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## Contents

- [Grammar & Dialects](#)
- [\[+\] Pronunciation guide](#)
  - [Vowels](#)
  - [Length of Vowels](#)
  - [Consonants](#)
  - [Common diphthongs and other digraphs](#)
- [\[+\] Phrase list](#)
  - [Basics](#)
  - [Problems](#)
  - [\[+\] Numbers](#)
    - [Ordinal Numbers](#)
  - [\[+\] Time](#)
    - [Clock time](#)
    - [Duration](#)
    - [Days](#)
    - [Months](#)
  - [Writing Time and Date](#)
  - [Colors](#)
  - [\[+\] Transportation](#)
    - [Bus and Train](#)
    - [Directions](#)
  - [Lodging](#)
  - [Money](#)
  - [Eating](#)
  - [Bars](#)
  - [Shopping](#)
  - [Driving](#)
  - [Authority](#)

**German** (*Deutsch*) is the official and main language of [Germany](#), [Austria](#), and [Liechtenstein](#). It is also an official language of [Switzerland](#), and [Luxembourg](#) and spoken as a regional language in [Namibia](#). Furthermore, German (dialect) is historically spoken in the French regions of [Alsace](#) (German: *Elsass*) and [Lorraine](#) (German: *Lothringen*), in the northern Italian province of [South Tyrol](#) (German: *Südtirol*, Italian: *Alto Adige* or *Sudtirolo*), and in a small part of eastern [Belgium](#) and southern [Denmark](#). Standard German (Hochdeutsch) is also generally spoken by many as a second language in much of East-Central Europe. Small groups of native German speakers can be found in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. This is due to the historical influence of Austria - the former Austrian Empire, and Germany over the region and the radical border changes put into place in Europe after WWI. Furthermore, small isolated communities can be found in Russia, the Central Asian Republics, Australia, South Africa and in North and South America.

### Grammar & Dialects

German grammar retains many conjugations and declensions from proto-Germanic, which have been lost in English and other Germanic languages. This means that some aspects of it will be difficult to master, though speakers of [Icelandic](#) will find many elements of German grammar familiar.

In common with many other European languages, German has two "you" verb forms which denote the relationship the speaker has to someone else. To express familiarity, one uses the *du* form; for formality, the *Sie* form. As

a general rule the *Sie* form is used when one might address someone as "Madam" or "Sir". If on first name terms, one uses the *du* form. Grammatically, the *Sie* form takes the 3rd person plural ending.

There are 3 different noun genders: masculine, feminine and neuter. The article of a noun depends on the gender: *der* (m), *die* (f) and *das* (n). Unlike in English, inanimate objects frequently have a different gender than neuter assigned to them, often arbitrarily; for example, *Tür* (door) is female, while *Tor* (gate) is neuter. However, you will generally be understood if you use the wrong gender as there are only a few (obscure) nouns which mean different things depending on gender, and their correct meaning will always be clear from the context. People may correct you, however, in order to help you to learn German.

Furthermore, German nouns are declined. There are four grammatical cases: nominative (subject), accusative (direct object), genitive (possessive), and dative (indirect object). Each varies depending on the noun's gender and whether it is singular or plural.

An orthographic peculiarity is that all nouns, even those in the middle of a sentence, begin with a capital letter.

There are very strong accentual and dialectic differences in German-speaking countries. A German from the north and one from the south of the country can have great difficulty understanding each other's dialects. Standard German, or "Hochdeutsch", is universally known and taught, although not everyone speaks it well. Generally, the further south one travels, the broader the influence of dialect on standard speech. The Main River serves as a rough "border" between the northern and southern German speaking cultural worlds. Switzerland, in particular, tends to use its own form of German, even often in the media. As a rule, one should not expect all people one encounters (especially in the rural areas) of Alsace, Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Austria, South Tyrol and Switzerland to speak standard German well, but a dialect instead. In Alsace most people prefer to speak French with outsiders, and do NOT consider their dialect to be German as such! Dialect, where still spoken, is very much for family and home. People in Alsace are often reluctant to speak High German with Germans! They are often less put off speaking their dialect to someone from Switzerland or Baden, due to the fact they are pretty much mutually intelligible.

In the north of Germany, some people speak a related language called *Plattdüütsch* or Low German ("Plattdeutsch" in German). It is very closely related to [Dutch](#) and mainland Scandinavian languages. Nearly all Platt speakers also speak German.

The German spoken in Switzerland is referred to as *Schwiizertüütsch*. There are various varieties of Swiss German depending on the region and it is even widely used in the media. Dialects are not usually used in the media in Germany, Austria or Liechtenstein except for regional programming. Thus, this is rare in the German speaking world, as "Hochdeutsch" is more or less the sole language of media outside Switzerland. Nevertheless, all German-speaking Swiss learn standard German in school, so if you approach younger people, you'll be fine with standard German. The German dialects spoken in Vorarlberg (Austria), Baden-Württemberg (Germany) and Alsace (France) are related to Swiss German.

In the Italian South Tyrol, like in most of Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and southern Germany, most people speak a local dialect. However, standard German and Italian are both taught in the schools. The German spoken in South Tyrol is very similar to that of neighboring Austria and Bavaria to the north.

### Pronunciation guide

German pronunciation is relatively straightforward, although spelling is somewhat more involved.

### Vowels

a	like 'u' in "cup", 'a' in "target". In Austria, it sounds more like "au" in "Paul".
e	like 'e' in "ten", or 'e' in "emotion"
i	like 'i' in "bingo", or 'i' in "hit"
o	like 'oo' in "door", like 'o' in "mole"
u	like 'ou' in "you"
ä	(Umlaut, transcribed as 'ae') like 'e' in "ten", 'a' in "band"
ö	(Umlaut, transcribed as 'oe') like 'i' in "Sir" (not a sound in English)
ü	(Umlaut, transcribed as 'ue') like 'ew' in "EWWW (disgust)"
y	same as 'ü', but also consonant "j" in words of foreign origin ("Yacht")

### Length of Vowels

A vowel is shortened when followed by a double consonant.

A vowel is lengthened by a subsequent 'h', or by a double vowel, depending on the word. An exception is 'i', which is lengthened by a following 'e' or 'eh'.

Examples: the *h* in *Hahn* makes the *a* long; the *aa* in *Haar* is also long, the *e* in *Tier* makes the *i* long. (See below for "Diphthongs".)

### Consonants

Consonants are pronounced quite strongly (except perhaps the 'r').

b	like 'b' in "bed"
c	like 'ts' in "bits" before 'i' and 'e'; like 'k' in "kid" else
d	like 'd' in "dog"
f	like 'ph' in "phone"
g	like 'g' in "go" (never as in "giraffe")
h	like 'h' in "help"
j	like 'y' in "yoga"
k	like 'c' in "cat"
l	like 'l' in "love"
m	like 'm' in "mother"
n	like 'n' in "nice"
p	like 'p' in "pig"
q	like 'q' in "quest" (always with "u")
r	like 'r' in "arm", like 'r' in "feather". Terminal Rs are almost silent but with the hit of an "r" sound. Rs beginning a word or syllable are pronounced from the back of the throat, almost as in French. In southern Germany (Bavaria), Austria and in Switzerland, the "r" is rolled as in Spanish in all position except the initial.
s	like 'z' in "haze"

t	like 't' in "top"
v	like 'f' in "father", or like "v" in "victory"
w	like 'v' in "victory", <i>never</i> like 'wh' in "whisky"
x	like 'cks' in "kicks"
z	like 'ts' in "bits"
ß	like 's' in "was"

### Common diphthongs and other digraphs

Note: these combinations are not always used as diphthongs. At syllable boundaries and sometimes even in a syllable, they are spoken as separate vowels (e.g. *soeben* — *zoh-AY-ben*)

au	like 'ow' in "how"
ae	transcription for 'ä' if not available on a keyboard or in URLs
ah	like 'a' in "bar", longer than 'a'.
äu	like 'oy' in "boy"
ei	like 'i' in "wine"
eu	like 'oy' in "boy"
eh	long 'e'
ie	like 'ee' in "week", longer than 'i'.
ieh	like 'ee' in "week", longer than 'i', fundamentally no difference to 'ie'.
oe	transcription for 'ö' if not available on a keyboard or in URLs
oh	like 'oo' in "food", longer than 'o'.
ue	transcription for 'ü' if not available on a keyboard or in URLs
uh	like 'ou' in "youth", longer than 'u'.
ch after 'a', 'o' and 'u'	like 'ch' in Scottish "loch", spoken in the throat, like 'j' in Spanish
ch after 'i' and 'e'	like 'h' in "huge"
ch at the beginning of a word	like 'ch' in "character"
ck	like 'ck' in "blocking"
ng	like both 'ng' in "singing", <i>never</i> like 'ng' in "finger"
ph	like 'f' in "fish"
sch	like 'sh' in "sheep"
sp at the beginning of a word	like 'shp' in "fish pool"
ss	like 's' in "ship", in contrast to 'ß', makes the preceding vowel shorter. Also used as transcription for 'ß' in URL or on foreign keyboards.
st at the beginning of a word	like 'sht' in "ashtray"

### Phrase list

The following phrases are for Standard German, and will generally be well understood across the German-speaking world. See the [Swiss-German phrasebook](#) for the local variety spoken in [Switzerland](#) or the [Austrian-German phrasebook](#) for the variety spoken in [Austria](#).

## Basics

### Common signs

OPEN	Offen, Geöffnet
CLOSED	Geschlossen
ENTRANCE	Eingang
EXIT	Ausgang
PUSH	Drücken
PULL	Ziehen
TOILET	WC, Toilette(n)
MEN	Herren, Männer
WOMEN	Damen, Frauen
FORBIDDEN	Verboten

Good day (*formal*)

Guten Tag. (*GOO-ten tahk*)

Good day (*informal*)

Hallo

How are you? (*used as a real question, not a form of greeting.*)

Wie geht's? (*vee GATES?*)

Fine, thank you.

Gut, danke. (*goot, DAN-keh*)

What is your name? (*formal*)

Wie heißen Sie? (*vee HIGH-sun zee?*)

What is your name? (*informal*)

Wie heißt du? (*vee HIGHST doo?*)

My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

Ich heiße \_\_\_\_\_. (*eesh HIGH-suh*)

Nice to meet you. (*formal*)

Nett, Sie kennen zu lernen. (*net zee KEN-en tsoo LER-nen*)

Nice to meet you. (*informal*)

Nett, dich kennen zu lernen. (*net deesh KEN-en tsoo LER-nen*)

Please.

Bitte. (*BEE-tuh*)

Thank you.

Danke schön. (*DAN-kuh shurn*)

Thanks.

Danke. (*DAN-kuh*)

You're welcome.

Bitte schön! (*BEE-tuh shurn*)

Yes.

Ja. (*yah*)

No.

Nein. (*nine*)

Excuse me. (*getting attention*)

Entschuldigen Sie. (*ent-SHOOL-dee-gun zee*)

Excuse me. (*begging pardon*)

Entschuldigung. (*ent-SHOOL-dee-goong*)

I'm sorry.

Es tut mir leid. (*es toot meer lite*)

Goodbye

Auf Wiedersehen. (*owf VEE-dur-zane*)

I can't speak German (well).

Ich kann nicht [so gut] Deutsch sprechen. (*eesh kahn nikht [zo goot] doytsh shprekhen*)

or, better, Ich spreche kein Deutsch (*eesh spreh-khuh kine doitsch*)

Do you speak English? (*formal*)

Sprechen Sie Englisch? (*shprekhun zee ENG-leesh*)

Is there someone here who speaks English?

Gibt es hier jemanden, der Englisch spricht? (*geept es heer yeh-MAHN-dun dare ENG-leesh shprikt*)

Help!

Hilfe! (*HEEL-fuh*)

or to be more specific to yourself, Hilf mir! (*HEELF-meer*)

Good morning.

Guten Morgen. (*GOO-tun MOR-gun*)

Good evening.

Guten Abend. (*GOO-tun AH-bunt*)

Good night.

Schönen Abend noch. (*shur-nun AH-bunt nokh*)

Good night (*to sleep*)

Gute Nacht. (*GOO-tuh nakht*)

I don't understand.

Ich verstehe das nicht. (*eesh fur-SHTAY-uh dahs nikht*)

Where is the toilet, please?

Wo ist die Toilette, bitte? (*voh eest dee twah-LET-uh BEE-tuh*)

With pleasure.

Gerne (*GERR-nuh*)

Do you know where ... is?. (*formal*)

Wissen Sie, wo ... ist? (*VEE-sun zee voh ... eest*)

## Problems

Leave me alone.

Lass / Lassen Sie mich in Ruhe. (*LAHS(-un zee) meesh een ROO-uh*)

Don't touch me!

Fass / Fassen Sie mich nicht an! (*FAHS(-un zee) meesh neekt AHN!*)

I'll call the police.

Ich rufe die Polizei. (*eesh ROO-fuh dee poh-lee-TSIGH*)

Police!

Polizei! (*poh-lee-TSIGH!*)

Stop! Thief!

Halt! Ein Dieb! (*HAHLT! ighn DEEB!*)

I need your help.

Ich brauche deine/Ihre Hilfe. (*eesh BROW-khuh DIGH-nuh/EE-ruh HEEL-fuh*)

It's an emergency.

Das ist ein Notfall. (*dahs eest ighn NOHT-fahl*)

I'm lost.

Ich habe mich verirrt. (*eesh HAH-buh meesh fer-EERT*)

I lost my bag.

Ich habe meine Tasche verloren. (*eesh HAH-buh migh-nuh TAH-shuh fer-LOH-run*)

I lost my wallet.

Ich habe mein Portemonnaie verloren. (*outdated*) (*eesh HAH-buh mighn port-moh-NEH fer-LOH-run*)

Note: *Portemonnaie* is of French origin, but usual in German. better: Ich habe meinen Geldbeutel verloren. (*eesh HAH-buh mighn geh-ld-boy-tehl fer-LOH-run*)

I'm sick.

Ich bin krank. (*eesh been krahnk*)

I've been injured.

Ich bin verletzt. (*eesh been fer-LETST*)

I need a doctor.

Ich brauche einen Arzt. (*eesh BROW-khuh IGH-nuh ARTST*)

Can I use your phone?

Kann ich dein/Ihr Telefon benutzen? (*kahn eesh dighn/eer tay-lay-FOHN buh-NOOT-sun?*)

Can I use your mobile?

Kann ich dein/Ihr Handy benutzen? (*kahn eesh dighn/eer handy buh-NOOT-sun?*)

## Numbers

In German, the roles of dot and comma are swapped compared to their English counterparts. The grouping separator in big numbers is a dot (.), not a comma(;); the separator between decimal fractions and integer is a comma (,), not a dot (.).

E.g.: 1,000 in English is 1.000 in German; 3.14159 in English is 3,14159 in German.

Note that numbers above twenty are said "backwards". Twenty-one (einundzwanzig) is literally spoken as "one-and-twenty". This takes a bit of getting used to, especially in higher regions. Eg. 53426 (dreiundfünzigtausendvierhundertsechszwanzig) is spoken as "three-and-fifty-thousand-four-hundred-six-and-twenty".

0	null ( <i>noll</i> )
1	eins ( <i>ighnss</i> )
2	zwei ( <i>tsvigh</i> )
3	drei ( <i>drigh</i> )
4	vier ( <i>feer</i> )
5	fünf ( <i>fuunf</i> )
6	sechs ( <i>zekhs</i> )
7	sieben ( <i>ZEE-ben</i> )
8	acht ( <i>ahkht</i> )
9	neun ( <i>noyn</i> )
10	zehn ( <i>tsayn</i> )
11	elf ( <i>elf</i> )
12	zwölf ( <i>tsvoolf</i> )
13	dreizehn ( <i>DRIGH-tsayn</i> )
14	vierzehn ( <i>FEER-tsayn</i> )
15	fünfzehn ( <i>FUUNF-tsayn</i> )
16	sechzehn ( <i>ZEKH-tsayn</i> )
17	siebzehn ( <i>ZEEP-tsayn</i> )
18	achtzehn ( <i>AHKH-tsayn</i> )
19	neunzehn ( <i>NOYN-tsayn</i> )
20	zwanzig ( <i>TSAHN-tsikh</i> )
21	einundzwanzig ( <i>IGHN-oont-tsvahn-tsikh</i> )
22	zweiundzwanzig ( <i>TSVIGH-oont-tsvahn-tsikh</i> )
23	dreiundzwanzig ( <i>DRIGH-oont-tsvahn-tsikh</i> )
30	dreiig ( <i>DRIGH-sikh</i> )
40	vierzig ( <i>FEER-tsikh</i> )
50	ffzig ( <i>FUUNF-tsikh</i> )
60	sechzig ( <i>ZEKH-tsikh</i> )
70	siebzig ( <i>ZEEP-tsikh</i> )
80	

achtzig ( <i>AHKH-tsikh</i> )	
90	neunzig ( <i>NOYN-tsikh</i> )
100	(ein)hundert ( <i>[ighn]-HOON-dert</i> )
200	zweihundert ( <i>TSVIGH-hoon-dert</i> )
300	dreihundert ( <i>DRIGH-hoon-dert</i> )
1000	(ein)tausend ( <i>[ighn]-TOW-zent</i> )
2000	zweitausend ( <i>TSVIGH-tow-zent</i> )
1,000,000	eine Million ( <i>igh-nuh mill-YOHN</i> )
1,000,000,000	eine Milliarde ( <i>igh-nuh mill-YAR-duh</i> ) <i>Note the difference to American English numbers, often mistranslated!</i>
1,000,000,000,000	eine Billion ( <i>igh-nuh bill-YOHN</i> )
number _____	( <i>train, bus, etc.</i> ) Nummer/Linie _____ ( <i>NOO-mer/LEE-nee-uh</i> )
half	halb ( <i>hahlp</i> )
the half	die Hlfte ( <i>dee HELF-tuh</i> )
less	weniger ( <i>VAY-nihg-er</i> )
more	mehr ( <i>mayr</i> )

### Ordinal Numbers

1.	erster ( <i>ayr-stayr</i> )
2.	zweiter ( <i>tsvigh-tayr</i> )
3.	dritter ( <i>dri-tayr</i> )
4.	vierter ( <i>feer-tayr</i> )
5.	fnfter ( <i>fuunf-tayr</i> )
20.	zwanzigster ( <i>TSAHN-tsikhs-tayr</i> )
100.	(ein)hundertster ( <i>[ighn]-HOON-dert-stayr</i> )
101.	(ein)hunderterster ( <i>[ighn]-HOON-dert-ayr-stayr</i> )

### Time

now	jetzt ( <i>yetst</i> )
later	spter ( <i>SHPET-er</i> )
before	vor ( <i>for</i> )
morning	Morgen ( <i>MOR-gen</i> )
in the morning	morgens ( <i>MOR-genss</i> )
tomorrow morning	morgen frh ( <i>MOR-gen FRUU</i> )
afternoon	Nachmittag ( <i>NAKKH-mit-tahk</i> )
in the afternoon	nachmittags ( <i>NAKKH-mit-tahks</i> )
evening	Abend ( <i>AH-bent</i> )
in the evening	

abends (*AH-bents*)  
 night  
 Nacht (*nahkht*)  
 in the night  
 nachts (*nahkhts*)

### Clock time

In German speaking countries as in many other European countries, it's usual to use a 24 hour clock, ranging from 0.00 to 24.00. Okay, 24.00 is actually the same as 0.00, but one day later.

one o'clock AM  
 ein Uhr (*IGHN oor*)  
 two o'clock AM  
 zwei Uhr (*TSVIGH oor*)  
 noon  
 zwölf Uhr (*TSVOOLF oor*)  
 or Mittag (*MIT-tahk*)  
 one o'clock PM  
 dreizehn Uhr (*DRIGH-tsayn oor*)  
 two o'clock PM  
 vierzehn Uhr (*FEER-tsayn oor*)  
 midnight  
 Mitternacht (*MIT-er-nahkht*)  
 or null Uhr (*NOOL oor*)  
 or vierundzwanzig Uhr (*FEER-oont-TSVAHN-tsikh oor*)

Expressing "fractional hours" differs slightly among various regions of Germany. The "normal" way of doing it is:

- Quarter past one - *Viertel nach eins* or *Viertel zwei*
- Half past one - *Halb zwei* (half two)
- A quarter to two - *Viertel vor zwei* or *Dreiviertel zwei*

### Duration

\_\_\_\_\_ minute(s)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Minute(n) (*mih-NOO-tuh [mih-NOO-ten]*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ hour(s)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Stunde(n) (*SHTOON-duh [SHTOON-den]*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ day(s)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Tag(e) (*TAHK [TAH-guh]*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ week(s)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Woche(n) (*VOKH-uh [VOKH-en]*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ month(s)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Monat(e) (*MOH-naht [moh-NAH-tuh]*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ year(s)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Jahr(e) (*YAHR[-uh]*)  
 in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Im Jahr \_\_\_\_\_ (*im YAHR \_\_\_\_\_*)

### Days

today  
 heute (*HOY-tuh*)  
 the day before yesterday  
 vorgestern (*FOR-gess-tern*)  
 yesterday  
 gestern (*GESS-tern*)  
 tomorrow  
 morgen (*MOR-gen*)  
 the day after tomorrow  
 übermorgen (*uuber-MOR-gen*)  
 this week

diese Woche (*DEE-zuh VOH-khuh*)  
 last week  
 letzte Woche (*LETS-tuh VOH-khuh*)  
 the week before last week  
 vorletzte Woche (*for-LETS-tuh VOH-khuh*)  
 next week  
 nächste Woche (*NEX-tuh VOH-khuh*)  
 the week after next week  
 übernächste Woche (*uuber-NEX-tuh VOH-khuh*)

The week is considered starting on monday in germany.

Monday  
 Montag (*MON-tahk*)  
 Tuesday  
 Dienstag (*DEENS-tahk*)  
 Wednesday  
 Mittwoch (*MIT-vokh*)  
 Thursday  
 Donnerstag (*DON-ers-tahk*)  
 Friday  
 Freitag (*FRIGH-tahk*)  
 Saturday  
 Samstag (*ZAMS-tahk*), in some regions "Sonnabend" (*ZON-ah-bent*)  
 Sunday  
 Sonntag (*ZON-tahk*)

### Months

January  
 Januar (*YAH-noo-ahr*), in Austria "Jänner" (*YEH-nna*)  
 February  
 Februar (*FAY-broo-ahr.*), in Austria "Feber" (*FAY-ber*)  
 March  
 März (*mehrts*)  
 April  
 April (*ah-PRILL*)  
 May  
 Mai (*migh*)  
 June  
 Juni (*YOO-nee*)  
 July  
 Juli (*YOO-lee*)  
 August  
 August (*ow-GOOST*)  
 September  
 September (*zep-TEM-ber*)  
 October  
 Oktober (*ok-TOH-ber*)  
 November  
 November (*noh-VEM-ber*)  
 December  
 Dezember (*day-TSEM-ber*)

### Writing Time and Date

In the clock time, hours and minutes are separated by a ':' instead of ':', but the latter is also widely used. Another usual way is to write the minutes raised like an exponent.

The date is always written in the order day, month, year, e.g.:

12/24/2003 is in German 24.12.2003. 24th of December 2003 is in German 24. Dezember 2003

Don't get confused about that, especially if you're an American!

### Colors

black schwarz (*shvahrts*)  
 white weiß (*vice*) - as in "miami vice"  
 gray grau (*grou*) - rhymes with "cow"  
 red rot (*roht*)  
 blue blau (*blou*) - rhymes with "cow"  
 yellow gelb (*gelp*)  
 green grün (*gruun*)  
 orange orange (*oh-RAHNGSH*)  
 purple purpurrot (*PURR-purr-rhot*)  
 or violett (*veeo-lett*)  
 or lila (*LEE-lah*)  
 pink rosa (*ROH-zah*)  
 or rosarot (*ROH-zah-roht*)  
 brown braun (*brown*)  
 silver silber (*zsil-bur*)  
 gold gold (*gold*)  
 light - hell- (*hell*) as in hellblau  
 dark - dunkel- (*dune-ke*) as in dunkelblau

## Transportation

### Bus and Train

How much is a ticket to \_\_\_\_\_? (bus, train)  
 Was kostet eine Fahrkarte nach \_\_\_\_\_? (*vass KOSS-tet igh-nuh FAHR-kahr-tuh nahkh \_\_\_\_\_?*)  
 How much is a ticket to \_\_\_\_\_? (airplane)  
 Was kostet ein Ticket nach \_\_\_\_\_? (*vass KOSS-tet ighn TICK-et nahkh \_\_\_\_\_?*)  
 One ticket to \_\_\_\_\_, please. (bus, train)  
 Bitte eine Fahrkarte nach \_\_\_\_\_. (*BIT-tuh IGH-nuh FAHR-kahr-tuh nahkh \_\_\_\_\_*)  
 One ticket to \_\_\_\_\_, please. (airplane)  
 Bitte ein Ticket nach \_\_\_\_\_. (*BIT-tuh ighn TICK-et nahkh \_\_\_\_\_*)  
 Where does this train/bus go?  
 Wohin fährt dieser Zug/Bus? (*voh-hin FEHRT dee-zer TSOOK/BOOSS?*)  
 Where is the train/bus to \_\_\_\_\_?  
 Wo ist der Zug/Bus nach \_\_\_\_\_? (*VOH ist dayr TSOOK/BOOSS nahkh \_\_\_\_\_?*)  
 Does this train/bus stop in/at \_\_\_\_\_?  
 Hält dieser Zug/Bus in/bei \_\_\_\_\_? (*helt DEE-zer TSOOK/BOOSS in/by \_\_\_\_\_?*)  
 When does the train/bus for \_\_\_\_\_ leave?  
 Wann fährt der Zug/Bus nach \_\_\_\_\_ ab? (*VAHN FEHRT der tsook/booss nahkh \_\_\_\_\_ ap?*)  
 When will this train/bus arrive in \_\_\_\_\_?  
 Wann kommt dieser Zug/Bus in \_\_\_\_\_ an? (*vahn KOMT dee-zer TSOOK/BOOSS in \_\_\_\_\_ ahn?*)

### Directions

How do I get to \_\_\_\_\_? (cities)  
 Wie komme ich nach \_\_\_\_\_? (*vee KOM-muh ikh nahkh \_\_\_\_\_?*)  
 How do I get to \_\_\_\_\_? (places, streets)  
 Wie komme ich zum/zur \_\_\_\_\_? (*vee KOM-muh ikh tsoom/tsoor \_\_\_\_\_?*)

...the train station?  
 ...zum Bahnhof? (*tsoom BAHN-hohf?*)  
 ...the bus station / bus stop?  
 ...zum Busbahnhof / zur Bushaltestelle? (*tsoom BOOSS-BAHN-hohf/tsoor BOOSS-hahl-tuh-shteh-luh?*)  
 ...the airport?  
 ...zum Flughafen? (*tsoom FLOOG-hah-fen?*)  
 ...downtown?  
 ...zur Stadtmitte? (*tsoor SHTUT-mit-tuh*)  
 ...the youth hostel?  
 ...zur Jugendherberge? (*tsoor YOO-gent-hayr-bayr-guh*)  
 ...the \_\_\_\_\_ hotel?  
 ...zum \_\_\_\_\_ Hotel? (*tsoom \_\_\_\_\_ hoh-TELL*)  
 ...the American/Canadian/Australian/British consulate?  
 ...zum amerikanischen/kanadischen/australischen/britischen Konsulat? (*tsoom ah-mayr-ih-KAHN-ish-en/kah-NAH-dish-en/ous-TRAH-lish-en/BRIT-ish-en kon-zoo-LAHT?*)  
 Where are there a lot of...  
 Wo gibt es viele... (?) (*VOU gipt ess FEE-luh...*)  
 ...hotels?  
 ...Hotels? (*hoh-TELLSS*)  
 ...restaurants?  
 ...Restaurants? (*rest-oh-RAHNTS?*)  
 ...Bars? (*bahrss?*)  
 ...bars? (pub)  
 ...Kneipen? (*KNIGH-pen?*) (pronounce the K)  
 ...sites to see?  
 ...Sehenswürdigkeiten? (*ZAY-ens-vuur-dikh-kigh-ten?*)  
 Can you show me on the map?  
 Kannst du/Können Sie mir das auf der Karte zeigen? (*kahnst doo/KOON-en zee meer dahss ouf dayr KAHR-tuh TSIGH-gen?*)  
 street, road  
 Straße (*SHTRAH-suh*)  
 left  
 links (*links*)  
 right  
 rechts (*rekhts*)  
 Turn left.  
 Links abbiegen. (*LINKS AHP-bee-gen*)  
 Turn right.  
 Rechts abbiegen. (*REKHTS AHP-bee-gen*)  
 straight ahead  
 geradeaus (*guh-RAH-duh-OWSS*)  
 towards the \_\_\_\_\_  
 Richtung \_\_\_\_\_ (*RIKH-toong*)  
 past the \_\_\_\_\_  
 nach dem(m)/der(f)/dem(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (*nahkh daym/dayr/daym \_\_\_\_\_*)  
 before the \_\_\_\_\_  
 vor dem(m)/der(f)/dem(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (*for daym/dayr/daym \_\_\_\_\_*)  
 Watch for the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Achte/Achten Sie auf den(m)/die(f)/das(n) \_\_\_\_\_. (*AHKH-tuh/AHKH-ten zee ouf dayn/dee/dahss \_\_\_\_\_*)  
 intersection  
 Kreuzung (*KROY-tsoong*)  
 north  
 Norden (*NOR-den*)  
 south  
 Süden (*ZUU-den*)  
 east  
 Osten (*OST-en*)  
 west  
 Westen (*VEST-en*)  
 uphill  
 bergauf (*bayrk-OUF*)  
 downhill  
 bergab (*bayrk-AHP*)

### Taxi! (TAHK-see)'''

Take me to \_\_\_\_\_, please.

Bitte bringen Sie mich zum/zur/nach \_\_\_\_\_. (*BIT-tuh BRING-en zee mikh tsoom/tsoor/nahkh* \_\_\_\_\_)

Note: Use 'zu(m,r)' for streets and places and 'nach' for cities and villages.

How much does it cost to get to \_\_\_\_\_?

Wie viel kostet es bis zum/zur/nach \_\_\_\_\_? (*vee feel KOSS-tet ess biss tsoom/tsoor/nahkh* \_\_\_\_\_?)

Take me there, please.

Bringen Sie mich bitte dahin. (*BRING-en zee mikh BIT-tuh dah-HIN*)

## Lodging

Do you have any rooms available?

Sind noch Zimmer frei? (*ZINT nokh TSIM-mer FRIGH?*)

How much is a room for one person/two people?

Wieviel kostet ein Einzelzimmer/Doppelzimmer? (*vee-feel KOSS-tet ighn IGHN-tsel-tsim-mer/DOP-pel-tsim-mer?*)

Does the room come with...

Hat das Zimmer... (*HAHT dahss TSIM-mer...*)

...bedsheets?

...Bettlaken? (*...BET-lahk-en?*)

...a bathroom? (toilet)

...eine Toilette? (*igh-nuh to-ah-LET-tuh?*)

...a bathroom? (with cleaning facilities)

...ein Badezimmer? (*igh-n BAH-duh-tsim-er?*)

...a telephone?

...ein Telefon? (*ighn tell-eh-FOHN?*)

...a TV?

...einen Fernseher? (*igh-nen FAYRN-zay-er?*)

May I see the room first?

Kann ich das Zimmer erstmal sehen? (*kahn ikh dahs TSIM-mer ayrst-mahl ZAY-en?*)

Do you have anything quieter?

Haben Sie etwas Ruhigeres? (*HAH-ben zee ET-vahs ROO-ig-er-ess?*)

...bigger?

...größeres? (*GROO-ser-ess?*)

...cheaper?

...billigeres? (*BILL-ig-er-ess?*)

OK, I'll take it.

OK, ich nehme es. (*OH-kay, ikh NAY-muh ess*)

I will stay for \_\_\_\_\_ night(s).

Ich bleibe eine Nacht (\_\_\_\_\_ Nächte). (*ikh BLIGH-buh IGH-nuh nahkht/\_\_\_\_\_ NEKH-tuh*)

Note: *The plural of 'Nacht' is 'Nächte'.*

Can you suggest another hotel?

Können Sie mir ein anderes Hotel empfehlen? (*KOON-en zee meer ign AHN-der-ess ho-TELL emp-FAY-len?*)

Note: It's not a good idea to say this, as it may be taken in an insulting manner. Try saying "Gibt es hier in der Nähe ein Reisebüro?" ("Is there a tourist agency nearby?") instead.

Do you have a safe?

Haben Sie einen Safe? (*HAH-ben zee IGH-nen SAYF?*)

...lockers?

...Schließfächer? (*SHLEESS-fekh-er?*)

Is breakfast/supper included?

Ist Frühstück/Abendessen inklusive? (*ist FRUU-shtuuk/AH-bent-ess-en in-kloo-ZEE-vuh?*)

What time is breakfast/supper?

Wann gibt es Frühstück/Abendessen? (*VAHN gipt ess FRUU-shtuuk/AH-bent-ess-en?*)

Please clean my room.

Würden sie bitte mein Zimmer saubermachen? (*VUUR-den zee BIT-tuh mign TSIM-mer ZOW-ber-MAHKH-en?*)

Can you wake me at \_\_\_\_\_?

Können Sie mich um \_\_\_\_\_ Uhr wecken? (*KOON-en zee mikh oom \_\_\_\_\_ oor VECK-en?*)

I would like to check out.

Ich möchte auschecken. (*ikh MOOKH-tuh ows-check-en*)

## Money

Do you accept American/Australian/Canadian dollars?

Nehmen Sie US-Dollar/australische/kanadische Dollar an? (*NAY-men zee OOH-ESS DOLL-ahr/ouss-TRAHL-ish-uh/kah-NAH-dish-uh DOLL-ahr?*)

Do you accept British pounds?

Nehmen Sie britische Pfund an? (*NAY-men zee BRIT-ish-uh PFOOND?*)

Do you accept credit cards?

Kann ich mit Kreditkarte zahlen? (*kahn ikh mit kray-DEET-kahr-tuh TSAH-len?*)

Can you change money for me?

Können Sie mir Geld wechseln? (*KOON-en zee meer GELT WEKHS-eln?*)

Where can I get money changed?

Wo kann ich Geld wechseln? (*voh kahn ikh GELT WEKHS-eln?*)

Can you change a traveller's check for me?

Kann ich hier Travellerschecks einlösen? (*kahn ikh heer TREV-el-er-shecks IGHN-loo-zen?*)

Where can I get a traveler's check changed?

Wo kann ich Travellerschecks tauschen? (*voh kahn ikh TREV-el-er-shecks TOW-shen?*) (TOW rhymes with "cow")

What is the exchange rate?

Wie ist der Wechselkurs? (*vee ist dayr VEK-sel-koors?*)

Where is an automatic teller machine (ATM)?

Wo ist ein Geldautomat? (*voh ist ign GELT-ow-toh-maht?*)

## Eating

A table for one person/two people, please.

Ein Tisch für eine Person/zwei Personen, bitte. (*ighn TISH fuur IGHN-uh payr-ZOHN/TSVIGH payr-ZOHN-nen, BIT-tuh*)

Can I look at the menu, please?

Ich hätte gerne die Speisekarte. (*ikh HET-tuh GAYR-nuh dee SHPIGH-zuh-kahr-tuh*)

Is there a house specialty?

Gibt es eine Spezialität des Hauses? (*gipt ess igh-nuh shpeh-tsyah-lee-TAYT dess HOW-zess?*)

Is there a local specialty?

Gibt es eine Spezialität aus dieser Gegend? (*gipt ess igh-nuh shpeh-tsyah-lee-TAYT owss DEE-zer GAY-gent?*)

I'm a vegetarian.

Ich bin Vegetarier. (*ikh bin vay-gay-TAH-ree-er*)

I don't eat pork.

Ich esse kein Schweinefleisch. (*ikh ESS-uh kign SHVIGN-uh-flighsh*)

I only eat kosher food.

Ich esse nur kosher. (*ikh ESS-uh noor KOH-sheer*)

Can you make it "lite", please? (*less oil/butter/lard*)

Könnten Sie es bitte nicht so fett machen? (*KOON-ten zee ess BIT-tuh nikht zo fett MAHKH-en?*)

fixed-price meal

Tagesessen (*TAHG-ess-ess-en*) / Menü (meh-NUU)

Note: While "Tagesessen" should be used in pubs and taverns, "Menü" is the correct word in classic restaurants.

Without, eg. I would like spaghetti without cheese

Ich möchte die Spaghetti, ohne Käse (*Ik merkhte dee schpagetti, ohna kayze*), "Ohne" being the key word here.

à la carte

a la carte (*ah lah KAHRT*)

breakfast

Frühstück (*FRUU-shtuuk*)

lunch

Mittagessen (*mit-TAHK-ess-en*)

tea (*meal*)

Kaffee (*kah-FAY*)

supper

Abendessen or Abendbrot (*AH-bent-ess-en* or *AH-bent-broht*)

Note: "Abendbrot" is mainly used in rural areas. Most Germans, even the non-English speaking, understand *dinner* as well.

I would like \_\_\_\_\_.

Ich möchte \_\_\_\_\_. (*ikh MERKH-tuh*)

I would like a dish containing \_\_\_\_  
 Ich möchte etwas mit \_\_\_\_ (*ikh MOOKH-tuh ett-vahss mit*  
 \_\_\_\_)

Literally means "I want something with \_\_\_\_"

chicken Huhn (*hoon*)

beef Rindfleisch (*RINT-flighsh*)

fish Fisch (*fish*)

ham Schinken (*SHINK-en*)

sausage Wurst (*voorst*)

cheese Käse (*KAY-zuh*)

eggs Eier (*IGH-er*)

salad Salat (*zah-LAHT*)

(fresh) vegetables (frisches) Gemüse (*[FRISH-ess] guh-MUU-zuh*)

(fresh) fruit (frisches) Obst (*[FRISH-ess] OWPST*)

bread Brot (*broht*)

toast Toast (*tohtst*)

noodles Nudeln (*NOO-deln*)

rice Reis (*rihss*)

beans Bohnen (*BOH-nen*)

May I have a glass of \_\_\_\_?  
 Könnte ich ein Glas \_\_\_\_ haben? (*KOON-tuh ikh ighn glahss*  
 \_\_\_\_ *HAH-ben?*)

May I have a cup of \_\_\_\_?  
 Könnte ich eine Tasse \_\_\_\_ haben? (*KOON-tuh ikh IGH-nuh*  
*TAH-suh* \_\_\_\_ *HAH-ben?*)

May I have a bottle of \_\_\_\_?  
 Könnte ich eine Flasche \_\_\_\_ haben? (*KOON-tuh ikh IGH-nuh*  
*FLAH-shuh* \_\_\_\_ *HAH-ben?*)

coffee Kaffee (*kah-FAY*)

tea (*drink*) Tee (*tay*)

juice Saft (*zahft*)

(bubbly) water Mineralwasser or Sprudel(-wasser) (*mee-ne-RAHL-wah-ser* or *SHPROO-del-[wah-ser]*)

water (tap) Leitungswasser (*LIGH-toongs-wah-ser*)  
 Note: Tap water is quite uncommon in German restaurants.

beer Bier (*beer*)  
 Note: *At least in Germany and Austria, you better say what kind of beer you want. There are: Export (EKS-port), known as 'Helles' (HELL-as) in Bavaria and as 'Lager' (LAH-ger) in Switzerland; Pils (pilss); Hefeweizen (HAY-fuh-igh-tsen), known as 'Weißbier' (VIGHSS-beer) in Bavaria; dunkles Hefeweizen (DOONK-less HAY-fuh-igh-tsen); Alt (ahlt) in the Düsseldorf region; Kölsch (koolsh) in Cologne and probably most of the other Rhineland; Bockbier (BOCK-beer) sometimes in the South of Germany. If you only say beer, you will get a Pils on most cases.*

red/white wine Rot-/Weiß-wein (*ROHT-/VIGHSS-ighn*)

May I have some \_\_\_\_?  
 Kann ich etwas \_\_\_\_ haben? (*kahn ikh ET-vahss* \_\_\_\_ *HAH-ben?*)

salt Salz (*zahlt*)

black pepper Pfeffer (*PFEF-er*)

butter Butter (*BOO-ter*)

Excuse me, waiter! (*getting attention of server*)  
 Entschuldigung! (*ent-SHOOL-dih-goong*)

I'm finished.  
 Ich bin fertig. (*ikh bin FAYR-tikh*)

It was delicious.  
 Es war hervorragend. (*ess vahr hayr-FOR-rah-gent*)

Please clear the plates.  
 Würden Sie bitte abräumen? (*VUUR-den zee BIT-tuh ahb-ROY-men?*)

The check, please.  
 Zahlen, bitte. (*TSAH-len, BIT-tuh*)

## Bars

Do you serve alcohol?  
 Haben Sie alkoholische Getränke? (*HAH-ben zee ahl-koh-HOHL-ish-uh guh-TRENG-kuh?*)

Is there table service?  
 Kommt eine Bedienung zum Tisch? (*kommt IGH-nuh buh-DEE-noong toom TISH?*)

A beer/two beers, please.  
 Ein Bier/zwei Bier, bitte. (*ighn beer/tsvigh beer, BIT-tuh*)  
*See note in previous section.*

A glass of red/white wine, please.  
 Ein Glas Rot-/Weißwein, bitte. (*ighn glahss ROHT-/VIGHSS-ighn, BIT-tuh*)

A quarter/eighth of red wine, please.  
 Ein Viertel/Achtel Rotwein, bitte. (*ighn FEER-tel/AHKH-tel ROHT-ighn, BIT-tuh*)  
 Note: It's usual to order wine by quarters or eighths (of a liter).

A little/big beer, please.  
 Ein kleines/großes Bier, bitte. (*ighn KLIGH-ness/GROH-sess beer, BIT-tuh*)

Half a liter, please. (of beer)  
 Eine Halbe, bitte. (*IGH-nuh HAHL-buh, BIT-tuh*)  
 Note: *This probably won't be understood in the North of Germany.*

A bottle, please.  
 Eine Flasche, bitte. (*IGH-nuh FLAH-shuh, BIT-tuh*)

Rum and coke, please.  
 Bitte eine Cola mit Rum. (*BIT-tuh IGH-nuh KOH-lah mit ROOM*)  
 Note: *In German, the mixer comes first.*

whiskey Whiskey (*VIS-kee*)

vodka Wodka (*VOT-kah*)

rum Rum (*ROOM*)

water Wasser (*VAH-ser*)

club soda Mineralwasser (*Mee-ne-RAWL-vas-ser*)

tonic water Tonicwater or simply Tonic

orange juice Orangensaft or simply O-Saft (*oh-RAHN-gehn-zahft* or *OH-zahft*)

Coke (*soda*) Cola (*KOH-lah*)

Do you have any bar snacks?  
 Haben Sie irgendwelche Snacks? (*HAH-ben zee EER-gent-VELL-khe SNEKS?*)

One more, please.  
 Noch einen(m)/eine(f)/eins(n), bitte. (*nokh IGH-nen/IGH-nuh/IGHNS, BIT-tuh*)

Another round, please.  
 Noch eine Runde, bitte. (*nokh IGH-nuh ROON-duh, BIT-tuh*)

When is closing time?  
 Wann schließen Sie? (*vahn SHLEE-sen zee?*)



Cheers!  
Prost! or Zum Wohl! (*zoom wole*)

## Shopping

Do you have this in my size?  
Haben Sie das in meiner Größe? (*HAH-ben zee dahs in MIGH-ner GROO-suh?*)

How much is this?  
Was kostet das? (*vahss KOSS-tet dahss?*)

That's too expensive.  
Das ist zu teuer. (*dahss ist tsoo TOY-er*)

Would you take \_\_\_\_\_?  
Würden Sie es für \_\_\_\_ verkaufen? (*VUUR-den zee as fyr \_\_\_\_\_ vayr-COW-fan?*)

expensive  
teuer (*TOY-er*)

cheap  
billig / günstig (*BILL-ikh/GUUN-stikh*) (Note: "Billig" also can mean "not good/low quality")

I can't afford it.  
Ich kann es mir nicht leisten. (*ikh kahn ess meer nikth LIGH-sten*)

I don't want it.  
Ich will es nicht. (*ikh vill ess nikth*)

I know that this is not the regular price.  
Ich weiß, dass das nicht der normale Preis ist. (*ikh vighss, dahss dahss nikht dayr nor-MAH-luh PRIGHSS ist*)

You're cheating me.  
Sie wollen mich abzocken. (*zee VOLL-en mikh AHP-tsock-en*)  
Note: *Actually, the translation would be: Sie betrügen mich. But that sounds too hard. The word abzocken is a rather familiar use of language.*

I'm not interested.  
Ich habe kein Interesse. (*ikh hah-buh kighn in-ter-ES-se*)

OK, I'll take it.  
OK, ich nehme es. (*oh-kay, ikh NAY-muh ess*)

Can I have a bag?  
Kann ich eine Tüte haben? (*kahn ikh IGH-nuh TUU-tuh HAH-ben?*)

Do you ship (overseas)?  
Versenden Sie auch (nach Übersee)? (*fayr-ZEN-den zee owkh [nahkh UU-ber-zay]?*)

I need...  
Ich brauche... (*ikh BROW-khuh...*) (*BROW* rhymes with *cow*)

...toothpaste.  
...Zahnpaste. (*TSAHN-pahs-teh*)

...a toothbrush.  
...eine Zahnbürste. (*IGH-nuh TSAHN-buur-stuh*)

...tampons.  
...Tampons. (*TAHM-pohns*)

...soap.  
...Seife. (*ZIGH-fuh*)

...shampoo.  
...Shampoo. (*SHAHM-poo*)

...pain reliever. (*e.g., aspirin or ibuprofen*)  
...Schmerzmittel. (*SHMAYRTS-mit-tel*)  
Note: *You will get medicine in pharmacies ("Apotheke" , with big red A-Sign) only, not in normal drugstores*

...cold medicine.  
...etwas gegen Erkältung. (*ET-vahs GAY-gen ayr-KELT-oong*)

...stomach medicine.  
...Magentabletten (*MAH-gen-tah-BLET-ten*)

...a razor.  
...einen Rasierer. (*IGH-nen rah-ZEER-er*)

...a razor (blade)  
...eine Rasierklinge. (*IGH-ne rah-ZEER-kling-uh*)

...an umbrella.  
...einen Regenschirm. (*IGH-nen RAY-gen-sheerm*)

...sunblock lotion.  
...Sonnenscreme. (*ZON-nen-kraym*)

...a postcard.  
...eine Postkarte. (*IGH-nuh POST-kahr-tuh*)

...postage stamps.

...Briefmarken. (*BREEF-mahr-ken*)

...batteries.  
...Batterien. (*baht-uh-REE-en*)

...writing paper.  
...Schreibpapier. (*SHRIGHP-pah-peer*)

...a pen.  
...einen Stift. (*igh-nen SHTIFT*)

...English-language books.  
...englischsprachige Bücher. (*ENG-lish-shprakhk-ig-uh BUUKH-er*)

...English-language magazines.  
...englischsprachige Zeitschriften. (*ENG-lish-shprakhk-ig-uh TSIGHT-shrift-en*)

...an English-language newspaper.  
...eine englischsprachige Zeitung. (*IGH-nuh ENG-lish-shprakhk-ig-uh TSIGH-toong*)

...an English-German dictionary.  
...ein Englisch-Deutsch-Wörterbuch. (*ighn ENG-lish-DOYTCH woor-ter-bookh*)

## Driving

I want to rent a car.  
Ich möchte ein Auto mieten. (*ikh MOOKH-tuh ighn OW-toh mee-ten*)

Can I get insurance?  
Kann ich es versichern lassen? (*kahn ikh es fayr-ZIKH-ern LAH-sen?*)

stop (*on a street sign*)  
stop (*SHTOP*)

one way  
Einbahnstraße (*IGHN-bahn-shtrah-suh*)

yield  
Vorfahrt gewähren (*FOR-fahrt guh-VEHR-ren*)

exit (*on highway*)  
Ausfahrt (*OVS-fahrt*)

no parking  
Parkverbot (*PAHRK-fayr-boht*)

speed limit  
Geschwindigkeitsbeschränkung (*guh-SHVIN-dikh-kights-buh-SHRENG-koong*)

gas (*petrol*) station  
Tankstelle (*TAHNK-shtel-luh*)

petrol  
Benzin (*ben-TSEEN*)

unleaded petrol  
Benzin bleifrei (*ben-TSEEN bly-FRY*)

diesel  
Diesel (*DEE-zel*)

toll  
Maut (*MOWT*)

## Authority

I haven't done anything wrong.  
Ich habe nichts getan. (*eesh HAH-buh nikhts guh-TAHN*)

It was a misunderstanding.  
Das war ein Missverständnis. (*dahs vahr ighn MEES-fayr-shtand-nees*)

Where are you taking me?  
Wohin bringen Sie mich? (*VOH-hin BRING-uhn zee meekh?*)

Am I under arrest?  
Bin ich verhaftet? (*been eekh fayr-HAHF-tut?*)

I am an American/Australian/British/Canadian citizen. (*male*)  
Ich bin amerikanischer/australischer/britischer/kanadischer Staatsbürger. (*eekh been ah-may-ree-KAH-neesh-er / owss-TRAH-leesh-er / BREET-eesh-er / kah-NAH-deesh-er SHTAHTS-buur-gurr*)

I am an American/Australian/British/Canadian citizen. (*female*)  
Ich bin amerikanische/australische/britische/kanadische Staatsbürgerin (*eekh been ah-may-ree-KAH-neesh-uh / owss-*

*TRAH-leesh-uh / BREET-eesh-uh / kah-NAH-deesh-uh  
SHTAHTS-buur-gurr-eeen)*

I want to talk to the American/Australian/British/Canadian  
embassy/consulate.

Ich will mit der/dem  
amerikanischen/australischen/britischen/kanadischen  
Botschaft/Konsulat sprechen. (*eekh veel meet dayr/dame ah-may-  
ree-KAHn-eesh-uhn / ows-TRAH-leesh-uhn / BREE-teesh-uhn /  
kah-NAH-deesh-uhn BOHT-shahft / kohn-zoo-LAHT SHPREKH-  
uhn*)

I want to talk to a lawyer.

Ich will mit einem Anwalt sprechen. (*eekh veel meet IGH-nem  
AHN-vahlt SHPREKH-uhn*)

Can I just pay a fine now?

Kann ich jetzt einfach eine Strafe zahlen? (*kahn eekh yetst IGHN-  
fakh igh-nuh SHTRAH-fe TSAH-len?*)

*Note:* Be sure that it is clear from the context that you aren't  
offering a bribe. Trying to bribe an official will get you into real  
trouble.