

# Selected Basic Conversational Exchanges in German

- (fam) familiar; used when well acquainted with each other; not appropriate in formal settings  
 (i) intimate, colloquial, extremely informal, only among family or very close friends  
 (s) primarily found in the South (Modern standard German is based primarily on central and northern dialects.)  
 (F) formal, very polite

## Greetings (Begrüßungen)

| <i>German</i>              | <i>appx. pronunciation</i>  | <i>meaning</i>                                      |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Guten Morgen!           | goot'n MOE-uh g'n           | Good morning. (used until about 10am)               |
| 2. Guten Tag!              | goot'n TAWK                 | Hello. (all day long, sometimes into the evening)   |
| 3. Guten Abend!            | goot'n AWE b'mt             | Hello, good evening. (usually after sundown)        |
| 4. Gute Nacht!             | goot uh NAW cht             | Good bye. (only at night, just before going to bed) |
| 5. Grüß Gott! (s)          | greece gott (round lips)    | Hello. (same as guten Tag)                          |
| 6. Tag! (fam)              | tawk                        | Hi, hey.  |
| 7. Grüß dich! (fam; s)     | GREECE deech (round lips)   | Hi. (to one person)                                 |
| 8. Grüßt euch! (fam) (s)   | GREEST oich (round lips)    | Hi (to multiple people)                             |
| 9. Auf Wiedersehen!        | ow VEE du zane              | Good bye. (any time of day or night)                |
| 10. Wiedersehen!           | VEE du zane                 | Bye, bye. (somewhat less formal)                    |
| 11. Auf Wiederschauen! (s) | ow VEE du shauw un          | Good bye. (same as auf Wiedersehen)                 |
| 12. Wiederschauen! (s)     | VEE du shauw un             | Bye.  |
| 13. Tschüß! (fam)          | cheece (round lips)         | Bye, catch ya later.                                |
| 14. Ade! (fam; s)          | aw DAY                      | Bye. (southwest, Stuttgart, Ulm, etc.)              |
| 15. Hallo!                 | HAW low                     | Excuse me, hello. (to catch someone's attention)    |
| 16. Hallo! (fam)           | haw LOW                     | Hey, hi, hello.                                     |
| 17. Angenehm (F)           | AWN guh name                | Pleased to meet you.                                |
| 18. bis ____ (bis morgen)  | biss ____ (biss MOE-uh gun) | Until ____ (see you tomorrow)                       |

## Please & Thank You (bitte und danke)

| <i>German</i>            | <i>appx. pronunciation</i>  | <i>meaning</i>   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 19. Bitte.               | BIT uh                      | Please. (also used when handing something to someone)  |
| 20. Danke.               | DAWNK uh                    | Thank you.   |
| 21. Bitte.               | BIT uh                      | You're welcome.  |
| 22. Danke sehr.          | DAWNK uh zay-uh             | Thank you very much.                                   |
| 23. Danke schön.         | DAWNK uh shane (round lips) | Thank you very much.                                   |
| 24. Vielen Dank!         | feel un DAWNK               | Many thanks.   |
| 25. Tausend Dank! (a)    | tao zunt DAWNK              | Many thanks. (lit. a thousand thanks)                  |
| 26. Herzlichen Dank! (a) | DAWNK uh                    | Thank you very much. (lit. heartfelt thanks)           |
| 27. Bitte schön. (a)     | BIT uh shane (round lips)   | You're quite welcome. (following danke schön)          |
| 28. Bitte sehr. (a)      | BIT uh zay-uh               | You're quite welcome. (following danke sehr)           |
| 29. Gerne.               | GEH-uh nuh                  | You're welcome. (lit. pleasure: The pleasure is mine.) |
| 30. Gleichfalls!         | GLIKE false                 | Same to you.   |

## Good Luck & Other Phrases (Viel Glück! und andere Äußerungen)

| <i>German</i>                            | <i>appx. pronunciation</i>                 | <i>meaning</i>                  |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| 31. Ist hier noch frei?                  | ist hee-uh noch FRY                        | Is this chair still available?  |
| 32. Ich hätte gern ____.                 | ich hett uh geh-un ____.                   | I would like to have ____.      |
| 33. Wir möchten zahlen.                  | vee-uh maych t'n TSAW lun                  | We would like to pay.           |
| 34. Zahlen, bitte!                       | TSAW lun bitt uh                           | Check, please.                  |
| 35. Wo ist die Toilette?                 | voe ist dee toy LET uh                     | Where is the restroom?          |
| 36. Wo ist das Klo? (fam)                | voe ist dass KLOE                          | Where's the can?                |
| 37. Ich muss mal. (j)                    | ich MUSS mall                              | I gotta go.                     |
| 38. Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!           | all us GOOT uh tsoom guh BOO-uhts tawk     | All the best for your birthday. |
| 39. Herzlichen Glückwunsch!              | heh-utz lee chen GLICK voonsh (round lips) | All the best. Congratulations.  |
| 40. Ich gratuliere!                      | ich graw too LEE raw                       | Congratulations.                |
| 41. Schönen Tag noch!                    | shane un TAWK noch (round lips)            | Have a nice day.                |
| 42. Schönen Abend noch!                  | shane un AW b'nt noch (round lips)         | Have a nice evening.            |
| 43. Bringen Sie mir bitte noch ein Bier! | bringen zee mee-uh noch ine BEE-uh         | Please bring me another beer.   |
| 44. Entschuldigen Sie bitte!             | ent SHOOL dee gun zee bitt uh              | Excuse me please.               |
| 45. Entschuldigung!                      | ent SHOOL dee goong                        | Excuse me.                      |
| 46. 'Tschuldigung! (fam)                 | CHOOL dee goong                            | Skuze me.                       |
| 47. Es tut mir leid.                     | ess toot mee-uh LIGHT                      | I'm sorry.                      |
| 48. Tut mir leid. (fam)                  | toot mee-uh LIGHT                          | Sorry.                          |
| 49. Viel Glück!                          | feel GLICK (round lips)                    | Good luck.                      |
| 50. Gute Reise!                          | goot uh RIZE us                            | Have a nice trip.               |
| 51. Schönes Wochenende!                  | shane uss VOE chun end uh (round lips)     | Have a nice weekend.            |
| 52. Viel Spaß!                           | feel SHPAWSS                               | Have fun. Enjoy!                |
| 53. Alles Gute!                          | all us GOOT uh                             | All the best.                   |
| 54. Ja.                                  | yaw  | yes                             |
| 55. Nein.                                | nein                                       | no                              |

## Questions & Answers (Fragen und Beantwortungen)

| <i>German</i>                    | <i>appx. pronunciation</i>                    | <i>meaning</i>                             |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 56. Wie heißen Sie?              | vee HICE un zee                               | What is your name? (asking for last name)  |
| 57. Wie heißt du? (fam)          | vee HEIST du                                  | What is your name? (asking for first name) |
| 58. Ich heiße ____.              | eech HICE uh                                  | My name is ____.                           |
| 59. Wo ist der Bahnhof?          | voe ist day-uh BAWN hofe                      | Where is the train station?                |
| 60. Er ist gerade aus.           | ay-uh ist gu raw duh OUSE                     | It is straight ahead.                      |
| 61. links / rechts               | links / raychts                               | to the left / to the right                 |
| 62. Wie viel kostet das?         | vee feel COST ut dass                         | How much does that cost?                   |
| 63. Das ist zu viel.             | dass ist tsoo VEEL                            | That's too much.                           |
| 64. Ich kaufe es.                | eech COW fuh ess                              | I'll buy it.                               |
| 65. Können Sie mir bitte helfen? | Kenn un zee meer bitt uh HELP un (round lips) | Can you help me please?                    |
| 66. Ich wohne in dem Hotel ____. | eech VOE nuh inn dame ____ hoe TELL           | I'm staying at the ____ Hotel.             |
| 67. Sprechen Sie Englisch?       | shprech un zee ENG lish                       | Do you speak English?                      |