100 German phrases from shows Aus Serien

The tags: casual friends, family and people your age. polite strangers, older people, shops. rude hear it, don't say it. careful can offend. slang young, street German. north south Austria Switzerland where you hear it. No tag: anyone, anywhere.

Greetings and goodbyes

Hallo
hello, hi. Works with anyone

Na? casual
hey, how's it going? A whole greeting in one word

Wie geht's? casual
how are you? The answer: gut, und dir?

Guten Tag polite
good day, hello

Guten Morgen
good morning. Shortened to Morgen!

Tschüss casual
bye

Bis später
see you later

Mach's gut casual
take care, all the best

Auf Wiedersehen polite
goodbye

Moin north
hi, at any time of day. Moin moin to be chatty

Servus south Austria
hi, and also bye

Grüß Gott south Austria
hello (word for word: God greet you)

Grüezi Switzerland
hello, to someone you say Sie to

Baba Austria casual
bye, bye-bye

Uf Widerluege Switzerland
goodbye, the Swiss Auf Wiedersehen

Reactions

Echt? casual
really? for real?

Krass! casual
wow! crazy! for good news or bad

Geil! careful
awesome! It also means horny

Mist!
damn! the mild one, fine in front of Oma

Oh Mann
oh man, oh no

Na und? casual
so what?

Genau
exactly, right. Said all the time

Stimmt
true, that's right

Quatsch! casual
nonsense! rubbish!

Wahnsinn!
amazing! madness!

Alles klar
all right, OK, got it. Also: all good?

Ach so
oh, I see. Now I get it

Na klar
of course, sure

Super!
great!

Ach komm! casual
oh come on!

Na also!
there you go! told you so!

Scheiße! rude
damn! (it means shit)

Oida! Austria slang
dude! wow! The Austrian Alter

German outside Germany. Everything without a tag works everywhere. Austria says **Servus**, **Grüß Gott**, **Baba** and **Oida**. Switzerland says **Grüezi**, **Merci** and **Uf Widerluege**. Swiss German is hard even for Germans, so Swiss shows often get subtitles. In Germany the south says **Grüß Gott** and **Servus**, the north says **Moin**.

Love and fights Liebe und Streit

Love and drama

Ich liebe dich
I love you, to a partner

Ich hab dich lieb
I love you, to family and friends

Du fehlst mir
I miss you

Ich vermisse dich
I miss you, just as common

Es tut mir leid
I'm sorry

Verzeih mir
forgive me

Lass mich nicht allein
don't leave me alone

Ich bin verliebt
I'm in love

Liebst du mich?
do you love me?

Vertrau mir
trust me

Wir müssen reden
we need to talk

Es ist vorbei
it's over

Du hast mich angelogen
you lied to me

Es ist nicht, wie es aussieht
it's not what it looks like

Arguments

Lass mich in Ruhe!
leave me alone!

Halt die Klappe! rude
shut up! (Klappe: flap)

Hau ab! rude
get lost! go away!

Was soll das?
what's that supposed to mean? what's this?

Spinnst du? casual
are you crazy? have you lost it?

Reiß dich zusammen!
pull yourself together!

Das reicht!
that's enough!

Fass mich nicht an!
don't touch me!

Das ist nicht fair!
that's not fair!

Lügner!
liar! (to a woman: Lügnerin)

Hör auf!
stop it!

Du gehst mir auf die Nerven
you're getting on my nerves

Was ist los mit dir?
what's wrong with you?

Ist mir wurscht south Austria
I couldn't care less (wurscht: Wurst, sausage)

Ich liebe dich or ich hab dich lieb? **Ich liebe dich** is romantic love, for a partner, and saying it the first time is a big step. **Ich hab dich lieb** is warm love without the romance: for family, close friends, and parents to their kids. Texts shorten it to HDL.

Du fehlst mir works backwards. Word for word it's you are missing to me, so the person you miss comes first: **du fehlst mir**, I miss you. **Ich fehle dir** means you miss me. **Ich vermisse dich** says the same the English way round.

-in makes it female: **Lügner!** to a man, **Lügnerin!** to a woman. The same goes for **Freund** and **Freundin**, which also mean boyfriend and girlfriend.

Everyday and slang Der Alltag

Everyday and spoken German

Keine Ahnung
no idea

Na ja
well..., oh well, so-so

Doch!
yes! when someone said no. See below

Mal sehen
we'll see

Egal
casual

whatever, doesn't matter

Ich hab Hunger
I'm hungry (word for word: I have hunger)

Feierabend
work's over, time off. Schönen Feierabend!

Prost!
cheers! Look people in the eye

Merci
Switzerland

thanks, said all the time

Moment mal
hang on, wait a second

Kein Problem
no problem, sure

Bitte
please, you're welcome, and pardon?

Ich muss los
I have to go, gotta run

Schon gut
it's fine, never mind

Passt schon
south Austria

it's fine, that'll do

Lecker!
yummy! tasty!

Gesundheit!
bless you! (it means health)

Ich bin fix und fertig
casual

I'm wiped out, done in

Doch! is the yes that says no to a no. When someone says something negative and you disagree, **ja** sounds like you agree. Say **doch** instead. **Du kommst nicht mit?** You're not coming? **Doch!** Yes, I am!

Youth slang: what teens say now

Slang moves fast. **Digga** and **Alter** have lasted for years, but words like **cringe**, **lost** and **sus** may sound dated in a few. Many come straight from English, so you already know them.

Digga
mate, bro, dude

from **Dicker**, fatty, said fondly

Alter
dude! man! (to a friend)

from **alt**, old: old man

cringe
embarrassing to watch

from English

lost
clueless, no idea

from English

Ehrenmann
a real one, a good guy

from **Ehre**, honour

Ehrenfrau
a real one, a good woman

from **Ehre**, honour

sus
suspicious, shady

from English

wild
crazy, unbelievable

the English word

chillen
to relax, hang out

from English chill

Bock haben
to feel like it

plain casual German

Keep slang for friends. You'll hear these in every show about teenagers. They're fine with friends, odd at work, and a little funny from an adult who's trying too hard.

Calling people Du oder Sie?

Two ways to say you. **du** is close, **Sie** keeps a polite distance. Saying du is **duzen**, saying Sie is **siezen**. Shows mark the switch: **Wollen wir uns duzen?** means shall we say du? and the characters have just got closer.

du

casual

you, casual

Friends, family, kids, people your age, and most people online.

Sie

polite

you, polite

Strangers, older people, bosses, shops, doctors. Always a capital S.

Herr Schmidt

polite

Mr Schmidt

With Sie: at work, at school, at the doctor's. Herr plus the surname.

Frau Schmidt

polite

Mrs or Ms Schmidt

Any grown woman, married or not. Fräulein, miss, sounds old now.

der Schatz

darling (word for word: treasure)

Partners, and parents to their kids. The most common pet name.

der Liebling

darling, my love

Partners. A bit grander than Schatz, so shows love it.

der Kumpel

casual

mate, buddy

Friends, mostly guys: Er ist mein Kumpel, he's my mate.

Alter

slang

dude, man

Friends, mostly young guys. To your father it means trouble.

Mama, Papa

mum, dad

Kids and grown-up kids alike. Mutti and Vati sound dated.

die Leute

casual

guys, people

A group of friends: Hallo Leute! Men, women or mixed.

Süße, Süßer

careful

sweetie, cutie

Friends and partners. From a stranger it can sound creepy.

ihr

casual

you all, casual

A group you'd say du to: Kommt ihr mit? Are you coming?

Not sure? start with **Sie** and wait to be offered **du**. The older person or the boss offers it. Saying **du** too soon sounds rude, **Sie** with a friend sounds cold. The articles are in the usual colours: der blue, die pink, das green.

Practice Übung

How: cover the right side with a strip of paper. Read the English, say the German out loud, then slide the strip down to check. Do it again tomorrow with the lines you missed.

1	**I miss you**	Du fehlst mir word for word: you are missing to me
2	**leave me alone!**	Lass mich in Ruhe! die Ruhe: peace and quiet
3	**no idea**	Keine Ahnung die Ahnung: a hunch, an idea
4	**we'll see**	Mal sehen short for wir werden mal sehen
5	**I love you, to family and friends**	Ich hab dich lieb family and friends, not a crush
6	**what's that supposed to mean? what's this?**	Was soll das? never a friendly question
7	**take care, all the best**	Mach's gut short for mach es gut
8	**pull yourself together!**	Reiß dich zusammen! reißen: to tear, zusammen: together
9	**all right, OK, got it. Also: all good?**	Alles klar works as a question too: Alles klar?
10	**I'm sorry**	Es tut mir leid word for word: it does me sorrow

The subtitle may look tidier than the audio. Spoken German shortens words: **ich habe** becomes **ich hab**, **gibt es** becomes **gibt's**, **nicht** becomes **nich**, **haben wir** becomes **ham wir**. Subtitles often write the full form, so you may read **ich habe keine Ahnung** while the actor says **hab keine Ahnung**. That's normal.

Meet a word you don't know? In Kitsumi, hover any word in German subtitles to see what it means.