



New York Chicago San Francisco Lisbon London Madrid Mexico City  
Milan New Delhi San Juan Seoul Singapore Sydney Toronto

Copyright © 2009 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. All rights reserved. Except as permitted under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, no part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

ISBN: 978-0-07-159963-4

MHID: 0-07-159963-0

The material in this eBook also appears in the print version of this title: ISBN: 978-0-07-159962-7, MHID: 0-07-159962-2.

All trademarks are trademarks of their respective owners. Rather than put a trademark symbol after every occurrence of a trademarked name, we use names in an editorial fashion only, and to the benefit of the trademark owner, with no intention of infringement of the trademark. Where such designations appear in this book, they have been printed with initial caps.

McGraw-Hill eBooks are available at special quantity discounts to use as premiums and sales promotions, or for use in corporate training programs. To contact a representative please e-mail us at [bulksales@mcgraw-hill.com](mailto:bulksales@mcgraw-hill.com).

#### TERMS OF USE

This is a copyrighted work and The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. ("McGraw-Hill") and its licensors reserve all rights in and to the work. Use of this work is subject to these terms. Except as permitted under the Copyright Act of 1976 and the right to store and retrieve one copy of the work, you may not decompile, disassemble, reverse engineer, reproduce, modify, create derivative works based upon, transmit, distribute, disseminate, sell, publish or sublicense the work or any part of it without McGraw-Hill's prior consent. You may use the work for your own noncommercial and personal use; any other use of the work is strictly prohibited. Your right to use the work may be terminated if you fail to comply with these terms.

THE WORK IS PROVIDED "AS IS." McGRAW-HILL AND ITS LICENSORS MAKE NO GUARANTEES OR WARRANTIES AS TO THE ACCURACY, ADEQUACY OR COMPLETENESS OF OR RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED FROM USING THE WORK, INCLUDING ANY INFORMATION THAT CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH THE WORK VIA HYPERLINK OR OTHERWISE, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIM ANY

WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. McGraw-Hill and its licensors do not warrant or guarantee that the functions contained in the work will meet your requirements or that its operation will be uninterrupted or error free. Neither McGraw-Hill nor its licensors shall be liable to you or anyone else for any inaccuracy, error or omission, regardless of cause, in the work or for any damages resulting therefrom. McGraw-Hill has no responsibility for the content of any information accessed through the work. Under no circumstances shall McGraw-Hill and/or its licensors be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, punitive, consequential or similar damages that result from the use of or inability to use the work, even if any of them has been advised of the possibility of such damages. This limitation of liability shall apply to any claim or cause whatsoever whether such claim or cause arises in contract, tort or otherwise.

*To Riane, AJ, Jalyn, Tori, and Riley, my terrific grandkids.*

*This page intentionally left blank*

# Contents

Acknowledgments vii Introduction ix

- 1. Declarative sentences and word order** 1
- 2. Interrogative sentences** 11
- 3. Questions and answers** 21
- 4. Imperatives** 31
- 5. Coordinating conjunctions** 39
- 6. Subordinating conjunctions** 43
- 7. Relative pronouns** 51
- 8. Extended modifiers** 59
- 9. Adjectives** 67
- 10. Adverbs** 77
- 11. Pronouns** 83
- 12. Infinitives** 91
- 13. Short responses** 99
- 14. Idioms and special phrases** 105
- 15. Antonyms and contrasts** 113
- 16. The passive voice** 121
- 17. The subjunctive mood** 133

- 18. Punctuation** 145
- 19. Letter writing** 153
- 20. Let's write!** 161

Answer key 169

# Acknowledgments

I wish to extend my gratitude to Stefan Feyen for all his help and suggestions.

*This page intentionally left blank*

# Introduction

Writing skills are usually the most difficult skills to acquire in a language. This is particularly true in a foreign language. The goal of this book is to guide you through the various types of structures in the German language and to illustrate how those structures combine to make sentences.

Naturally, in order to acquire writing skills you have *to write*. Therefore, you will be provided with an abundance of writing exercises. Some will require a small variation in a given sentence. Others will provide you with a series of words that you form into an appropriate sentence. And you will have plenty of opportunity for coming up with original sentences of your own. This development of your German sentence writing moves gradually and with careful explanation from the least complex activity to the most complex.



Make changes to given sentences.

Combine a series of words as a sentence. Writing skills developed Write original sentences.

In addition to the illustrations of how structures combine to form sentences, and the practice exercises, an answer key is provided at the end of the book. It includes not only the correct answers for the exercises but also sample sentences for you to use to compare to your original sentences.

Good sentence writing is not an impossible task. But it requires analysis and practice and a willingness to apply concepts and rules consistently. Let this book guide you, and you will discover a new confidence as you write more successfully in German.

**Viel Glück!**

*This page intentionally left blank*

# Declarative sentences and word order

1

Declarative sentences in both English and German consist of a subject and a predicate. In German, the subject is in the nominative case, and the verb in the predicate is conjugated appropriately for the subject and in a specific tense:

**subject 1 verb 1 predicate** Karl 1 singt 1 gut.  
*Karl sings well.*

In the example sentence above, the subject is **Karl** and the verb **singt** is conjugated in the present tense for the third person singular subject. This basic structure is used in great abundance in the language and can be modified in a variety of ways. Nonetheless, its simple formula is *subject plus predicate*. If one of those elements is missing, you don't have a sentence.

Let's look at a series of sentences composed in this way. Take note of the subjects, the variety of verb types in the predicate, and the various tenses that can be used in declarative sentences. Many sentences are composed of a present perfect tense verb and the auxiliary **haben**:

Karin hat in Leipzig gewohnt. *Karin lived in Leipzig.*

Many are composed of a present perfect tense verb and the auxiliary **sein**:

Sie sind nach Kanada ausgewandert. *They emigrated to Canada.*

Many appear in the future tense with the auxiliary **werden**:

Die Kinder werden im Garten spielen. *The children will play in the garden.*

Others can be a combination of a modal auxiliary and an infinitive:

Niemand kann ihn verstehen. *No one can understand him.*

And still others can be written in the passive voice:

Deutsch wird hier gesprochen. *German is spoken here.*

In other words, a declarative sentence can take many forms.

Rewrite the following declarative sentences in the missing tenses.

1. Present      Martin spricht kein Englisch.

Future      Ich werde es machen können.

3. Present      a.

Past      a. \_\_\_\_\_

Present perfect      b. \_\_\_\_\_

Future      c. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Present      a. \_\_\_\_\_

Past      b. \_\_\_\_\_

Present perfect      c. \_\_\_\_\_

Past      b.

Present perfect      Eine Schlange hat den Frosch gefressen.

Future      c. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4.      Present      a.

Past      Über dem Wald flogen viele Vögel.

Present perfect      b. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Future

c.

## Negation

Declarative sentences do not always make positive statements. They can be made negative by adding a negative word to the sentence or by changing a positive subject to a negative subject.

The most common way to negate a sentence is by the addition of the adverb **nicht** (*not*):

Karl singt gut. *Karl sings well.*

Karl singt nicht gut. *Karl doesn't sing well.*

German usually places **nicht** in front of the element that is negated. However, if that element is the verb itself, **nicht** follows the conjugated form or stands between the auxiliary and the corresponding infinitive or participle. **Nicht** also follows an adverb or adverbial phrase that describes *time* or *place* or an object that is in the *accusative case*:

Es geht nicht.

*That won't work.*

Sie sind nicht zu Hause gewesen.

*They weren't at home.*

Er konnte gestern nacht nicht schlafen.

*He couldn't sleep last night.*

Sie kennt den Mann nicht.

*She doesn't know the man.*

**Nicht** precedes a prepositional phrase or an adverbial that describes the *manner* in which something was done:

**subject 1 verb 1 nicht 1 prepositional phrase Sie 1**

fahren 1 nicht 1 nach Hause. *They're not driving home.*

English often requires the auxiliary *do/does* when negating. This does not occur in German:

Sie warten nicht auf Katrin. *They **don't** wait for Katrin.*

Er versteht nicht. *He **doesn't** understand.*

Onkel Fritz kommt nicht heute. *Uncle Fritz isn't coming today.* When negating a

noun, **kein** (*no, not any*) is used :

**kein 1 noun**

keine 1 Bücher

*no/not any books*

Ich habe kein Geld. *I don't have any money.*

Jack kennt keine Deutschen. *Jack doesn't know any Germans.*

Es dauert keine fünf Minuten. *It won't last more than five minutes.*

Rewrite each sentence, negating the underlined element with **nicht**.

ExaMPIE: Sie laufen in den Garten.  
 Sie laufen nicht in den Garten.

1. Das ist das beste Buch.

---

2. Sie ist am Nachmittag angekommen.

---

3. Ihr Mann ist bei einem Unglück umgekommen.

---

4. Er hat helfen wollen.

---

5. Frau Schneider hat sich wohl gefühlt.

---

6. Die Studenten sitzen im lesesaal.

---

7. Seine Frau hat ihn betrogen.

Rewrite each sentence, negating the underlined element with **kein**.

ExaMPIE: luise hat die Zeitung.  
 luise hat keine Zeitung.

1. Meine Großmutter trinkt Kaffee.

---

2. Boris hat interessante Bücher gefunden.

---



---

3. Die Jungen haben den Kindern geholfen.

---

4. Der Dieb hat ein Wort gesagt.

---

5. In diesem Wald gibt es Bären.

---

6. Ich werde das unter diesen Umständen tun.

---

Übung

1·4

*Rewrite each sentence, negating the underlined element with **kein** or **nicht**, whichever is appropriate.*

1. Ihr Sohn hat mitgehen wollen.

---

2. Die Leute gehen in seinen Laden.

---

3. Ich klebte die Marke auf den Brief.

---

4. Der Bodensee ist der größte See.

---

5. Ein Mann spricht mit ihm.

---

6. Die Lehrerin brauchte einen Kugelschreiber.

---

7. Der betrunkene Mann fährt schnell.

---

---

## Niemand, nichts, and niemals

The negative pronouns **niemand** (*no one, nobody*) and **nichts** (*nothing*) are high-frequency words and are commonly used to negate a sentence. The same is true of the adverb **nie** or **niemals** (*never*). **Niemand** and **nichts** can act as subjects or objects. Compare their use in the following examples:

Niemand besucht sie.

*No one is visiting them.*

Sie versteht niemanden.

*She doesn't understand anybody.*

Nichts interessiert ihn.

*Nothing interests him.*

Ich habe nichts für die Kinder.

*I have nothing for the children.*

**Nie / niemals** is used adverbially:

Er geht nie (niemals) ins Kino.

*He never goes to the movies.*

Just like **jemand**, **niemand** can have a declensional ending in the accusative and dative cases. That ending, however, is optional:

**Nominative**    jemand            niemand

**Accusative**    jemand *or* jemanden    niemand *or* niemanden

**Dative**        jemand *or* jemandem    niemand *or* niemandem

Übung

1·5

Change the underlined word(s) in each sentence to the appropriate negative word: **niemand, nichts, or nie (niemals)**.

Example:    Thomas hat zehn Euro.

Thomas hat nichts.

1. Die Mädchen wollen Schlittschuh laufen.

---

2. Der Polizist wird den Dieb verhaften.

---

3. Manfred geht alle paar Tage in die Stadt.

4. Meine Verwandten waren gestern in Berlin.

---

5. Sonja wird ihre kranke Tante in Hamburg besuchen.

---

6. Er will etwas zu essen haben.

---

## Word order

The sentences you have encountered so far all began with the subject of the sentence. But German sentences can begin with other elements as well. When this occurs, the verb in the sentence will precede the subject. Consider the following sentences. Notice that the English sentences cannot always follow the German word order, particularly when the German sentence begins with a direct object:

aDVErB	<b>Gestern</b> war er in der Stadt.	<i>Yesterday he was in the city.</i>
DirEcT oBJEcT	<b>Das</b> verstehe ich nicht.	<i>I don't understand that.</i>
claUSE	<b>Als ich in Berlin war</b> , besuchte ich meinen Onkel.	<i>When I was in Berlin, I visited my uncle.</i>

In the previous examples, the various German sentences began with an adverb (**Gestern**), a direct object (**Das**), and a clause (**Als ich in Berlin war**). And in each case the subject was preceded by the verb:

**non-subject element 1 verb 1 subject 2 inverted subject and verb**

Übung

1·6

Rewrite each of the following sentences by beginning them with the underlined word or phrase.

ExaMPIE: Die Vorstellung beginnt um zwei Uhr.

Um zwei Uhr beginnt die Vorstellung.

---

1. Sie ist leider wieder krank geworden.

---

2. Martin blieb den ganzen Tag zu Hause.

---

3. Ich verbringe meine Freizeit in der Bibliothek.

---

4. Ich begegnete meinen Nachbarn, als ich um die Ecke kam.

---

5. Ich möchte im Herbst nach Italien reisen.

---

6. Sie geht oft ins Theater, wenn sie in London ist.

---

It is important to remember that German sentences that begin with some element other than the subject cannot always be translated word for word into English. For example:

Den Mann beißt der Hund.

Those words translate as *the man bites the dog*, but the German sentence begins with the direct object and must, therefore, be translated into English as *the dog bites the man*.

Übung

1·7

Rewrite each of the following sentences by placing the direct object at the beginning of the sentence.

ExaMPLE: Der Hund beißt den Mann.

Den Mann beißt der Hund.

1. Er hat den Wecker reparieren lassen.

---

2. Sie wissen das nicht.

---

3. Die Jungen spielen Schach.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Man muss das nicht.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Die Frau kaufte einen Mantel im Kaufhaus.

\_\_\_\_\_

Übung

1·8

*Rewrite the following sentences by beginning each one first with an adverb, then with a prepositional phrase, and finally with a clause of your choosing.*

1. Meine Familie isst italienisch.

a. adverb \_\_\_\_\_

b. Prepositional phrase \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_  
clause

2. Sonja spielte Tennis.

a. adverb \_\_\_\_\_

b. Prepositional phrase \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_  
clause

3. Seine Freundin wird einen neuen Wagen kaufen.

a. adverb \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Prepositional phrase \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

clause

Übung

1·9

*Compose sentences using the words provided in each list. Add any necessary words.*

ExaMPIE: morgen / kommen / er / mit / Freund / nach Hause

Morgen kommt er mit einem Freund nach Hause.

1. in / Woche / werden / wir / wieder / Wien / sein

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Mutter / müssen / um / sechs / aufstehen / und / Stadt / fahren

\_\_\_\_\_

3. als / ich / in / Hauptstadt / sein / gehen / ich / oft / Museum

\_\_\_\_\_

Übung

**1•10**

*Write original sentences. Begin each one with the cue words provided.*

ExaMPIE: ( heute )

Heute werde ich meine Tante in Berlin besuchen.

1. ( jemand )

\_\_\_\_\_

2. ( vor einer Woche )

\_\_\_\_\_

3. ( um zehn Uhr )

\_\_\_\_\_

*This page intentionally left blank*

# Interrogative sentences

2

In both English and German, there is a variety of ways to form questions. In German questions that concern the action of a verb and in some English questions, the verb precedes the subject:

**verb 1 subject** Ist 1 Martin zu Hause?  
*Is Martin at home?*

But if the question concerns the action of a verb, English most often uses the auxiliary *to do* to form the question. For example:

**verb 1 subject** Sprechen 1 Sie Deutsch? *Do you speak German?*  
**verb 1 subject** Kaufte 1 er einen Mantel?  
*Did he buy a coat?*

With the verb *to be* and sometimes with the verb *to have*, however, the auxiliary *to do* is not needed in English. Instead, as in German, the question begins with the verb:

Ist sie wieder krank? *Is she sick again?*  
Waren sie in München? *Were they in Munich?*  
Haben Sie keinen Pass? *Have you no passport?*

If the verb *to have* is transitive, a question can be formed either with the auxiliary verb *to do* or without it. However, the form that uses *to do* is more common in modern English:

Hast du genug Geld? *Do you have enough money?* or  
*Have you enough money?*  
Hatten sie kein Handy? *Didn't they have a cell phone?* or  
*Had they no cell phone?*

If the verb *to have* is the auxiliary of a perfect tense, the auxiliary verb *to do* cannot be used in the formation of a question:

Hat er sein Heft gefunden? *Has he found his notebook?*  
Hatte Sonja ihre Tasche verloren? *Had Sonja lost her purse?*

The auxiliary *to do* is used in English questions only in the present and past tenses with the exception, of course, of *to be* and *to have* as illustrated in the previous examples. The English future tense also avoids using *to do* in a question. Other auxiliaries, such as certain modal auxiliaries, also avoid it:

Wirst du auch mitkommen? *Will you come along, too?*  
Kannst du mir helfen? *Can you help me?*

If the English modal requires the particle word *to* in order to complete its meaning, use *to do* to form a question. *To be able to* is an exception to this rule, because the verb *to be* is involved: to be able to *Are you able to breathe all right?* to have to *Does he have to shout like that?* to need to *Did the dogs need to be fed?*

The point being made here is that it is important to realize that you cannot translate English questions directly into German. You have to look at the structure of the English sentence and modify for the German approach to forming questions for the action of a verb: *the verb precedes the subject in a German question:*

**verb 1 subject** ☐ **eine Frage** Let's

look at a few examples:

<b>Statement:</b> Er singt sehr gut.	<i>He sings very well.</i>
<b>Question:</b> Singt er sehr gut?	<i>Does he sing very well?</i>
<b>Statement:</b> Sie ging nach Hause.	<i>She went home.</i>
<b>Question:</b> Ging sie nach Hause?	<i>Did she go home?</i>

The same word order is required when a modal is used in the sentence:

<b>Statement:</b> Du musst so oft rauchen.	<i>You have to smoke so often.</i>
<b>Question:</b> Musst du so oft rauchen?	<i>Do you have to smoke so often?</i>

If the sentence is in the present perfect tense, the auxiliary verb precedes the subject.

<b>Statement:</b> Der Mann ist gestorben.	<i>The man has died.</i>
<b>Question:</b> Ist der Mann gestorben?	<i>Has the man died?</i>

In a future tense sentence, the auxiliary **werden** precedes the subject:

<b>Statement:</b> Wir werden mit ihm reisen.	<i>We will travel with him.</i>
<b>Question:</b> Werden wir mit ihm reisen?	<i>Will we travel with him?</i>

2.

3.

---