



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Department of Engineering

Language Unit

German for Beginners

Prerequisites: None

Target level*: Level A1/A2 of the CEFR

Approach: We follow a task-based, skills-orientated and communicative approach, fostering communicative competence in the target language with an Engineering-flavoured choice of topics to equip students with a basic command of German.

Educational aims:

- To provide an introduction to German Language in the main language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing)
- To cover the basic grammatical structures and lexis
- To encourage a positive and confident attitude towards language learning
- To promote cultural awareness

* For CEFR descriptors, see

<http://to.eng.cam.ac.uk/teaching/language/Courses%20Foreign%20Languages/CEFR%20grid.pdf>

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand short and simple monologues or dialogues on familiar topics immediately related to their personal and/or professional environment and/or interests, as well as other aspects of the target culture(s)
- Take part in simple conversations on familiar topics immediately related to their personal and/or professional environment and/or interests, as well as other aspects of the target culture(s)
- Talk for a few minutes using simple sentences about familiar topics immediately related to their personal and/or professional environment and/or interests, as well as other aspects of the target culture(s)
- Understand short and simple texts on familiar topics immediately related to their personal and/or professional environment and/or interests, as well as other aspects of the target culture(s)
- Write short and simple texts on familiar topics immediately related to their personal and/or professional environment and/or interests, as well as other aspects of the target culture(s)

Teacher: Katarzyna Lanucha (kl333@cam.ac.uk)

Course content: See syllabus below / [description and detailed timetable](#) in Moodle (Raven login required).

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Scheme of work German Beginners

Week	Topic	Communication skills	Grammar	Engineering content
M 1	Guten Tag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greetings and farewells Saying who you are Saying where you come from and where you live 	Simple statements and questions Verb endings, personal pronouns (<i>ich, du, Sie</i>) Prepositions <i>in, aus</i>	Numbers up to 10
M 2	Sprechen Sie Deutsch?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saying how you are Talking about languages and nationalities Talking about personal details 	Personal pronouns Negation <i>NICHT</i> Verbs – present tense endings (singular forms)	Numbers 11-100
M 3	Berufe und Studium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towns and cities Professions Talking about work and study 	Word order in German Verbs – present tense endings (plural forms)	Numbers 1001 upwards Engineering subjects
M 4	Familie und Hobbys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities Stating likes and dislikes Family relationships 	Verbs with vowel changes Possessive adjectives Plural of nouns The accusative case	
M 5 - 6	Essen und Einkaufen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asking the way Ordering food and drink Shopping: Asking / giving prices Saying how often you do things 	More on the accusative case More noun plurals The imperative	Basic measurements
M 6 – 7	Alltag und Arbeit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Booking a hotel room Telling the time Talking about daily routines and work (continued) Making appointments 	Separable verbs Modal verbs: <i>können, müssen</i> Word order	My life as a student in Cambridge

Scheme of work German Beginners

L 1 – 2	In der Stadt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buying consumer goods • Talking about daily routines and work • Travelling around town 	Prepositions + accusative / dative Prepositions + dative	Basic calculations
L 2 – 3	Wohnen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saying where people live • Describing accommodation • Making comparisons 	The dative case Comparative and superlative	Building materials
L 4 – 5	Was haben Sie gemacht?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saying what happened at the weekend • Talking about recent events • Describing purchases 	Present perfect tense Adjective endings 1	
L 5 – 6	Shopping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saying what clothes you like wearing • Discussing appropriate clothes and gifts 	Adjectival endings 2 Direct and indirect objects The dative case	
L 6 – 7	Wetter und Gesundheit REVISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting weather conditions • Body parts, reporting on aches and pains, discussing health 	Prepositions and places Modal verbs <i>Wenn</i> clauses	
L 8	LISTENING EXAM			