



RADIO LINGUA



CoffeeBreak  
**German**

# Coffee Break **German**

## **Lesson 01**

### **Study Notes**

**Learn a language in your Coffee Break**

# LESSON NOTES

## HALLO, WIE GEHT'S?

Welcome to this first lesson of Coffee Break German. In this lesson we'll learn how to say "hello" and "goodbye", and we'll also learn how to ask "how are you?", and answer this question.

## INTRODUCING OUR PRESENTERS, THOMAS AND MARK

*"My name is Thomas. I'm from Bavaria in the south of Germany. I'm currently studying for a Masters in Geography and Natural Hazards in Innsbruck, Austria. I'm a native speaker of German - I speak German every day - and I'm delighted to be working with Radio Lingua on Coffee Break German. In each lesson I'll be helping you build your vocabulary and master the basics of the German language."*



*"I'm Mark and as the presenter of Coffee Break Spanish and Coffee Break French, my role until now has been teaching languages. However, for Coffee Break German I'm excited to take on the role of learner and I'm looking forward to learning along with our*

*listeners. I've been a teacher for many years and I'm fascinated by languages. In particular I like using my knowledge of one language to help me learn another and comparing vocabulary and grammar across the languages. I'll be asking lots of questions about German and I hope that these questions help our listeners learn too!"*

## READY TO BEGIN?

Thomas begins by asking the question:

***bist du fertig?***

Are you ready?

Like all languages, German has regional differences in pronunciation. Where Thomas pronounces **fertig** with a hard -g ending, in other parts of the German-speaking world, this final -g sounds more like 'ch' in the Scottish word "loch". Don't worry about these nuances of pronunciation just yet! No matter how you pronounce **fertig** you'll be understood by any native speaker!

In answer to this question, we can say "yes", or "no":

***ja***

yes

***nein***

no

To say "yes, I am ready", you can say, **ja, ich bin fertig**. We'll cover this in more detail in the future.

# SAYING "HELLO" AND "GOODBYE"

Let's learn some greetings.

## **hallo**

hello

## **auf Wiedersehen**

goodbye

You may be wondering why **Wiedersehen** has a capital letter. This is because it is a noun, meaning something like "the next seeing". It can also mean "reunion". All nouns in German must be written with an initial capital letter.

There is another way to say "goodbye" which is used informally:

## **tschüss**

goodbye, bye

Don't worry about the initial combination of letters 'tsch' in this word. It may look daunting, but you can pronounce it simply as a strong 'ch' sound (as in English "church").

If you are going to be seeing someone the next day you can say;

## **bis morgen**

until tomorrow, see you tomorrow

The word **morgen** means tomorrow, as in **bis morgen**. However when written with a capital letter in the noun form it means "morning":

## ***guten Morgen***

good morning

We'll learn more greetings for different times of the day in the next lesson.

## **ASKING "HOW ARE YOU?" AND REPLYING**

To ask the question "how are you?" you can say:

### ***wie geht's?***

how are you?

This literally means "how is it going?"

Let's look at some possible answers for the question **wie geht's?**

### ***gut***

good, well

To be more polite, you can add the word for "thank you":

### ***danke***

thank you

Here is a sample conversation:

*Mark: Wie geht's?*

*Thomas: Gut, danke.*

If you want to use the more developed answer, "I am (feeling) well", you can use the following construction:

## ***mir geht's gut***

I'm well

Please note that this is not a literal word-for-word translation of “I am well”. **Mir geht's gut** literally means “to me it is going well”, answering the question, “how is it going?”

Here are some further possible answers for the question **wie geht's?**

## ***mir geht's sehr gut***

I'm (feeling) very well

## ***mir geht's schlecht***

I'm feeling bad

## ***mir geht's nicht so gut***

I'm not (feeling) so good

## ***mir geht's wunderbar***

I'm feeling great

## ***mir geht's ausgezeichnet***

I'm feeling fantastic, extraordinary

# **INTRODUCING JULIA, OUR “CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT”**

*“I'm really excited to be involved in Coffee Break German and I'm sure it's going to be a huge success. Learning a language is not just about learning the language itself: so much of a language is influenced by the cultures which surround it, and that's why I'm*

here as your Cultural Correspondent. In each episode of *Coffee Break German*, I'm going to be bringing you some cultural information, a little report on a particular aspect of culture associated with a part of the German-speaking world. I really hope that you enjoy these little cultural tidbits each week.



Like Thomas I'm a native German speaker, but from quite a different part of the country. I come from Potsdam in the eastern part of the country, just southwest of Berlin. I studied in Leipzig and now I live and work in the wonderful city of Berlin. I'll be telling you more about Berlin in future episodes, and indeed about many other parts of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and other places where German is spoken as well.

*Ich bin sehr froh - I'm really pleased - to be working on Coffee Break German now. That's all from me this week, just a little introduction. Through my weekly reports you'll get to know me a bit better, but more importantly, you'll get to know the cultures of the German-speaking areas better too. Danke, und bis bald!"*

## **ich bin sehr froh**

I'm very happy

## **bis bald**

see you soon, (literally "until soon")

# **INTRODUCING KIRSTEN, OUR "GRAMMAR GURU"**

*"My name is Kirsten and I'm going to be your German Grammar Guru for the course. I love grammar! I'm a bit of a grammar geek*



*to be honest, and as the Grammar Guru, it's my job to help you understand the patterns of the language, just as Mark and Thomas have explained. By learning the patterns you'll begin to understand how the language works and you'll have a really strong foundation to build upon as you move forward with the course.*

*Like Mark, I come from Scotland, but I've been studying German for many years. I have an honours degree in German and I've spent a lot of time living and working in Germany. In my working life I use German every single day, and I have many friends from various parts of the German-speaking world.*

*I love all things German: the music, the literature, the beautiful villages, towns and cities I've travelled to, from the Baltic coast to the Alps, and of course the people. They're so friendly and welcoming!*

*I'm not a native speaker of German, but as someone who has learned German from scratch, I understand the difficulties for learners, and so I hope I can help you overcome these difficulties, just as my own teachers did for me when I first started.*

*I'm delighted to be part of the Coffee Break German team and I'm looking forward to bringing you my weekly Grammar Guru segments."*

## **PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**

Let's put everything we've learned together in a conversation. You should try practising this conversation and substituting the other words you've learned in today's lesson.

*Mark: Hallo, Thomas.*  
*Thomas: Hallo, Mark. Wie geht's?*  
*Mark: Mir geht's gut, danke. Wie geht's?*  
*Thomas: Mir geht's ausgezeichnet!*  
*Mark: Tschüss.*  
*Thomas: Auf Wiedersehen.*

Translation:

*Mark: Hello, Thomas.*  
*Thomas: Hello, Mark. How are you?*  
*Mark: I'm well, thanks. How are you?*  
*Thomas: I'm feeling fantastic!*  
*Mark: Bye.*  
*Thomas: Goodbye.*

☀ *Ready for more? Turn the page to continue with the bonus materials for this lesson.*

# BONUS MATERIALS

In each edition of Coffee Break German we cover the basic language you need to communicate. As part of the study pack we provide some additional vocabulary to help you increase your range of expression. This section of bonus materials provides additional content to help you master the words and phrases contained in the lesson.

- ❖ *Start with the Bonus audio lesson, our “review podcast”*
- ❖ *Review the Core Vocabulary and learn the Bonus Vocabulary*

## CORE VOCABULARY

***bist du fertig?***

are you ready?

***ja***

yes

***nein***

no

***hallo***

hello

***bis morgen***

until tomorrow, see you tomorrow

***guten Morgen***

good morning

## ***wie geht's?***

how are you? / how is it going?

## ***gut***

good, well

## ***danke***

thank you

## ***mir geht's gut***

I am well (literally "to me it's going well")

## ***mir geht's sehr gut***

I am very well

## ***mir geht's schlecht***

I am feeling bad, I'm not feeling well

## ***mir geht's nicht so gut***

I am not feeling so good

## ***mir geht's wunderbar***

I am feeling great

## ***mir geht's ausgezeichnet***

I am feeling fantastic

# **BONUS VOCABULARY**

## ***wie läuft's?***

how's it going? (informal)

## ***super***

great

## ***großartig***

wonderful, tremendous

Note the letter 'ß' which called **Eszett** (sz) or **scharfes S** (sharp s). The letter is pronounced as an 's' and sounds exactly the same as 'ss' in **tschüss**. Note that in Switzerland and in Liechtenstein, 'ß' is always written as 'ss'.

## ***es geht so***

it's going so-so - neither good nor bad

## ***mir geht's schrecklich***

I'm feeling awful, dreadful

## ***alles klar***

everything's good

## ***alles klar?***

is everything good?

**Alles klar** literally means "all clear".