

A2 GRAMMAR EINHEIT 9

The first point of grammar introduced in this unit is subordinate clauses (*Nebensätze*) introduced by *wenn*. *Wenn* is used for present events, past events, and repeated past events. When used in the past *wenn* means “whenever.” It can also mean “whenever in the present.” (Remember, we often use “when” when “whenever” would be more appropriate). Don’t forget, in subordinate clauses the conjugated verb is pushed to the end of the clause.

Wenn Paul in die Schule geht, trifft er unterwegs viele Kameraden.
Wenn mein Freund morgen ankommt, werde ich ihn vom Bahnhof abholen.
Meine Mutter hat sich immer sehr gefreut, wenn ich sie besucht habe.

Wenn can also mean “if.” The second sentence above is a perfect example. You have to determine whether *wenn* means “if” or “when” by context. When *wenn* means “if” and the *wenn* clause introduces the sentence, the second clause is often introduced by *dann*. This is the so-called if... then clause. When *dann* introduces the second clause it is immediately followed by the verb.

Wenn mein Freund morgen ankommt, dann hole ich ihn vom Bahnhof ab.

This unit also introduces the modal verb *sollen*. It means “to be supposed to” in the sense of obligation as well as supposition (is said to be) and it means “should.” It functions like any other modal – the conjugated form of *sollen* is in the second element position and an infinitive is at the end.

ich soll du sollst er, sie, es soll wir sollen ihr sollt sie, Sie sollen

Ich soll mein Zimmer aufräumen. Der Film soll sehr gut sein. Wo soll ich das Obst kaufen?

Finally, in this unit you will review the command forms. Remember, there are three words for “you” in German so there are three command forms. In the *ihr* and *Sie* forms the verbs are the same as for present tense verbs. Just remember not to use *ihr* in the sentence. *Machen Sie bitte die Tür zu. Kommt gleich nach dem Film nach Hause.* For the *du* form of the command you go to the *du* form of the verb and drop the *st* ending. (If all you added was a *t* that’s all you drop). The only exception are irregular verbs that added an umlaut to the stem vowel (*laufen, läufst*). The umlaut is dropped in the *du* form of the command.

Iss nicht so schnell! Fahr langsam! Schlaf gut! Mach die Tür zu! Komm sofort nach Hause!