

Grammar A 1 EINHEIT 9

There are two points of grammar introduced in this unit. The first are the plural forms of the possessive adjectives. Because the gender/case based endings are the same as for the singular possessive adjectives, this is really more a matter of learning a few new vocabulary words than it is a matter of learning new grammar. The plural possessive adjectives are *unser* (our), *euer* (your (pl.)), and *ihr* (their). As indicated earlier, they take the same endings as the singular forms.

Das ist mein Vater. Das ist unser Vater. Ich suche meinen Vater. Wir suchen unseren Vater.

The only thing you have to remember is that when *euer* gets an ending, the second *e* is dropped.

Ist das euer Hund? Ja, das ist unser Hund. Sucht ihr euren Hund? Ja, wir suchen unseren Hund.

The other point of grammar covered in this unit is the command form (*der Imperativ* or *der Befehlsform*). Remember, there are three different words or forms for “you” in German – *du*, *ihr*, and *Sie*. Consequently, there are three different command forms.

The *Sie* form of the command is very easy. It is exactly the same as a verb first question with *Sie* as the subject. Just leave off the question mark.

Schreiben Sie ins Heft? (Are you writing in the notebook?) The command form is, *Schreiben Sie ins Heft.*

The same is basically true of the *ihr* form of the command except you drop the subject pronoun. Just like in an English command the subject is understood.

Kommt ihr mit ins Kino? The command form is, *Kommt mit ins Kino.* (Come along to the movies).

The command form you are most likely to use and the one most likely to cause an error is the *du* form. The rule governing the *du* form of the command is simple enough. Like the other forms the verb is first. You simply go to the *du* form of the verb and drop the (s)t ending. The only exceptions are irregular verbs that add an umlaut in the *du* form that’s not in the infinitive. You drop the umlaut in the *du* form of the command. Remember, if the infinitive has an umlaut so does the *du* form of the command. The reason the *du* form of the command is the most likely to cause an error is because, unlike *Sie* and *ihr*, irregular verbs are irregular in the *du* form. Study the chart below.

Infinitive	<i>du</i> form	Command form	Translation
<i>gehen</i>	<i>du gehst</i>	<i>Geh nach Hause.</i>	Go home.
<i>lesen</i>	<i>du liest</i>	<i>Lies die Zeitung.</i>	Read the newspaper.
<i>abholen</i>	<i>du holst ab</i>	<i>Hol mich um 10 ab.</i>	Pick me up at 10.
<i>schlafen</i>	<i>du schläfst</i>	<i>Schlaf gut.</i>	Sleep well.
<i>nachschlagen</i>	<i>du schlägst nach</i>	<i>Schlag es im Wörterbuch nach.</i>	Look it up in the dictionary.
<i>aufstehen</i>	<i>du stehst auf</i>	<i>Steh jetzt auf.</i>	Get up now.

By the way, just as *sie* (they) and the formal *Sie* are the same and require the same verb ending when they are the subject, they are the same here. “Your” in the formal form is *Ihr*. They get the same endings. *Herr Schmidt, brauchen Sie Ihren Taschenrechner?* Mr. Schmidt, do you need your calculator?