not to like | Ich hab das nicht gern = I don't like that / I don't like when people do that  Otherwise, see "gern haben" above re: using *mögen* instead eventually |
| hoffen | to hope | Cognate  hoffentlich = hopefully  Ich **hoff**e, der **Hoff** singt = I hope the Hoff will sing [David Hasselhoff, that is] |
| hören | to hear; to listen to | Cognate  Ich höre gern Musik; Ich höre gern Mozart/Rammstein |
| kaufen | to buy | kaufen = to buy; einkaufen = to go shopping  Ich kaufe ein Buch/ein Haus/ein T-Shirt/Bier ~~ein~~.  Ich gehe einkaufen. Ich muss [=have to] einkaufen gehen. Ich kaufe gern ein [=I like to go shopping].  Bei Aldi kann man billig [=cheaply] einkaufen. |
| kennen•lernen | to get to know | Ich möchte dich/Sie kennenlernen = I'd like to get to know you; Ich möchte Deutschland kennenlernen  *This verb is often used in the past tense, which we haven't learned yet, to say how two people met:*  *Wir haben uns im Internet/in der Disco/in Deutschland kennengelernt.* |
| kommen | to come | Komm her / Kommen Sie her = Come here  Woher kommen Sie? - Ich komme aus den USA.  *Come in! = Herein! [No need for Komm/Kommen Sie]* |
| lernen | to learn, to study (for an exam, a class) | Ich lerne Deutsch = I'm learning German  Ich muss lernen = I have to study  *Note: you will use* ***lernen*** *much more than you will use* ***studieren****. Use* ***studieren*** *only to state your major (Ich studiere Biologie), and to say you're attending university (Ich studiere an der Uni Michigan). To say that you're studying for a test or studying for a class, use* ***lernen*** *(or sometimes* ***arbeiten****, to work)* |
| machen | to do; to make | Was machst du? = What are you doing?  Ich mache einen Tisch = I'm making a table  Ich mache Spaghetti = I'm making spaghetti  Gut gemacht! = Well done!  ein Foto machen = to take a picture  Das macht Spaß = That's fun *[But: Ich habe Spaß = I'm having fun. Ich mache (nur) Spaß = I'm (just) kidding]* |
| die Hausaufgaben machen | to do homework | Ich muss [=have to] meine Hausaufgaben machen |
| meinen | to think; to mean | Was meinst du? / Was meinen Sie? = What do you think? [What's your opinion] OR What do you mean?  Du weißt, was ich meine = You know what I mean  Ich meine es ernst = I'm serious  Ich meine, das ist keine gute Idee = I don't think that's a good idea.  Ich meine, das stimmt = I think that's right  Ich meine, das ist in der Nähe von hier = I think that's near here  BUT: Use *bedeuten* to ask what a word means: Was ~~meint~~ bedeutet Teletubbyzurückwinker? |
| schlafen | to sleep | Cognate  Die **Schafe** **sch**l**afe**n = The sheep are sleeping |
| schreiben | to write | eine Email schreiben, einen Aufsatz [=essay] schreiben |
| sehen | to see | Cognate |
| spielen | to play | Welcher Film spielt? = What movie is playing?  Hence the word *Spielfilm* for "feature film": Steven **Spiel**berg macht **Spiel**filme  Ich spiele gern Tennis/Fußball/Schach/Baseball |
| studieren | to study | Ich studiere an der Uni Michigan  Ich studiere Harrypotterologie  Use *studieren* **only** to say that you are attending university, and to state your major. Otherwise use *lernen* to talk about "studying": Ich muss lernen = I have to study; Ich lerne für den Test. |
| tanzen | to dance | Cognate |
| trinken | to drink | Cognate |
| um•drehen | to turn around | Drehen Sie sich um! = Turn around!  X würde sich im Grab umdrehen = X would turn around in his/her grave |
| verbessern | to improve | Cognate (besser - better)  Ich möchte die Welt verbessern = I'd like to make the world a better place  Also means "to correct": Bitte verbessern Sie mich, wenn ich Fehler mache [=when I make mistakes] |
| verbringen | to spend (time) | Wir verbringen viel Zeit zusammen = We spend a lot of time together  Anna verbringt ein Jahr [=year] in Deutschland  **Bring** some beer and we can ver**bring**en some time together |
| verstehen | to understand | Verstehen Sie?  stehen = to stand ==> verstehen = understand [But "ver-" does not mean "under-"] |
| wandern | to hike | When you hike you are **wander**ing around |
| wohnen | to live (in) | Ich wohne in Ann Arbor.  Ich **wohne** in einer **Wohn**ung [=apartment]  **Wo** **woh**nen Sie? |
| zu•machen | to close | **Machen** Sie das Buch/das Fenster/die Tür **auf** = **Open** the book/window/door  **Machen** Sie das Buch/das Fenster/die Tür **zu** = **Close** the book/window/door |
| zurück•kommen | to come back, return | zurück = back; kommen = come ==> zurückkommen = to come back  Wann kommst du zurück?  Bitte komm zurück zu mir [=to me]! |
| **Ordnungszahlen** | **Ordinal Numbers** |  |
| am ersten | on the first | **erst** sounds like f**irst**  Famous Brecht quote: **Erst** kommt [=comes] das Fressen [=eating like an animal], dann kommt die Moral [=morality]  Am ersten Mai, am ersten Juni etc. |
| am zweiten | on the second |  |
| am dritten | on the third | Similarly: drittens = thirdly; ein Drittel = one third; der Drittbeste = the third-best; zu Dritt = in a group of three |
| am vierten | on the fourth |  |
| am fünften | on the fifth |  |
| am sechsten | on the sixth |  |
| am siebten | on the seventh | Note the -en is dropped from *sieben* |
| am achten | on the eighth |  |
| am neunten | on the ninth |  |
| am zehnten | on the tenth |  |
| am elften | on the eleventh |  |
| am zwölften | on the twelfth |  |
| am dreizehnten | on the thirteenth |  |
| am zwanzigsten | on the twentieth | Note that after zwanzig, the suffix changes from -ten to -**sten**. This continues into all the higher numbers: am dreißigsten, am hundertsten, am tausendsten etc. |
| am einundzwanzigsten | on the twenty-first |  |
| **Kommunikation** | **Communication** |  |
| die Bitte, -n | request | bitte = please ==> die Bitte = request  Ich habe eine Bitte |
| die E-Mail, -s | email |  |
| die Frage, -n | question | Ich habe eine Frage  fragen = to ask a question  *Surprisingly, "to ask a question" is not "Eine Frage fragen," but rather "Eine Frage stellen."* |
| die Leute (pl.) | people | [See further above: this one is on this list twice] |
| die/das Mail, -s | email (message) | "Mail" and "E-Mail" are equivalent; "Mail" is slightly more informal. |
| die Postkarte, -n | postcard | Cognate (eine Postkarte schreiben) |
| die Reise, -n | journey, trip | I get a **rise** out of going on a **Reise**  eine Reise machen = to go on a trip  reisen = to travel: Ich reise gern |
| **Personalpronomen im Akkusativ** | **Personal Pronouns in the Accusative** |  |
| dich | you (sg. informal) | *dich* rhymes with *mich* and starts with a "d," like "du"; *mich* rhymes with *ich* and starts with an "m," like "me" |
| es | it | Nom - Akk: der - den, das - das, die - die, die - die  Similarly: er - ihn, es - es, sie - sie, sie/Sie - sie/Sie  ==> *es* stays unchanged in the Accusative, like *das* |
| euch | you (pl. informal) | "euch" ist D**eu**ts**ch** ☺  OR **Ouch**! **Euch** is hard to learn!  Ihr liebt mich? Ich liebe e**uch** a**uch**! |
| ihn | him | Nom - Akk: d**er** - de**n**, das - das, die - die, die - die  Similarly: **er** - ih**n**, es - es, sie - sie, sie/Sie - sie/Sie  ==> *er* becomes *ihn* in the Accusative, like *d****er*** becomes *de****n*** |
| mich | me | *mich* rhymes with *ich* and starts with an "m," like "me" |
| sie | her, them | Nom - Akk: der - den, das - das, die - die, die - die  Similarly: er - ihn, es - es, sie - sie, sie/Sie - sie/Sie  ==> *sie* stays unchanged in the Accusative, like *die* |
| Sie | you (sg. & pl. formal) | Nom - Akk: der - den, das - das, die - die, die - die  Similarly: er - ihn, es - es, sie - sie, sie/Sie - sie/Sie  ==> *Sie* stays unchanged in the Accusative, like *die* |
| uns | us | *uns* sounds like *us* just like *wir* sort of sounds like *we* |
| **Adjektive** | **Adjectives** |  |
| klug | smart | k**lug** people need to **lug** their big brain around  ein *Klugscheißer* is a know-it-all (s/he "shits smart") |
| ledig | single | Jane Austen: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single [**ledi**g] man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife [a **lady**]" ==> Make your own pun to paraphrase or deny this quote ☺ |
| sportlich | athletic | If you're athletic, you're "**sport**y" ==> **sport**lich |
| teuer | expensive | **Tyra** Banks wears **teuer** clothing  Das ist aber teuer! = Wow, that's expensive!  *cheap = billig* |
| toll | great | **Toll** House cookies are **toll** ☺ |
| verheiratet | married | heiraten = to marry; verheiratet = married  Wir heiraten im März.  Ich bin verheiratet.  If you're ver**heir**atet, you're more likely to have an **heir**  **Hi**, we're ver**hei**ratet ☺ |
| wunderbar | wonderful | A wonderful cognate ☺  I **wonder** if this **bar** is **wunderbar** |
| **Ausdrücke** | **Expressions** |  |
| auf Deutsch | in German | Auf Deutsch, bitte!  Wie sagt man das auf Deutsch? |
| darf ich? | may I? | Say this e.g. in a restaurant if you want to join someone at their table, or if you want to sit next to someone on a bus; you could also try it e.g. if you want to borrow a cigarette. The hoped-for response is something like "Ja, gern!" or "Ja, natürlich!" or "Bitte sehr!" [which in this context would mean "You're welcome, go ahead!"]  Can also add another verb to be more specific:  Darf ich deinen SPAM® berühren? = May I touch your SPAM®? |
| ein bisschen | a little | Cognate (bisschen - bit)  Ich habe ein bisschen Zeit [=time]  Ich spreche ein bisschen Deutsch |
| ich bin gespannt auf | I'm looking forward to | For now, we only know how to use this with **nouns**:  Ich bin gespannt auf das Jahr in Deutschland  Ich bin gespannt auf den Film  Also: Ich bin sehr gespannt (excitedly looking forward) |
| ich möchte | I'd like | This is a polite way to ask for something or say what you'd like to do. Use it with nouns or verbs:  Ich möchte ein Fleischkleid = I would like a meat dress  Ich möchte eine Bratwurst mit Pommes  Ich möchte Deutschland besuchen [=to visit Germany] |
| nach Hause | (to) home | nach Hause = (to) home; zu Hause = at home *[More generally, however, "zu" usually means "to"; "nach" means "after" (as in "5 nach 12") much more often than it means "to"]*  Ich gehe nach Hause = I'm going home  Gehen wir zu mir/dir nach Hause! = Let's go to my/your place! [We'll learn about *mir/dir* later] |
| nicht sehr | not very, not much |  |
| nicht so | not so |  |
| überhaupt kein | none at all |  |
| zu Hause | at home | nach Hause = (to) home; zu Hause = at home *[More generally, however, "zu" usually means "to"; "nach" means "after" (as in "5 nach 12") much more often than it means "to"]*  Zu Hause habe ich überhaupt keine Handgranaten = At home I have no hand grenades whatsoever  Wo bist du? - Zu Hause.  Zu Hause sehe ich oft fern = At home I often watch TV |
| zum Beispiel (z.B.) | for example | I prove this **by** a **Bei**spiel  There are many ways to pass the time: **by** **spel**unking, zum **Beispiel**  Note (and use!) the abbreviation, z.B. There are many ways to abbreviate "Zorro's Butt Talks": **z.B.** "**ZB**T" |
| **Andere Wörter** | **Other Words** |  |
| aber | but | **A bear** has a nice **but**t  Ich bin ein MSU Student, aber ich bin kein Idiot!  Remember to pronounce the final -er as an "uh" sound, like the -er in "father" pronounced with a British accent |
| allein | alone | German title of *Home Alone*: *Kevin allein zu Haus*  Here's a YouTube link to a "Schlager" (the German genre of sentimental pop hits) from 1965, "Du bist nicht allein": [youtube.com/watch?v=eFupd2bYYpQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFupd2bYYpQ) |
| auch | also, too | Ich auch! = Me too! [NOT: ~~Mich~~ auch]  **Ouch**! It hurts to cr**ouch**, and **auch** to sl**ouch** on the c**ouch** [But don't pronounce *auch* like this ☺]  There's a monster in my closet, and **auch** in L**och** Ness |
| bald | soon | **Soon** I'll be **bald**  Wann verlierst [=lose] du deine Haare? - Bald ☹ |
| dein Thomas / deine Anna | your Thomas/Anna (at the end of a letter) | Note that there's **no comma** between "dein(e)" and the name, and also no comma before it:  Liebe Grüße [=warm greetings]  Dein Thomas/Deine Anna |
| doch | yes (for emphasis, or to negate a negative statement or question) | Sind die MSU Studenten keine Idioten? - Doch!  Don't you have a boat? - **Doch**! It's on the **dock**! |
| endlich | finally | finally ==> in the **end**; -ly <==> -lich |
| etwas | something, a little | I got some SPAM® for my birthday. Not great, but at least **it was** something ["**it was etwas**"] |
| für | for | Cognate |
| ganz allein | all alone | ganz = entirely; allein = alone ==> ganz allein = all alone  Der MSU Student kann ganz allein zur Toilette gehen = The MSU student can use the toilet all by himself |
| gern (after a verb) | to like to do | Ich tanze gern; Ich esse gern SPAM®; Ich sehe gern fern; Ich sehe gern *South Park*; Ich höre gern Daft Punk |
| ich singe gern | I like to sing |  |
| gleich | right away | Depending on the context, *gleich* can mean "right away" or "soon."  Ich mache das gleich = I'll do that right away / soon.  Ich komme gleich.  Nicht morgen sondern gleich! = Not tomorrow, but rather right away! |
| mit | with | I only h**it** **Mit**ch **with** [mit] oven-**mit**ts  ein Hamburger mit Pommes; Pommes mit Ketchup [oder Mayo]; ein Döner mit alles ["mit all**em**" is more grammatical, but everyone says "mit all**es**"]; ein Döner mit scharf [literally: "with hot/spicy"; this is very bad grammar, but everybody says it] |
| nur | only | Ich esse **nur** **Nu**deln = I only eat noodles [or: Ich esse Pudel **nur** mit **Nu**deln: I only eat poodles with *noodles*]  Russische Raketen [=rockets] starten **nur** in Baiko**nur**  **Nur**se sharks **only [=nur]** **nur**se **nur**se shark babies  Ich habe nur €10; Ich habe nur 5 Minuten Zeit  Prince fährt [=drives] nur kleine rote Corvettes |
| oder | or | "**o**de**r**" contains "o..r"  Alles oder nichts = All or nothing  Ist das ein Enc**oder** **oder** ein Dec**oder**? |
| sehr | very | **sear**ing pain is **very** painful  Ich bin sehr müde [=very tired]  Das ist sehr viel Geld [=a lot of money]  sehr gut; sehr viel; sehr wichtig [=important]; sehr stark [=strong]; sehr beeindruckend [=impressive] |
| viel | much, a lot | Use "viel" with singular nouns, and "viele" with plural nouns:  Ich habe viel Zeit [=time]/Geld [=money]  Ich habe viele Kinder/Pickel [=zits] |
| viele | many, a lot | [see above] |
| von | of, from | Think of Maria von Trapp from *The Sound of Music*  I crash the wedding **of** Vince **Vaughn**  ein(e) Freund(in) von mir = a friend of mine  eine E-Mail **von** Lindsey **Von**n |
| wen? | whom? | Nominative *der* becomes Accusative *den*. Analogously, Nominative *wer* [who] becomes Accusative *wen* [whom]  Wen liebst du? - Who(m) do you love? |
| wenig | little | **Vain ig**uanas have little [**wenig**] interest in worms  wenig Zeit, wenig Geld [=$$], wenig Platz [=room], wenig Interesse [=interest], wenig Hoffnung [=hope] |
| wenige | few | **When I** **ge**t arrested, I have few [**wenige**] options  wenige Monate/Wochen/Tage/Stunden/Minuten; wenige Zentimeter; wenige Leute; wenige Chancen  Ich habe wen**ige** **Ige**l = I have few hedgehogs |