Deutsch im Blick
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Deutsch im Blick, [http://coerll.utexas.edu/dib/](http://coerll.utexas.edu/dib/), the web-based German program developed and in use at the University of Texas since 2004, and its companion site, Grimm Grammar (2000) [http://coerll.utexas.edu/gg/](http://coerll.utexas.edu/gg/) are free open educational multimedia resources (OER), which require neither password nor fees. OER promote learning and scholarship for everyone, everywhere! Deutsch im Blick, used increasingly by students, teachers, and institutions throughout the world, includes 307 videos (American students in Germany, native German interviews, vocabulary and culture presentation videos) recorded vocabulary lists, phonetic lessons, online grammar lessons (600 pages) with self-correcting exercises and audio dialogues, online grammar tools, and diagnostic grammar tests. The accompanying textbook of classroom activities and homework is downloadable from the website in pdf format and available from the online publishers, [lulu.com](http://lulu.com) and [createspace.com](http://createspace.com).

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Second Edition

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Glossary of Symbols
How to use Deutsch im Blick

Aussprache (pronunciation)
These exercises, found at the end of each chapter, guide you through different areas of the German sound system. From tricky German sounds to regional dialects in Europe and the US.

Grimm Grammar
This symbol indicates where the materials in Deutsch im Blick connect to relevant grammar points in Grimm Grammar. Complete the exercises online before coming to class.

Gruppenarbeit (group activity)
Group activities ask students to work with 3-4 of their peers to survey cultural and personal preferences, to collaborate on written and oral presentations and benefit from student-to-student learning.

Kultur (cultural information)
In culture activities, students explore similarities and differences between their own culture(s) and those of the German-speaking world. The purpose is to help learners analyze cultural phenomena, and recognize individual versus societal patterns.

Lesen und Forschung im Internet (research on line)
These activities guide students in research on the Internet and provide literacy skills in German, as well as real-life examples of the language presented in Deutsch im Blick.

Leseverständnis (reading tasks)
There are different types of reading we do every day: scan texts, read for specific information, read different types of texts. The activities in Deutsch im Blick aim to help you develop reading strategies to cope with these diverse reading demands in German.

Lieder, Musik, Dichtung (songs, music, poetry)
Deutsch im Blick brings you music in each chapter, so you get to know groups and music that your German contemporaries like to listen to. These are fun portals to German youth-culture and a playful way to reinforce the language you are learning.

Meinungsumfragen (polls)
Interactive polls online provide a foundation for in-class discussions about cultural preferences regarding topics covered in Deutsch im Blick. The (highly unscientific) statistics are fun to analyze.
Partnerarbeit (pair activity)
Pair activities ask you to work together with one partner, asking each other questions, solving problems, or creating short pieces of writing. It is helpful to work with different partners throughout the semester.

Schreiben (writing activity)
These activities ask you to use ideas and phrases you have learned to express your own thoughts or create with the language. There are different genres of writing: poetry, dialogs, screen plays, position papers, to help you prepare for 2nd-year German.

Spiele (games)
Games, as the name suggests, focus on playful group interaction (small or large groups of students) using German. They typically involve social activities that Germans themselves learn / play during childhood or as young adults.

Videoclips
Clips with native and non-native speakers of German are the main organizational framework for all materials in Deutsch im Blick. They provide examples for lexical and grammatical concepts and ideas for cultural exploration.

WebQuests
Longer on-line research projects (two-three per chapter) help students immerse themselves in the topics covered by each chapter, using mostly websites relevant for college students in the German-speaking countries.

Wortschatz (vocabulary)
One of the most crucial components of effective communication is vocabulary. Vocabulary exercises help you build strategies for learning expressions, phrases (in context) that you need to be able to communicate in German.

Zum Nachdenken (something to think about)
Language exists in a sociocultural context. These little mental exercises in each chapter ask you to stop and reflect on what you just learned, to analyze the language or concepts in the Deutsch im Blick materials. They help you locate the pedagogical tasks in a broader sociocultural environment, and understand that German is not merely a university subject but a language spoken in the real world by real people (a concept students who go study abroad sometimes find amusingly surprising :))

Authentisch
This symbol indicates that the material is authentic. Authentic material is not or only minimally edited by DIB. The idea is to represent language as it appears in every day interactions, where editing would not be an option. These are great sources to discuss errors, when they are spotted by students/teachers. A scavenger hunt could be integrated in the course, allowing students to gain points for spotting an error and providing an explanation of how it should be in proper German.
Deutsch im Blick is an online, non-traditional language learning program for beginning and early intermediate students of German. It is quite different from your traditional language textbooks, so it might take some getting used to. However, you'll enjoy learning German as long as you like to play with language, explore how vocabulary and grammar work together to create meaning, and are curious about the cultures of the German-speaking countries.

The main premise of Deutsch im Blick is that learning a foreign language should focus on learning language in use. Thus, all activities are guided by real-life, plausible language situations: How would native and non-native speakers use the vocabulary, grammar and sociolinguistic rules in everyday contexts to make sense of what others tell them and to make meaning themselves?

Deutsch im Blick and grimm grammar
There are two components to this online program: the video-based learning materials online Deutsch im Blick and the zany, irreverent exploration of German . Your textbook introduces you to life in the German-speaking countries, with the assistance of several native speakers of German and students from the University of Texas:

The Germans & The Swiss:
Berna, Eva, Harald, Jan and Peter.

The American students:
Adan, Erin, Hassan, Sara and Sophia

Through their experiences and voices, you will get to know life in Germany and the US, and will learn how to use German the way native- and non-natives speakers use it in everyday, real-life conversations. Through their interviews they share with you how they talk about themselves, their interests, school and free time, friends and family, and in general, how to have fun with the German language (yes, it is possible!).

Before you begin working with each chapter, you should watch the introductory video to get an idea about the chapter’s contents. Then to learn the material of the chapter, you will:

1. work with the interviews with the native and non-native speakers,
2. develop your vocabulary,
3. learn to understand vocabulary in cultural situations presented in Sprache im Kontext videos,
4. learn how to use the structures presented in to talk about your own life,
5. practice pronunciation,
6. complete WebQuests that take you to the German-speaking countries (at least virtually), and
7. explore cultural practices via interactive polls.

Deutsch im Blick emphasizes the building of vocabulary as a primary pillar of the ability to communicate. In the experience of many students, knowing grammar (a component of language emphasized in most other textbooks) is not sufficient to interact with other people. The idea for this book developed from the experiences of several students on study abroad programs. These students had learned German grammar, but had not emphasized vocabulary enough to communicate successfully.

Deutsch im Blick also recycles lexical and grammatical information through the different chapters to help reinforce meaningful semantic, structural and cultural connections. Grammatical accuracy is important. There is a life and death difference between saying “I could kill that frustrating person!” and “I have killed that frustrating person!” (the life and death difference: death penalty v. not, in Texas). Yet, as you will see, there are no simple grammar exercises in the workbook asking learners to manipulate pronouns or verb tenses in 6-10 isolated sentences. Instead, grammatical sophistication and accuracy are fostered through listening, speaking, reading and writing tasks that reflect how grammatical structures work – along with relevant vocabulary – in real language use contexts. If the user looks carefully, many exercises focus on how to use grammar for effective meaningful communication. To recap, in order to help learners prepare for real-life interactions in German, Deutsch im Blick develops:
• vocabulary as the key component of language at beginning levels of instruction. Without vocabulary, grammar has no meaning. Each chapter provides suggestions for learning important lexical items in the Core vocabulary list at the beginning of each chapter. There is also an expanded list at the end of each chapter to provide an additional resource. Each chapter also offers a number of exercises that help practice, reinforce and illustrate the real-life uses of German words, phrases, collocations (how words are used together) and idiomatic expressions.
• listening skills with the help of extensive video clips (both guided interviews and authentic footage);
• writing skills that focus on fun, interpersonal and academic genres our college-age learner population needs;
• reading skills that help learners understand a variety of types of texts they would encounter in a study abroad situation and in later academic work if they pursue a major in German. These activities focus on building vocabulary, developing cultural literacy and preparing for independent reading beyond the classroom;
• cultural analytic skills through regular authentic materials and tasks – through the listening, reading, writing and speaking tasks – that foster reflection, comparison and articulation of findings. There are web-quests that guide students to immersion in cultural and language topics and lots of music that offer a fun portal to German youth-culture(s). Culture, in this program, is understood as both literary and historical knowledge (Culture) as well as everyday concepts in the workings of a society (culture). Language is very much seen as integrally embedded and reflective of culture.

Authentic texts
You will work intensively with authentic materials throughout the program. It is by design that we provide you with products and perspectives which were produced for a German-speaking audience. We made sure that the tasks we built around the texts are appropriate for your level of German learning throughout the chapters. You will find that from the very beginning you can derive understanding from a variety of materials.

Culture
It is our understanding that culture and language are fundamentally intertwined and that culture is not a separate skill set to acquire, but rather the foundation of all language use. We also believe that there is no one “target” culture, but rather that communities have a variety of subcultures, with different practices and preferences. Therefore, we expect that the process of “learning German” involves discovery about ourselves, our own cultures and assumptions as well. Throughout the chapters you will find multiple opportunities to reflect on your own perspectives as you strive to understand the viewpoints reflected in the Austrian, German and Swiss examples you encounter.

Deutsch im Blick: http://www.coerll.utexas.edu/dib/

is the grammar component of this learning program. Most fortunately, several Grimm fairy tale characters volunteered to teach you all kinds of exciting and intricate things about German grammar.

Snow White and the seven dwarfs - among many other characters - tirelessly present grammatical concepts from adjectives (very exciting!) to verbs (to fascinate you). They model these concepts through – what they consider – witty dialogs and poignant narratives, which are supported by audio-files and illustrations that help make each grammar point a bit more memorable (the audio-recordings were done with the help of over 30 guest artists).

Each part of speech (e.g., adjectives, adverbs, nouns, verbs) is introduced in an overview, which provides a portal to more detailed information about relevant sub-topics (e.g., articles, the past tense of regular verbs, etc.). The grammar descriptions are provided in English and German to foster in-depth understanding and autonomous work by beginning language learners. The fill-in-the-blank, slash-sentence, multiple-choice and other types of self-correcting exercises that follow each grammar point also aim to promote understanding grammar in plausible communicative contexts (i.e., what someone might actually say in real life).
Using the Textbook with the Website

Wortschatz
- Begrüßungen
- Persönliche Informationen
- Jemanden kennenlernen
- Herkunft
- Zahlen
- Mehr persönliche Informationen
- Die Farben
- Wie geht’s?
- Geld, Handy, usw.
- An der Uni studieren
- Studienfächer
- Die Woche

Aussprache
- Kapitel Eins: Das Alphabet

Grammatik
Focus
- Nouns gender
- Verbs overview
- Haben
- Sein
- Nominative pronouns
- Question words
Recommended
- Nouns overview
- Nouns plural
- Nominative case
- Articles
- Present regular verbs
- Pronouns overview

Videos
Sprache im Kontext
- Mit dem Bus zur Uni
- Der Studentenausweis
- Das Handy

Kapitel Eins
Einführung ins Kapitel
Willkommen in Würzburg! In this chapter you are introduced to city of Würzburg, the University, and to the native and non-native speakers of German who will be your guides during your journey of learning German.

Kurspaket
Kapitel Eins [pdf, 7.2 MB]

Interviews
Deutsche und Schweizer
Wer bin ich?
Berta, Eva, Karl, Jan
Peter
Studium & Wohnen
Berta, Eva, Jan
Freunde & Unteressens
Berta, Eva, Jan
Charakteristische Schüler
Weiß ich? Adam, Domin, Emi, Sara, Sophie
Studium & Wohnen
Adam, Domin, Emi, Sara, Sophie
Freunde & Unteressens
Maiers, Emi, Sara

Sprache im Kontext
Mit dem Bus zur Uni
Der Studentenausweis
Das Handy
1. Ankunft in Würzburg
2. Mit dem Bus zur Uni
3. Der Studentenausweis
4. Das Handy

Wortschatz
Begrüßungen
Persönliche Informationen
Jemanden kennenlernen
Herkunft
Zahlen
Persönliche Informationen
Die Farben
Wie geht’s?
Geld, Handy, usw.
An der Uni studieren
Studienfächer
Die Woche
These ideas are suggestions only. Different learners have different preferences and needs for learning and reviewing vocabulary. Try several of these suggestions until you find ones that work for you. Keep in mind, though, that knowing many words—and knowing them well, both to recognize and to produce—makes you a more effective user of the new language.
Grimm Grammar
At home please read the following grammar point on the Grimm Grammar website.
Entering accented characters

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Technology

The Deutsch im Blick textbook provides all the audio files and chapters of the textbooks in electronic format on the Deutsch im Blick website at the following link:

http://coerll.utexas.edu/dib/

The Deutsch im Blick textbook is using a new technology that quickly delivers the audio for this textbook to the reader’s camera-enabled cell phone using programmed quick response (QR) codes. The index number of the QR codes are placed in this textbook with every vocabulary and video. The QR code picture for the index number can be found at the end of each chapter.

What is a QR code?

A QR code is a type of barcode programmed with information that a camera-enabled smart phone can read. Originally introduced in Japan in 1994 as a tracking method for packages, QR codes have evolved into a diverse range of uses.

How does it work?

By far the best way to read QR codes is to use a smart phone with a barcode reader app (there are many in the app store or marketplace). But what if you don’t have a smart phone? Most readers require need to be positioned quite far away from the QR code. Try to cover up adjacent QR codes to enhance readability.

If you don’t have a smart phone, you will need at least a phone or a computer with a camera and an adequate zoom. Take a clear, crisp picture of the QR code. Then, email or text the picture to x@snpmy.com. You’ll get an instant email or text back. Once you send or scan the QR code you will get a link for the audio file through the app, text message, or email on your electronic device. Click the link and it will take you straight to the audio player on the website.
DEUTSCH IM BLICK INTERVIEWEES

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Berna
Eva
Harald
Jan
Peter

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Adan
Erin
Hassan
Sara
Sophia