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)

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Course content: See syllabus below / [description and detailed timetable](http://to.eng.cam.ac.uk/teaching/language/Courses%20Foreign%20Languages/CEFR%20grid.pdf) in Moodle (Raven login required).

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Communication skills</th>
<th>Grammar</th>
<th>Engineering content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| M 1  | Guten Tag | • Greetings and farewells  
• Saying who you are  
• Saying where you come from and where you live | Simple statements and questions  
Verb endings, personal pronouns (*ich, du, Sie*)  
Prepositions *in, aus* | Numbers up to 10 |
| M 2  | Sprechen Sie Deutsch? | • Saying how you are  
• Talking about languages and nationalities  
• Talking about personal details | Personal pronouns  
Negation *NICHT*  
Verbs – present tense endings (singular forms) | Numbers 11-100 |
| M 3  | Berufe und Studium | • 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 | • 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 | • 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 | • Booking a hotel room  
• Telling the time  
• Talking about daily routines and work (continued)  
• Making appointments | Separable verbs  
Modal verbs: *können, müssen*  
Word order | My life as a student in Cambridge |
| L 1 – 2 | In der Stadt | • Buying consumer goods  
• Talking about daily routines and work  
• Travelling around town | Prepositions + accusative / dative  
Prepositions + dative | Basic calculations |
| L 2 – 3 | Wohnen | • Saying where people live  
• Describing accommodation  
• Making comparisons | The dative case  
Comparative and superlative | Building materials |
| L 4 – 5 | Was haben Sie gemacht? | • Saying what happened at the weekend  
• Talking about recent events  
• Describing purchases | Present perfect tense  
Adjective endings 1 | |
| L 5 – 6 | Shopping | • 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 | • Reporting weather conditions  
• Body parts, reporting on aches and pains, discussing health | Prepositions and places  
Modal verbs  
Wenn clauses | |
| L 8 | | | LISTENING EXAM | |