German Present Tense in Review

Regular Verbs

1. Regular verbs follow the regular conjugation pattern.

ich-e, du-st, er/sie/es – t, wir – en, ihr –t, sie/Sie –en

2. If verbstems end in “d”, “t”, and sometimes “n” they will insert an “e” for the

“du”, “er/sie/es” and “ihr” forms.

Ex. Du arbeitest. Er findet. Er öffnet.

3. Verb stems that end in “s”, “ß” or “z” will not add an additional “s” for the

du form. Ex. Du tanzt, du vergisst, du liest, du heißt.

(from tanzen, vergessen, lesen, heißen)

4. Some verbs have prefixes that are separable or inseparable.

A. Separable prefixes come apart from the verb and go to the end of the sentences.

1. In English these are usually phrasal verbs.

- verbs that belong with a certain preposition.

Ex. To give up, to give in, to give away, to give out

Ex. ausschlafen (to sleep in): Ich schlafe morgen aus.

Ex. zumachen (to close): Ich mache das Buch zu.

B. Inseparable prefixes do not separate from the verb.

1. Ex. bekommen (receive), besuchen (visit), zerbrechen (break)

Stem-Changing Verbs – Follow the regular conjugation pattern, but have a few vowel changes.

1. These verbs have vowel changes in the “du” and “er, sie, es” forms.

a ä fahren, ein/laden (invite), schlafen, tragen, laufen, an/fangen (begin),

e i geben, essen, fressen, vergessen, nehmen (nimmt), sprechen, treffen

e ie sehen, fern/sehen, lesen, stehlen (steal)

Irregular Verbs:

There are a few verbs in the present tense that have irregular conjugations.

sein (to be) – ich bin, du bist, er/sie/es ist, wir sind, ihr seid, sie/Sie sind

haben (to have) – ich habe, du hast, er/sie/es hat, wir haben, ihr habt, sie/Sie haben

Modal Verben

Modal verbs change the“mode“ of what is happening.

1. In English we call them helping verbs or auxiliary verbs or modal helping verbs. They do not

carry much meaning on their own and therefore are usually used with a main verb.

2. They have irregular conjugations, but if you can remember the infinitive and “ich” forms, you are well on your way to remembering the conjugation pattern. Remember that with modals, as with the verbs “mögen” and “möchten”, the “ich” and “er/sie/es” forms match.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **können** | **dürfen** | **müssen** | ***mögen*** | **wollen** | **sollen** |
| ich | kann | darf | muss | *mag* | will | soll |
| du | kannst | darfst | musst | *magst* | willst | sollst |
| er/sie/es | kann | darf | muss | *mag* | will | soll |
| wir | können | dürfen | müssen | *mögen* | wollen | sollen |
| ihr | könnt | dürft | müsst | *mögt* | wollt | sollt |
| sie/Sie | können | dürfen | müssen | *mögen* | wollen | sollen |
|  | can, to be able to | may, to be allowed to | must, to have to | *to like (to)*  *usually used with a noun* | to want (to) | should, to be supposed to |

Additional Info 1: “möchten” is actually not a present tense verb. It is considered to be in the “subjuctive”. That means that is expresses a wish, something hypothetical. You “would like” something, but “möchten” does not express that you get your wish.

ich möchte, du möchtest, er/sie/es möchtet, wir möchten, ihr möchtet, sie/Sie möchten

Futur I – Future 1

You can create a sentence that expresses the future by using time (am Freitag, nächste Woche, am Wochenende, im Juni) but you can also create the future tense using “werden” or, in English, “will”. The verb “werden”, like the modal verbs is conjugated and combined with an infinitive verb that is sent to the end of a sentence. “werden” is also like the stem-changing verbs. The “e” becomes and “i”. The “du” and “er, sie, es” forms are irregular.

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