

GRAMMAR A1 EINHEIT 4

Most of the grammar introduced in this unit deals with plural forms ó plural personal pronouns, plural nouns, and plural verb endings.

We already know that verbs need to be conjugated. This means they change their endings depending on the subject. You've learned the singular endings - *ich -e, du -st, er, sie, es -t*. The plural forms of the verbs are formed the same way as for the singular. You start with the verb, e.g., *machen* ó You then drop the *en* and are left with the stem-*mach*. To the stem you add the endings. The plural personal pronouns and the corresponding verb endings are as follows:

We ó *wir* verb ending ó *en* *Wir kennen die Frau.* We know the woman.
You (pl.) ó *ihr* verb ending - *t* *Kennt ihr die Frau?* Do you (guys) know the woman?
They – *sie* verb ending ó *en* *Sie wohnen in Peoria.* They live in Peoria.

As shown above *sie* means öthey.ö You know that it also means öshe.ö You tell the difference by the ending on the verb. Look at the sentences below.

Sie wohnen in Peoria. - They live in Peoria. *Sie wohnt in Peoria.* – She lives in Peoria.

The formal word for öyouö, the word you use when speaking to adult strangers or to someone with whom you're not on a first name basis is also *Sie*. However, it is always capitalized. It always has the same form as the *sie* that means ötheyö and also requires the same verb ending ó *en*. *Wohnen Sie in Peoria?* Do you live in Peoria?

The vocabulary lists show how to form the plural of each of the nouns. Basically, you add whatever follows the comma to form the plural. To do this correctly you must remember that only the letters *a, o,* and *u* can take an umlaut (the two dots). Look at the following examples. (Remember, all plurals are *die*.)

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
<i>die Frage,-n</i>	<i>die Fragen</i>	<i>das Jahr,-e</i>	<i>die Jahre</i>	<i>die Stadt,-e</i>	<i>die Städte</i>
<i>der Vater,-e</i>	<i>die Väter</i>	<i>das Land,-er</i>	<i>die Länder</i>	<i>das Hobby,-s</i>	<i>die Hobbys</i>

If there is no comma after the noun, there is no plural ó *der Fußball*. If there is a comma but nothing after it the plural form is the same as a singular ó *der Sänger,- die Sänger*

When you add an umlaut in the plural, the umlaut goes over the *a, o,* or *u* nearest the end of the word. There is an exception, however. If the *a, o,* or *u* is part of a diphthong ó if it is the second of two vowels that make a one syllable sound. Then the umlaut goes over the first vowel of the diphthong ó *das Haus,-er die Häuser*.

Once again, the remainder of the grammar in this unit is basically vocabulary the question words *Wann* (when) and *Wie viel* (how much). *Wie viele* is öHow manyö. *Wann kommst du?* When are you coming? *Wie viel Zeit haben wir?* How much time do we have? *Wie viele Briefe schreibst du?* How many letters are you writing?

