**Der/die/das or ein/eine/ein?**

Find these small words confusing? Sort them out with the help of your dictionary.

**Use Your Dictionary**

When you look up a German noun, you can tell whether the German noun is masculine (der or ein), feminine (die or eine) or neuter (das or ein) by the article (der, die or das).

- **bungalow noun der Bungalow**
  - masculine, so: the bungalow = der Bungalow
  - a bungalow = ein Bungalow

- **flat noun die Wohnung**
  - feminine, so: the flat = die Wohnung
  - a flat = eine Wohnung

- **house noun das Haus**
  - neuter, so: the house = das Haus
  - a house = ein Haus

- Always copy the German words correctly including any Umlaut.
- Note the gender of nouns (masculine, feminine or neuter).
- Then decide how you need to use the noun:
  - If you want to say the …. use der/die/das
  - If you want to say a, an … use ein/eine/ein

**zoom Practice**

Nico has gone to Vienna for the weekend with Kathi. He wants to write a postcard to his mother. He has almost finished. Can you help him complete his postcard?

- Look up the words in your dictionary. Check the gender and decide whether you need to use der/die/das or ein/eine/ein.
- Remember that all nouns in German start with a capital letter.

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Hallo, Wie geht’s?

Ich bin in Wien in Österreich. Wir sind mit dem Zug gefahren. ___ _____ ist sehr bequem und ___ _____ ist schön.

Heute machen wir ___ ____. Das ist toll!

Morgen möchte ich Souvenirs kaufen, zum Beispiel: ___ ____. ___ ______ für Ulla und Britta und ___ _____ für Ralf.

Tschüs!

Nico

---

Georgstraße 14

Berlin

Deutschland

____________________
Finding the right word

English words can have different meanings. For example, the word *fly* can be a verb or a noun:

- *fly* noun: die *Fliege* in German
- *fly* verb: *fliegen*

When you look in your dictionary, you need to choose the right word:
The insect, a *fly*, is *eine Fliege* in German. The verb, to *fly*, is *fliegen*.

In each entry, the ▶ warns you to check the whole of the dictionary entry!

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**zoom Practice**

1. **The right kind of beat**

Read the two sentences below, then circle the right German word for *beat* in each case.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>This song is great. It has a good <em>beat</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>Ali wants the school basketball team to <em>beat</em> the visiting team.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>beat verb</th>
<th>schlagen / beat noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| *schlagen* / *beat* noun der *Takt* | *schlagen* / *beat* noun der *Takt*

---

2. **The right word**

Now read the sentences below and look at the underlined words.

- Write *v* for the verbs and *n* for the nouns.
- Then find the right German word in the dictionary and complete the sentences in German.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>auf Deutsch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>I want to <em>book</em> four tickets for a boat trip.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>My <em>book</em> on Berlin is very interesting!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>Kathi has lost her <em>phone</em>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>Nico is going to <em>phone</em> Kathi later.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>Ali, can you <em>lift</em> this box please?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>Let’s take the <em>lift</em> up to Ninas flat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Watch *zoom* Deutsch 1 Unit 0 and 1A Video drama to meet Nina, Ali, Kathi and Nico.
Get the right meaning!

Sira looked in her dictionary before speaking to her penfriend by phone – but she didn’t look carefully enough!

The German word *Tasche* has several meanings.

**die Tasche**
1. bag
2. pocket

Some German words have more than one meaning. The different meanings may be quite similar but you have to be careful when translating them. Don’t make the same mistake as Sira!

Often German words with more than one meaning, have the same origin, for example, a pocket was once separate from the dress – like a little bag.

**zoom** Practice

1. Find the correct English translation.

   Use your dictionary to look up the words in italics and then translate the sentences into English.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Leo wohnt auf dem <em>Land</em>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Leo kommt aus der Schweiz. Das ist ein <em>Land</em> neben Deutschland.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Ich möchte eine <em>Birne</em> essen.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Ich muss eine <em>Birne</em> für meine Lampe kaufen.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*TIP* The accusative or dative is used after the preposition *auf*. Look on page 22 of your dictionary.

2. Choose carefully.

   Now look up the English word *mouth* in your dictionary. You should find three separate meanings and three separate genders. Which is the correct word *mouth* for the following? Write the correct translation in the box.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 The dog was carrying a toy in its <em>mouth</em>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Don’t eat with your <em>mouth</em> open.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 We camped near the <em>mouth</em> of the river.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Just a few nouns have one meaning when they’re masculine, and a different meaning when they’re feminine.*

* der See
1. lake

* die See
2. sea

Watch zoom Deutsch 2 Unit 0 Video drama to meet Sira and Leo!
Find a verb

Verbs are used in various forms and tenses but dictionaries list the infinitive.

- Look for entries labelled verb. The infinitives will end in -n or -en.
- When you look up a verb in the dictionary, you’ll often find that the form of the verb in the dictionary is different from the form of the verb in your book.

Wohin gehst du?  ➜  gehen verb 1 to go
Er bleibt hier.  ➜  bleiten verb 1 to stay, to remain

This is because the dictionary gives verbs in the infinitive. To use the verb in a sentence in the present tense, however, you remove the -en ending from the infinitive and add the correct ending, for example, spielen > ich spiele.

In addition, many verbs also change their stem when used in a sentence. This means that for the du and er/sie/es forms, the vowel in the main part of the verb will change, for example, sprechen > er spricht.

### Find the infinitive

Read the four sentences and then write down the infinitive of the German verb. Look up the infinitive in your dictionary and complete the English sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>deutscher Infinitiv</th>
<th>auf Englisch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Leo: Ich habe kurze braune Haare.</td>
<td>haben</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Man feiert Silvester am 31. Dezember.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Die Schule beginnt um acht Uhr in Deutschland.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Sira: Ich bekomme zehn Euro für die Arbeit im Garten.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Stem changing verbs

| 1 Leo, du isst zu viel Schokoladenkuchen. | essen | You eat too much chocolate cake. |
| 2 Sira hilft ihren Eltern zu Hause. |  | Sira ________________ her parents in the house. |
| 3 Oli spricht Deutsch und Englisch. |  | Oli ________________ German and English |
| 4 Was siehst du gern im Fernsehen? |  | What do you like watching on television? |