

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #1

Is Your Coffee as Strong as Your German Apologies?

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#1

DIALOGUE - GERMAN

MAIN

1. A: Oh! Entschuldigung! ... Entschuldigung, es tut mir wirklich leid.
2. D: Es ist schon okay.
3. A: Sind Sie sicher?
4. D: Ja. Es ist okay.
5. A: Sind Sie wirklich sicher?
6. D: Ja. Es ist nur Wasser.
7. A: Kein Problem?
8. D: Nein, kein Problem.
9. A: Ich bin Joe Cardigan, und Sie?
10. D: Ich bin Anke Löwen.

ENGLISH

1. A: Oh! Excuse me! ... Excuse me, I'm really sorry.
2. D: It's okay.
3. A: Are you sure?
4. D: Yes. It's okay.
5. A: Are you really sure?
6. D: Yes. It's just water.
7. A: No problem?
8. D: No, no problem.
9. A: I'm Joe Cardigan, and you?
10. D: I'm Anke Löwen.

VOCABULARY

German	English	Class	Gender
Sie	you (formal)	personal pronoun	
ich	I	pronoun	
sein	to be	verb	
nein	no	particle	
und	and	conjunction	
nur	only, just	adverb	
schon	already	adverb	
sicher	sure	adjective	
es	it	pronoun	
wirklich	really	adverb	
ja	yes	adverb	
Wasser	water	noun	neutral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Haben Sie eine andere Kreditkarte? Do you have another credit card?	Sie sind Herr Smith. You are Mr. Smith.
Ich hatte letzte Woche so viel zu tun! I was so busy last week!	Ich bin Lisa. I am Lisa.
Es ist eine Kamera. It's a camera.	Ich bin aus Deutschland. I am from Germany.
Nein, ich bin nicht aus Köln. No, I am not from Cologne.	Der Hund und die Katze spielen miteinander. The dog and the cat are playing together.
Thomas und Lisa. Thomas and Lisa.	Ich habe nur am Sonntag Zeit. I am only free on Sunday.
Ich esse nur Gemüse. I only eat vegetables.	Wir haben schon gegessen. We have already eaten.
schon essen already eat	Bist du schon müde? Are you tired already?
Bist du dir sicher? Are you sure?	es ist It is...

Es ist rot.	Er wird es essen.
It's red.	He will eat it.
Es ist 11 Uhr.	Es ist jetzt halb zehn.
It's 11:00.	It is now half past nine. (half ten)
Ich mag diesen Film wirklich sehr.	Das war wirklich lecker.
I really like this movie!	This was really yummy.
Diese Stadt ist wirklich groß.	Ja, Sie dürfen.
This city is really big.	Yes, you may.
Ja, bitte.	Der Mann sagt "Ja".
Yes, please.	The man is saying "Yes."
definitives Ja	Ja, das stimmt.
definite yes	Yes, that's right.
Na schön, du hast ja Recht.	Die Frau trinkt gerade Wasser.
Fair enough, you're right. (In the sense of "I'm giving in.")	The woman is drinking water.
Der Mann trinkt aus der Wasserflasche.	Kann ich bitte etwas Wasser haben?
The man is drinking from the water bottle.	Can I have some water, please?
Bitte bring mir mal ein Glass Wasser.	Ein Glas Wasser ohne Kohlensäure bitte!
Please bring me a glass of water.	A glass of water without carbonation please!

Und der Kahn soll uns wirklich heil über das Wasser bringen?

And this barge is really supposed to bring us safely over the water?

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

„Sie“ = you, formally. There is a notion of formality in German, just like in French, Spanish, Italian and other languages. If you're addressing somebody by their family name, you should also call them „Sie“ and use the corresponding form of the verbs. If you're addressing somebody by their first name, you will usually use another pronoun, „du“. The formal address is the default in German unless you're talking to children or people who explicitly asked you to switch to an informal address. As a foreigner, you'd do well to address everybody as „Sie“ initially.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the verb "sein" (to be)

Ich bin Joe.

"I am Joe."

In this lesson we've seen three forms of the verb „sein“, „to be“. This verb is irregular in almost all languages, and German is no exception. Here are the forms we've seen;

sein – to be

ich bin – I am

es ist – it is

Sie sind – you are (formally)

We've also seen that German word order corresponds to English so far. When you're asking a question, the verb moves to the front of the sentence in German, just like in English.

Sind Sie Joe? = Are you Joe?

Sind Sie sicher? = Are you sure?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Apologizing and reacting

The most general word of apology in German is „Entschuldigung“. This literally means „apology“, and it's used in most situations:

- when you've accidentally done something bad
- when you want somebody's attention
- when you want people to make room

It is NOT used when somebody tells some sad news about themselves, because that is not something you should apologize for – unless you had any stake in it.

If you need something stronger than „Entschuldigung“, use „Es tut mir leid“ (literally „it does me harm“).

And you can make it even stronger by adding an adverb before the „leid“.

Es tut mir wirklich leid. - I'm really sorry.

Es tut mir sehr leid. - I'm very sorry.

To accept an apology informally, say;

Es ist (schon) okay. - It's okay (now).

Kein Problem. - No problem.