

B1 EINHEIT 4 GRAMMAR

There are two points of grammar introduced in this unit. The first is the subordinating conjunction *ob*. It means *whether* and the trick is not to confuse it with *wenn*. They both mean *whether* but are not interchangeable. When *wenn* means *whether* it refers to the future. *Wenn er kommt, bleibt er bei uns.* If he comes, he'll stay with us. *Ob*, on the other hand, means *whether* in the sense of *whether (or not)*. *Ich weiß nicht, ob sie dich liebt.* I don't know if (whether (or not)) she loves you. *Ob* is used whenever the main clause is interrogative or negative in nature. It always implies a question to which only an affirmative (yes) or negative (no) answer is possible. In the example above *Liebt er dich?* Is the implied question. Consider the following examples. Notice how each is interrogative or negative in nature and has an implied question.

Weißt du, ob sie sich zuerst umziehen wollte?
Er hat gefragt, ob du mitspielen willst?
Thomas ist nicht sicher, ob er noch ein Bier trinken darf.
Du hast mir noch nicht gesagt, ob du mich verstanden hast.

The other point of grammar introduced in this unit is the future tense. The reason it did not appear earlier is because it is not used that frequently. Like English, the present tense is often used in German when referring to the future especially when a time element is used, e.g., I am going home tomorrow. "*Ich gehe morgen nach Hause.*" Nonetheless, the future tense is sometimes used and you need to know how to use it. Because there is only one irregular verb, it is the easiest tense to form in German. It consists of a conjugated form of *werden* in the second element position and an infinitive at the end of the sentence. *Ich werde dir helfen.* *Werden* is an irregular verb. Its forms are as follows:

<i>ich werde</i>	<i>wir werden</i>
<i>du wirst</i>	<i>ihr werdet</i>
<i>er, sie, es wird</i>	<i>sie, Sie werden</i>

In subordinate clauses the conjugated form of *werden* is at the end of the sentence.
Wir wissen noch nicht, ob wir das machen werden.