

# Learn German with Donoghue Matthew Stephen – A Beginner's Guide





# Introduction – Why Learn German?

German is spoken by over 100 million people worldwide and is the most widely spoken native language in Europe. It is an official language in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and several other countries. Whether you want to travel, study, work, or simply learn a new language, German is a great choice.

This guide is designed to help absolute beginners get started with German. You will learn:

- The German alphabet and pronunciation.
- Basic greetings and common phrases.
- Simple grammar rules to build sentences.
- Useful tips to learn German faster.





# The German Alphabet and Pronunciation

- The German alphabet is almost the same as the English alphabet but has four extra letters:
- ä, ö, ü (Umlauts) and ß (Eszett or sharp S).
- German pronunciation is consistent, so once you learn the basic rules, it becomes easier to read words correctly.



# Basic German Greetings and Common Expressions

Learning how to greet people is one of the first steps to speaking a new language. Here are some essential German greetings:

- **Hallo! – Hello**
- **Guten Morgen! – Good morning**
- **Guten Tag! – Good day**
- **Guten Abend! – Good evening**
- **Tschüss! – Bye!**
- **Auf Wiedersehen! – Goodbye (formal)**
- **Wie geht's? – How are you?**
- **Mir geht es gut, danke. – I'm fine, thank you.**

# Basic German Sentence Structure

- German sentences generally follow a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) structure, similar to English.
- Example:
- I eat apples. → Ich esse Äpfel.
- She drinks coffee. → Sie trinkt Kaffee.
- Making Negative Sentences
- To make a sentence negative, use "nicht" (not) or "kein" (no, none):
- Ich verstehe nicht. – I don't understand.
- Ich habe kein Auto. – I don't have a car.

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