

Introduction

Dear Listener, more and more people in the world are learning English. English is mother the tonuge of many countries not only Great Britain and the United States, but Canada, Australia and New Zealand. And English is also the language of international communication. New technology like the Internet is bringing people closer together and today we have the chance to exchange our thoughts and ideas with people from all around the world.

You are German and Germany has the biggest economy within the European Union, the EU. Your country is the number one exporter of goods and the future you will do even more business with companies from other countries, especially within the EU. That's why you want to improve your English. Your children are learning English at school and probably they listen to English pop music and surf the Internet where most of the information is in English. There are so many motivations for you to learn English and we are very glad you have made that desicion and we want to help you.

We are English-Online, a British-German company that helps German people learn English. We use new technologies such as email, the world wide web and SMS to communicate with our students. My name is Sue Darville and I am from Bristol in England and I will record personalised voice messages for you.

You can listen to these messages every day when you are at home maybe during breakfast or, when you are in your car or during your lunch break. The most important thing is listen to the CD over and over and over again.

In addition there will be an English class for you once a week. When you listen to the CD every day for 10 — 15 minutes you will understand more and more. In the English class you will read the text which you are now hearing and you can ask questions. You will also practise the grammar. But the most important thing — the backbone so to speak — is this CD. Do you remember how you learned German, your mother tongue? Children hear their mother tonuge every day for 12 hours or more absorbing the words effortlessly and then they start repeating words. You can do the same with English. Listen to this CD every day for a certain period of time and you will see how your understanding improves and increases.

I'm looking forward to working with you.

Best regards,
Sue Darville, Bristol, England.

Session 1

Getting to know each other

Hello everybody, how are you today? I'm fine because when you are listening to this CD our new English class has started. This means I will meet new interesting people from Saxony or other parts of Germany. Where exactly are you from? What do you do? Why do you want to practise and improve your English? There are so many questions I'd like to ask, but let me tell you something about myself first:

I'm Sue Darville and I live in a suburb of Bristol in the south west of England. Bristol is a very large city and it's famous for both its university and its connection with the world of hot air ballooning. Have you ever flown in a hot air balloon? It's an amazing experience. Every summer people from all over the world come to Bristol to take part in the international hot air balloon fiesta. If you like I can tell you more about this wonderful event. In the meantime you can tell me something about your situation. Are you from a small town or a large city? What is your area famous for? I have heard a lot about Leipzig and its international trade fair. There is a lot of information on Leipzig on the Internet and much of it is in English. What do you do? What is your job? I have two jobs: I work for a financial company as a financial advisor but I'm also the co-founder of English-Online, a British-German company. Both my jobs are very interesting as every day something new happens.

What about your job? Is it interesting? How much time do you spend at work and what do you do in your freetime to relax?

I wish you a lot of fun in your English class and say goodbye until our next session.

Session 2

Job activities

Hello everyone, this is Sue from English Online again. How are you doing? Today I'm going to tell you something about my daily activities.

I usually get up at about 6:30 and the first thing I do is switch on the radio. It's always tuned to BBC radio news so I start the day with the latest happenings and events.

My workplace is very close by so I'm able to walk. It takes about ten minutes to get there and it's good exercise for me as I try to walk very fast.

I usually start work at 8:45 and I finish about 5:15. We work for a large financial company. There are 10 people in our office — 7 financial advisors, a customer manager, a company trainer and coach and our area manager. I have a desk with a PC and a telephone. From my PC, I can access the Internet as well as our corporate intranet. All of our clients are private individuals who need advice on how to invest their money. They contact our company either via email or phone or through personal contact to make an appointment with one of the advisors. Then, they come to the office and we design a personal investment plan for them.

My job is to handle the day to day administration for my area manager who has 10 offices to run. I also help develop training needs analysis for our coach and I device informational spreadsheets. I also take my turn at advising our clients when I am needed. I enjoy the personal contact with them as they come from all walks of life and are all ages.

All of our corporate clients are handled by our head office so we do not see any of them.

Session 3, Part 1

Alphabet 1

Hello everyone, in this session we will practise the English alphabet. It's very important for you to spell the names of people and addresses properly.

The letters of the English alphabet are pronounced as follows.

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

Now, you will hear those letters which have similar sounds grouped together:

In the first groups there are the letters that sound like similar to word "age":

A, H, J, K

Session 3, Part 2

Alphabet 2

The letters in the second group sound similar to the word "see":

B, C, D, E, G, P, T, V.

The letters in the third group sound similar to the word ten:

F, L, M, N, S, X.

The letters in group number 4 sound similar to the word "drive":

I, Y.

Then there is the letter O as in the word "home".

In the next group the letters sound like in the word "too":

Q, U, W.

And finally there is the letter "R" which sounds like the word "car", "bar", "scar".

Session 3, Part 3

Alphabet 3

Now, can you spell your name? My name is spelled as follows:

D, A, R, V, I, L, L, (or double L) E.

My first name is Sue, that's spelled:

S, U, E.

Now, can you write down the following words:

B, U, S, I, N, E, S, S, or "double S".

C, O, M, P, U, T, E, R,

M, A, N, A, G, E, R,

E, N, G, I, N, E, E, R,

E, X, E, C, U, T, I, V, E.

Session 3, Part 4

Alphabet 4

Now, what about the following abbreviations? Do you know what they stand for? Do you know what they mean?

IBM, FOB, OPEC, VIP, EU, VDU, EDP, CIF, JAL, AGM, FBI, IT, WTO, VCR.

OK, that will do for now, G O O D B Y E.

Session 4

Telephones

Companies usually have ISDN connections so their telephone number can have many extensions. Each extension is assigned to one person in the organisation which makes it possible to call that person directly.

As you know we are living in a fast moving world. It's the world of telecommunications. Almost everyone today has their own mobile phone. In Germany you call them "handy" but no-one in England or the United States would understand what you mean by that. In England, we say "mobile phone". "Call me on my mobile!" "Have my mobile number." In America they use the term "cell phone". But the word "handy" is an adjective and it means "easy to handle", "convenient".

Session 5

Listen hear

Hello everybody. In this session we are going to review some of the vocabulary that you learned in session one.

First there was the verb "to listen to". The sentence was: "When you are listening to this CD our new English class has started." To listen to means to hear actively. You can listen to the news on the radio or to music. You can also listen to English texts to practise your English. To listen to something or to someone means you hear the sound someone is making. We hear with our ears. For example, the sound you hear can be music or spoken language. The person who is listening is called "a listener". We hear with our ears. You are my listener now and I hope you can hear me loud and clear.

The second verb I'd like to explain is the verb "to improve". To improve means to make something better. If you want to improve your English, that is to make it better, you must practise it on a regular basis. For example, you should listen to English spoken every day for 5 to 10 minutes following our texts. There are a lot of things we can improve: We can improve our standard of living, or the relationship with other people. We also can improve our physical condition.

OK, I hope this session helps you improve your listening skills. Bye for now.

Session 6, Part 1

Months 1

This is session 6 of our audio programme. In this session we are going to talk about the months of the year in English. There are twelve months in an English year just as there are in a German year. The first month is called January, then comes February which is followed by March. After March come April and May, June and July.

Month number 8 is August which is followed by September, October and November. The last month of the year is December.

As you can see most of the English months are the same as the German months. Now, can you tell which month your birthday is in? My birthday is in November but the month I like best — my favourite month is May when spring turns into summer.

Session 6, Part 2

Months 2

January usually is a very cold month with lots of rain and sometimes snow. February is the shortest month, usually it has only 28 days. March is the start of spring. April the first is April Fool's Day when people play other practical jokes on each other. In May I'm usually very busy in my garden. June, July and August are typical summer months with lots of sun and long days. September is the start of autumn or the fall as people in North America say. October is a very colourful month with all the different colours of the trees.

In November the Christmas season starts and many people start doing their Christmas shopping. In the last month of the year, December, many people are usually very busy with various Christmas activities such as baking cakes and preparing Christmas gifts.

December the 31st is a holiday. In English we call it "New Year's Eve". In German that day is called "Silvester".

Session 7, Part 1

Questions 1

In session 7 we again are reviewing another word used in our first session: The word "question". This word is a very important word because you will use it often. The opposite of the word question is "answer". For example, in an interview a journalist or a reporter asks questions and the other person answers those questions.

There are two types of questions: Closed questions and open questions. A closed question usually starts with the word "is" or "are". Here is an example: Are you from Germany? The answer to that question can only be: "Yes, I am." This is a positive answer. Or the answer can be: "No, I'm not."

Here is another example for a closed question: "Is Tony Blair from England." — "Yes, he is."

Now, let's have a look at open questions: Open questions start with a question word. Here are the question words: What, Who, Where, When, How and Why.

Here are some examples for open questions: What's your name? Who is your best friend? Where are you from? When is your birthday? How are you? Why are you late?

OK; that shall do for now. Can you create more questions? Of course you can. How many questions can you make? What is the most popular and most important question in the English language? Do you know the answer? No? Then you should come to our English class in Leipzig!

Session 7, Part 2

Questions 2

Now, let's have a look at open questions: Open questions start with a question word. Here are the question words: What, Who, Where, When, How and Why.

Here are some examples for open questions: What's your name? Who is your best friend? Where are you from? When is your birthday? How are you? Why are you late?

OK, that will do for now. Can you create more questions? Of course you can. How many questions can you make? What is the most popular and most important question in the English language? Do you know the answer? No? Then you should come to our English class in Leipzig!

Session 8, Part 1

Appointments 1

Hello everybody, in this session we'll take a look at some more vocabulary we used in session 2. Do you remember what session 2 is about? Yes, you are right. It's about my daily my job. You probably remember that I work for a financial company as a financial advisor. I help people invest their money. My clients contact our office via email or phone and then we make an appointment. When you make an appointment with another person you want to meet or see him. Two things are important for an appointment: The time and the place. For example you can say: Let's meet next Monday at 10 o'clock at our office. That means you have an appointment for next Monday at 10 o'clock. In this situation you can also say you have a meeting next Monday at 10 o'clock. The word meeting is more specific than the word appointment. Appointment is the equivalent to the German word "Termin".

Session 8, Part 2

Appointments 2

You can have an appointment with your doctor or your dentist but we don't normally say: I have a meeting with my dentist. Instead we say: I have an appointment at the doctor's or I have a dentist's appointment.

Another word that is very similar to appointment is the word date. A date usually is a private meeting with another person. So, when you say: "I have a date with my boss." it means you will see your boss privately. You probably know the term "blind date". That's a rendezvous with a person you have never seen before so you meet him or her for the first time.

OK, that's it for now. I must go because I have an appointment.

Session 9, Part 1

Do does 1

In session 9 we are taking a look on how to make questions with Do and Does.

Listen to the following examples: Do you understand me? Do you speak English? Do you like pop music? Do you like travelling? When we ask a question with a verb we use Do or Does. Listen again: Does you friend understand English? Does she speak any foreign languages? Does it rain often? When do you we use the word Do and when do we use the word Does? Yes, you are right. We use the word Do with the personal pronouns I, you, we and they. We use the word Does with the personal pronouns He, She and It.

Session 9, Part 2

Do does 2

Here are some more examples: How many languages do you speak? Where do you work? What do you do? What do you like most about your job? Why do you want to practise and improve your English? How often does your English class take place? What does your spouse say when you get home late? How long does it take to learn German?

What do you think about these questions? Do you find them interesting? What questions do you want to ask me? Do you think that's enough on Do and Does for now? I do.

Session 10, Part 1

Weekdays 1

In session 10 we are talking the days of the week. We also call them "the weekdays". British people might drive on the left side of the road and a lot of things are different in England but a British week is as long as a week in Germany. It has seven days. Today, for instance, is Friday and it's the start of the weekend. Isn't that interesting — the start of the end of the week. If today is Friday, then which day is tomorrow? Of course, tomorrow is Saturday. Do you remember the American movie "Saturday Night Fever" with John Travolta? I'm sure you do. If you do not, you should ask your parents. Which day comes after Saturday? Yes, it's Sunday. How do you spend your Sundays? Unfortunately, not every Sunday is a sunny day.

Session 10, Part 2

Weekdays 2

After Sunday a new week starts and the first day of the working week is Monday. You probably remember the song "I don't like Mondays" by the Boomtown Rats. What about you? Do you like Mondays? After Monday comes Tuesday. In many Slavic languages the word Tuesday translates as "the second day". Please mind the pronunciation of "Tuesday" which often confused with "Thursday". After Tuesday comes Wednesday and it's the middle of the week. Do you know how to spell the word Wednesday? No, then let's practise it together: W-E-D-N-E-S-D-A-Y.

Session 10, Part 3

Weekdays 3

After Wednesday comes Thursday. Thursday sounds similar to Tuesday but both days are spelled differently. Thursday is spelled T-H-U-R-S-D-A-Y. If today is Friday, then yesterday was Thursday and the day before yesterday was Wednesday. Which is your favourite weekday and why? Let's talk about it in our English class.

Session 11, Part 1

Phonetics 1

In this session we are going to do some phonetic exercises. As you know the pronunciation of many English words is different from their spelling. Let's start with the short /i/ sound. Listen to the following words:

big
clip
fit
in
it
which
bin

Now let's make some simple sentences with these words:

A clip.
It's a clip.
It's a big clip.
It's a big clip.
It fits.
It fits in.
It's a big clip which fits in the bin.

And some more words:

live
him
with
Bill
Jill
in
winter
Nashville

Session 11, Part 2

Phonetics 2

And now let's make some sentences again:

Jill and Bill live in Nashville. Jill lives with Bill in Nashville.
Jill lives with Bill in Nashville in Winter.

OK, that was simple.
Now let's have a look at the long /i:/:

One:
she
meeting
me

She's meeting me.

Two:
he
leading
me

He's leading me.

And now let's compare:

1.) Tim — team
Tim is on the team.
The winning team
Tim will be.
On the winning team
Tim will be on the winning team.

2.) these — this
these sheep — this ship
I see this ship.
I see these sheep on this ship.

3.) leave — live
leaving — living
he's leaving — he's living.
He's leaving with his parents.
He's living with his parents.

4. bill — meal
the bill — the meal
the bill for the meal

please give me
please give me the bill.
Please give me the bill for the meal.

OK, that's it. We think with /I:/ and /i/ you are fit.

Session 12

Customers

In session 12 we'll take a closer look at some of the words you heard earlier in session 2: Do you remember the word customer? What does this word mean? If you know what the word means — how would you explain it to someone who doesn't know it? When you want to learn English, it's important to learn new words but even more important is to learn a technique that helps you learn and memorize new vocabulary. Do you remember how you learned German, your mother tongue? You heard a new word over and over and over again. You could not translate this word. Instead, your parents or someone else explained it to you. It's the same when you learn English: First you must hear the new word several times, then you repeat it and then someone explains to you what this new word means.

So, let's see how we can explain the word customer: First we must find a category. Is it food? Can you eat it? Or is it a machine or a device? Of course it's none of those. A customer is a person, a man or a woman. It's an individual who buys a product or a service from a company. Another word for customer could be client or buyer. Customers are very important for any business because without customers no company can exist.

Now, what word type is the word customer? Is it a verb, an adjective or a noun? Yes, you are right, the word customer is a noun. But in English there is also a verb "to customize." If you look up the word to customize in your dictionary you will be surprised: You can't translate this word by only one German word. To customize means a lot of things. It's a whole philosophy. If you want to attract many customers you have to customize. And when you concentrate or focus on your customers it's easier for you to customize.

What about your company? How many customers do you have? What do you do to keep your customers and attract new customers? Is your company good at customizing? What exactly do you think is customizing? These are interesting questions, don't you think? Let's discuss them in our English class in Leipzig.

Session 13

Phonetics e-a

Session 13 is another phonetic session. This time we are going to practise the /e:/ sound and the /ei/ sound.

First listen to the following words:

/e:/
ten
desk
rest
test
press
net
fret
met

Now listen to these words and find out the difference:

/ei/
tape
late
great
main
plane
take
shape
save

Now let's compare both sounds:

men — main
test — taste
let — late
get — gate
wet — wait
mad — made
fret — freight
sell — sale
tell — tale

It's important that you listen to these sounds before you read the words because the spelling is often different from the pronunciation.

OK, I hope to meet you in our English class where you can tell me your tale.

Session 14

Office equipment

This time we'll talk about things or devices you have in your office. You can also say we'll talk about office equipment. You know the word equipment because it is used in the German language too. But equipment is not the only word you already know. There are so many English words you use in German: take the word desk for example. A desk is a writing table in an office. On your desk there usually is a computer monitor. The monitor is also called a computer screen. Most computers or PC's work with the operating system Microsoft Windows. The first screen or window you see when you start your computer is also called desktop. There are more combinations with the word desktop such as desktop computer or desktop publishing.

The computer is connected to a printer. There are different types of printers. In most offices you will find either an ink jet printer or a laser printer. A computer can also be linked to a scanner. The scanner reads texts and images that are on paper and converts them into digital data.

Most PC's in the modern office are connected to the Internet. Your computer can have an internal or an external modem or maybe an ISDN card. If you work in a larger office your computer is probably part of a computer network.

As you can see there are so many words which you already know even if you haven't been learning English for long. Let's repeat some of the words used in German:

office
equipment
office equipment
desk, desktop
computer
monitor
screen, computer screen
windows, operating system Microsoft Windows,
start, start the computer
printer, ink jet printer, laser printer
scanner
convert, convert texts and images into digital data
modem, internal or external modem
ISDN, Integrated Services Digital Network

OK, that will do for this session. If you like we can talk about the Internet and telecommunications in our English class.

Session 15

Don't, doesn't

In session 15 we are practising the present simple negative.

You will now hear pairs of sentences. The first sentence is a positive sentence and the second sentence is negative. In the negative sentence you will hear the word don't or doesn't.

I speak English. — I don't speak English.

I have a computer. — I don't have a computer.

My colleagues drink coffee. — My colleagues don't drink coffee.

You often read interesting books. — You don't often read interesting books.

Our company makes good products. — Our company doesn't make good products.

This machine works very well. — This machine doesn't work very well.

This shirt suits you very much. — This suit doesn't suit you very much.

It costs a lot to stay in hotels. — It doesn't cost a lot to stay in hotels.

Our line manager reads a lot. — Our line manager doesn't read a lot.

As you can see we use don't or doesn't to make a sentence negative. Do you know when we use don't and when we use doesn't? No? Then listen to the following text and try to find out:

The best thing about my job is that I meet new people every day. For example one of colleagues is a very interesting person. She buys a newspaper every morning but she doesn't read it. Sometimes she comes to work by car but she always tells me that she doesn't like cars. We work in one office but we don't talk much when when we are at work because we don't get paid for chatting but for working. When the phone rings one of us picks it up but sometimes we don't have enough time to answer it. Both of us speak two languages but we don't have much practice. My colleague also plays chess but I think she doesn't get to do it often.

So, how often have you heard don't and doesn't in this text? It takes some time to learn the present simple negative, doesn't it?

Session 16

Phonetics u

Session 16 is another phonetics session. This time we are practising the short /u/ sound and the long /u:/ sound.

First listen to the short /u/:

look
wood
stood
cook
good
hood
foot
took
put
could
hook

Look at this cook! He stood in the wood!
Look, this book is good!
Put the foot on the hood!
Could he look at this good book?
Is the woman a good cook?
Could she put the book on the hook?
Why took the cook this good book to the wood?
This hook is good — it's made of wood.

And now listen to the long /u:/

You
who
cool
school
soon
moon
pool
mood
too
poor
fool

You are at school and school is cool.

At school you will be soon.
Can you go to the moon?
Who is cool in and in the pool?
It can only be a fool.

Now, let's compare both sounds:

pull — pool
could — cool
stood — fool
would — wool
look — loom

Pull the hook to the pool.
Could he look for the wool?
Put the book in the room.
Two butchers have good boots.
Who took my new shoes?
Too good to be true.
Hook the cook and cool the pool.

Good. I hope you understood me too.

Session 17

Survey scuba

In session 17 we start to talk about interesting people from the Leipzig area. Our first example is Karsten and Katrin Leuthold. They have a son who's name is Juan. He is 15 and wants to go to school in England for one year to gather new experiences. Katrin and Karsten are surveyors or highway engineers and they run their own survey company.

People who have their own enterprise are called entrepreneurs. The Leutholds employ a number of engineers who work as a team on different projects in Saxony and other parts of Germany. They have even received an offer from a company in Dublin and they soon will fly to Ireland for negotiations. This will be the first international project for their team and it's a good chance to expand.

In their free time they go SCUBA diving. Katrin says it is exciting to see the great wealth of underwater life. She has taken photos of her underwater trips in Morocco and they are very impressive.

Do you know what the abbreviation SCUBA stands for? Yes, you are right,

it's "self-contained underwater breathing apparatus". If you want to learn more about SCUBA diving and construction sites in Saxony you should come to our English class in Leipzig.

See you there!

Session 18

Learning English

In session 18 we are again talking about an interesting person from Saxony. This time it's Siegfried. He often goes on business trips to Sweden and that's why he wants to practise his English on a regular basis. Siegfried says it is fascinating to be able to travel freely and to learn more about our European neighbours. In Sweden English is not a foreign language but a second language that almost every person speaks. People there watch films and TV shows in English without subtitles. Siegfried told me that there are quite a number of Germans living in Sweden and that he and his wife are considering to move there for good as well. They have three sons and all of them have been with him to Sweden. The thing they like most about Swedish society is that people there are often open to different cultures and ways of life. Now we have the chance to exchange thoughts and ideas with other nations. Siegfried says it's not so important how well you speak a language as long so you try to communicate. You will always find a way to express yourself when you have the right motivation.

Many people who want to learn English don't have much time. Here is what Siegfried says about this problem: I often spend a lot of time in my car. Instead of listening to private radio stations I put in an interesting cassette with texts in English. I listen every day for about 15 to 20 minutes and I think it's a very good method to memorize new words and phrases.

Well, are you in the same situation as Siegfried? If so, how much time do you spend in the car? What do you listen to as you drive? Have you ever tried listening to English texts? You don't have to concentrate on the cassette, just let it play and you will see how you pick up the vocabulary. The key is to listen to texts every day.

We can discuss your learning experiences in the class or you can send us an email.

Session 19

Phonetics work walk

In session 19 we are working on our pronunciation again. Let's practise the /au-al/ sound. Listen to the following words:

tall
talk
walk

call
hall
crawl

ball
mall
wall

long
launch

want
wand
aunt

halt
fault

cause
bald
salt

wash
watch

audio
automatic

daughter
laundry

My daughter always walks to the launderette to wash her laundry and talk.

Paul is tall and always walks in the long hall to make a call.

Our aunt wants salt.
What caused your daughter to walk?

Now, listen to the following sentences:
We often work at night.
We often walk at night.
We walk to work.
At our workplace there are people from all walks of life.
We don't like working late and walking to work.

OK, you can call us in Leipzig to talk.

Session 20

Time management

In session 20 we are talking about language learning and time management. A lot of people want to learn English but they often say they don't have enough time. We all have jobs or businesses to run and then there is the family that needs attention. Especially around the end of the year when Christmas approaches we are very busy with shopping and baking cakes and biscuits. So, you ask: How do I find the time to learn English? Well, how much time do you spend in your car every day? Half an hour? 60 minutes? One and a half hours? And what do you do when you're in your car? Do you switch on the radio? What is your favourite radio station? Radio PSR? Or maybe JUMP? What kind of information do you get from those stations? Most of the time they play the same pop songs over and over again. Do you understand the lyrics of the pop songs you're listening to? No? So, why do you listen to them then? Why don't you listen to a cassette or a CD with real information? If you want to learn English you should listen to English texts for at least 15 minutes every day. 15 minutes is not much if you manage your day properly. You can listen to an English tape while you're having breakfast or when you're cooking lunch at the weekend. How much time do you spend watching television? Not much I suppose. But maybe you could watch even 5 minutes less and listen to an English tape instead.

Now, I know what you are saying: This sounds like very hard work. Learning English can be very hard work. But if you invest 10, 15 minutes every day you will make very a good headway after a couple of weeks.

If you come to our English class in Leipzig you will get more tips on how to learn English every day.
See you there.

Session 21

Present simple, present continuous

In session 21 we are looking at two of the tenses of the English language: Present simple and present continuous. Do you remember when we use present simple? Yes, we use present simple when we talk about things we do on a regular basis such as daily routines. Here are some examples:

Our new colleague comes to work by car.
We often work late.
We don't usually work on Saturday.

We also use the present simple when we want to express a skill. Listen to the following examples:

Our line manager speaks three languages.
She also plays the piano very well and even creates her own songs.

There are more cases in which we use present simple. Listen to the following examples and find out why the present simple is used here:

Our company provides a lot of different services.
It often rains in Leipzig in winter.
Water boils at 100 degrees.
The Earth goes round the Sun.

Now, let's have a look at the present continuous. As you know the present continuous is a tense which doesn't exist in the German language. Listen to the examples first:

I'm talking to you now. It's raining again. The music is playing in the background. I can't work when someone is watching me.
Our students are waiting for their new English class. I'm going to Leipzig tomorrow.

We use the present continuous tense when we talk about something that is happening right now or when we want to express a future plan. How do we make the present continuous tense? Yes, it's the subject plus a form of the BE-verb plus the verb with ending -ING-. This form of the verb is also called a "gerund." It sounds complicated but it's not. You can practise the present continuous and the other tenses when you're in our English class.

Session 22

Many much

The session 22 is about MUCH, MANY, MORE and A LOT. When do we use those words? When you listen to the following conversation you will find out:

- Why do you ask me so many questions? Do you have too much time?
- No, I want to learn more.
- Well, then you should buy a good reference book. It doesn't cost that much.
- But I already have so many books and it always takes so much time to find the right one.
- Really? How many books do you have?
- I don't know the exact number but it must be over three hundred.
- Well, that's quite a lot.
- How much time do you spend reading them?
- Oh, I don't read that much these days. My friend says I need more exercise because I'm getting fat.
- I think you're friend is right. A lot of people don't do enough for their bodies. It's different with me though: I do a lot of sports.
- Do you? I would do more sports too if I had somewhere to go to. There aren't any good sports facilities in this town.
- You must be kidding. There are a lot of places to do sport. You just have to take action.
- OK, you are right. Why don't you take me with you the next time you go? I think we can have a lot of fun together.
- Well, I'll give it a thought and let you know. I must run now — there are more people who want to ask me questions.
- Oh, I see. It's always the same. Everybody seems to be in a hurry today. Anyway, many thanks to you for your advice.

Session 23

Phonetics ou-au

In session 23 we are practising the "ou" and the "au" sound.

Please listen to the these examples:

know
grow
low

go
show
flow
throw

borrow
follow
narrow

below
tomorrow
sorrow

gold
fold
told
hold

I know we'll go to the show.
He's been told that tomorrow he will be sorry.

Now listen to these words:

now
how
our
sour
flower
shower
out
about
shout
cloud

crowd
loud
proud

Now, how about taking a shower before we get sour?
In our special hour we are very proud so we speak out loud.

In now let's compare both sounds:

no — now
port — proud
short — shout
lord — loud
ought — out

Now, you ought to be proud to know all these sounds.

Session 24

Words with ex

In session 24 we are building up our active vocabulary. There are many English words that start with the prefix -ex. Most of these words are of Latin origin and a lot of them exist in the German language, too. How many words with the prefix -ex do you know? Let's see:

example
exact/exactly
excuse
exciting
exist
exercise
extra
extraordinary
extreme
experiment
experience
expensive
exaggerate
exhausting
excel

OK, that is a list of 15 words with the prefix -ex. I'm sure you can find more but let's have a closer look at some words in our list:

First the word EXAMPLE. You often say: for example, don't you? Can you think of other phrases with the word example? Yes, you can say: as an example. Can you give me an example? That's a good example.

Now the word EXERCISE. This word can have different meanings. Listen to these phrases:

My friend says I need more exercises because I'm getting fat. He says I'm out of shape. I do a lot of exercise since I walk to work. In this context the word EXERCISE means physical training such as jogging or gymnastics. The word EXERCISE can also be combined with other words. Listen to these examples:

When you want to learn English you have to do a lot of grammar exercises. There are grammar exercises in your workbook. You'll also find listening, writing and speaking exercises. Each exercise has a number so you can easily identify them.

OK, I hope you're not too exhausted. Do you know what the words

exciting, experience, extraordinary, expensive and exaggerate mean? Do you know how to spell them? Yes? Then you must be English language experts!

Session 25

Grammar tenses

Session 25 is another grammar session. As you know grammar exercises can be hard and boring at times but then it's important for you to master the basic grammar rules of the English language. In session 21 we dealt with the present simple and the present continuous. Let's practise some more. Listen to the following conversation and find out which tenses are used:

- Good morning Darling, how are you feeling today?
- Thanks, I'm feeling OK, thanks. What's that sound? Are our neighbours testing their new power tools?
- No, this time it's not our neighbours but our kids.
- Our kids? What are they doing?
- Well, you'll be surprised — they are listening to the CD you bought them for Christmas.
- Ah, I see. But why aren't they using their headphones?
- Headphones? Do they have headphones?
- Yes, of course they do. They are just not using them to provoke us.
- Oh, come on. Don't say that. They probably think we should be listening to their music, too.
- Right. I should be listening to Techno songs at 9 o'clock on a Sunday morning. You must be kidding!
- 9 o'clock? It's 10:30, the sun is shining and your parents are coming in two hours. How about getting ready for them?
- Why are my parents visiting us today? Did you tell them about my promotion?
- Well, how did you think I could hide such news from them? Of course I told your mother about your success. We're are so proud of you!
- Thanks a lot. Maybe, today you are cooking lunch for a change?
- That won't be necessary I suppose. Our kids are already working hard in the kitchen.
- Is that true? We have wonderful kids, don't we?

Session 26

Phonetics o

In session 26 we are working on our pronunciation again. Listen to the following words and compare:

cost — coast
cord — cold
what — vote
bob — boat
shot — showed
lot — load
saw — so
shock — show
gloss — close

What did you load in the boat?
It's hot — so forget the coat.
What is the cost for the show?
Bob showed his boss a lot of gloss.
She saw the clock and got a shocks.
He sold his coat and bought a boat.

You thought this session's too short? Hold on and others will follow.

Session 27

Grammar simple past

In session 27 we are talking about Anja and Igor Sandler. In this text we are using a new tense — the past simple. Listen and find out how the simple past is used. A couple of years ago Anja and Igor started providing real estate services in Leipzig and their business has been growing since then. Igor tells the story. I grew up in Georgia where people of different nationalities live and I got used to cultural diversity. As a teenager my family moved to Odessa on the Black Sea and there, life was different again. When we came to Germany about five years ago, we didn't speak the language very well but we were eager to learn. We first took a 6-month intensive German language course and tried to make friends with local people. This is not always easy when you start speaking another language. Now there are quite a number of Russian born Germans in Leipzig and when they come here, they all need help with a lot of things. For example, finding a new flat or communicating with the authorities. It was our idea to provide such services and as it turned out, it was a good decision. What I like most about my job is that I meet so many interesting people who help me improve my communications skills.

Session 29

Verbs

In session 29 we are looking at verbs in the English language. We use them to describe actions or activities. Here are some examples: Read, write, speak, listen, ask, answer, think, explain.

Of course, there are a lot more verbs. But you don't need to know them all. When you speak German you don't use hundreds of different verbs either. How many German verbs do you use in your daily conversation? It is important for you to make a list of the verbs you use most frequently when you speak German, because you can then go ahead and learn the English equivalents to those German verbs. When you learn one new English verb every day, you soon will have a solid active vocabulary. The next step is then to combine those verbs with nouns and adjectives so you can increase your wordpower. As you know many words in the English language can be verbs as well as nouns. Listen to the following examples:

My new customer is a very silent person — she doesn't talk much. We sometimes talk on the telephone.

The personnel manager will give a talk next week.

There will be an interesting talk show on television tonight.

In our company we often work at the weekends because there is a lot of work.

I usually go to work by train. My colleague often says to me: Please, don't disturb me — I'm working.

So, how verbs can you find in this session? How many of them do you know? Watch out for more verbs to come and be ready!