

HS German I

Curriculum Guide (including Course Objectives, Weekly Content, and Scope and Sequence)

Course Description

Students begin their introduction to German with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. The course consists of 180 lesson days formatted in an intuitive calendar view, which can be divided into two 90-day semesters and represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. As students begin the course, they construct their own Avatar that accumulates “Avatar bucks”—by performing well on course tasks—to use to purchase materials (clothing, gadgets, scenery, etc.) at the “Avatar store”. Each week consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural presentations covering major German-speaking areas in Europe. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

Course length: Two semesters

Materials: *Langenscheidt's Standard German Dictionary*

Prerequisites: None

Overall Course Objectives

The High School German I course helps students:

- Engage in language learning
- Master common vocabulary terms and phrases
- Comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns
- Instigate and continue simple conversations, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts
- Generate language incorporating basic vocabulary and a limited range of grammar patterns
- Read, write, speak, and listen for meaning in basic German
- Analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various German-speaking countries
- Regularly assess progress in proficiency through quizzes, tests, and speaking/writing submissions

Recurring Content

- **Vocabulary Theme**
 - Each week presents a new set of vocabulary words through various self-correcting activities. A printable vocabulary list, which includes pronunciation, is also provided.
- **Grammar Concept**
 - Each week introduces a new grammatical pattern. The concept is introduced through sentence comparisons and presented in a printable explanation of the pattern.
- **Reinforcement Activities**
 - A range of interactive games (incrementally increasing in challenge) helps students reinforce vocabulary and grammar concepts. These activities may be completed multiple times so that students can better retain and apply the new information. Students accumulate “Avatar bucks” by performing well on these and other interactive challenges.
- **Diglot Weave™ Story**
 - Each week students follow a new episode of an immersive Diglot Weave™ story. The story is told several times, each time with more German woven in. (Diglot comes from the roots "di" meaning *two* and "glot" meaning *language*. These stories weave together the students' native language and the target language.) These stories provide students a fun and linguistically-rich context for optimal comprehension.
- **“Stretch” Activities**
 - Each week students work through an inventive and challenging activity to comprehend involved passages in German, or to generate their own sentences in German. Stretch activities include zany performances, core content-based instruction, familiar folktales presented in German, simple narratives that students string together from basic building blocks, and many more. These activities help students work creatively in German to communicate and make meaning.
- **Presentation of Culture through CultureGrams™ and Culture Videos**
 - Each week students learn about various cultural aspects (e.g. practices, products, and perspectives) of a German-speaking country. CultureGrams™ are multi-media cultural presentations that cover a wide range of topics such as gestures, etiquette, history, food, and more. Culture videos present students with short video explanations about cultural aspects of various German-speaking countries from a native of that country.
- **“Gameshow” Review**
 - Each week students review material from the week’s content in a “Gameshow” that builds on the motivations and friendly competition of familiar television game shows. Students are pitted against a virtual opponent and earn “Avatar bucks” as they demonstrate their mastery of the week’s material. The burden of review for the weekly assessment is thus transformed to a fun and engaging game.
- **“Out of Seat” Activities**
 - Several times during the year, students are given opportunities to use the language “outside” the course. These are specific assignments directing students to interact in a genuine way with the German language or German-speaking cultures.
- **Realia**
 - Several times during the year, students work to decipher the key messages and significant details in Realias. In Realias, students confront authentic or semi-authentic texts in real-world, everyday situations. These encounters are neither trivial, nor far beyond a student's comprehension level, but are texts to which students can respond

and that move them to a deeper understanding of the target language and culture at the same time. Sample texts include a restaurant menu, a grocery store receipt, a student class schedule, etc.

- **Oral and Written Activities**
 - Each week, students complete oral and written activities. These activities give students a chance to become more familiar with the speaking and writing patterns of German by applying them in communicative situations.
- **Listening and Reading Comprehension Activities**
 - Each week contains either a focused listening or a focused reading comprehension practice. These practices help students to develop listening and reading comprehension skills. They are based on the vocabulary, grammar, or culture concepts presented that week, and follow up assessments challenge students to identify the main ideas and significant details of texts based on everyday communicative situations.
- **Assessments**
 - Diglot Weave™ comprehension quizzes verify that students are following the ongoing immersive Diglot Weave™ story and that they are picking up key ideas and vocabulary as they follow along.
 - Focused Listening or Reading quizzes verify that students comprehend the main ideas or significant details of target passages or conversations.
 - Culture comprehension quizzes verify that students have captured facts and understandings from the cultural presentations.
 - End-of-week quizzes assess students’ mastery of the vocabulary words and grammar concept presented that week, and include an oral or written assessment.
 - Midterm and Semester Exams assess students’ mastery of the semester’s contents up to their current place on the calendar, and include oral and written assessments.

Course Scope and Sequence

Semester 1

	Vocabulary Topic	Grammar Pattern	“Stretch” Activity*	Culture
Week 1	Greetings and Familiar Phrases	Questions and Commands	<i>German Pronunciation 1: Vowels</i>	Germany
Week 2	School	Nouns with definite and indefinite articles	<i>German Numbers 1</i>	Germany
Week 3	Descriptions Colors	Present tense regular verbs	<i>The Broken Window Diglot Weave™ story</i>	Germany

Week 4	Countries and Nationalities Numbers 0-30	Noun/pronoun relationship	<i>Ditties</i>	Germany
Week 5	Common Verbs 1	Present tense irregular verbs	<i>Dots, Lines, and Figures</i>	Germany
Week 6	Common regular and irregular verbs	Verb placement in statements	<i>Chatter at a Royal Ball</i>	Germany
Week 7	Telling Time Prepositions	Possessive adjectives in nominative case	<i>The Key of the King's Kingdom</i>	Switzerland
Week 8	Days, Months, Seasons Numbers 30-100	Negation with <i>nicht</i> & <i>kein</i>	<i>Conversation Snatches 1</i>	Switzerland
Week 9	Midterm Review and Test - no topics			
Week 10	Hobbies	<i>Gern</i> with verbs/ <i>haben</i>	<u>Discovery of Grammar 1</u>	Switzerland
Week 11	Food (part 1)	Separable verbs	<i>Conversation Snatches 2</i>	Switzerland
Week 12	Food (part 2)	<u>Use of kennen/wissen/können</u>	<i>Conversation Snatches 3</i>	Switzerland
Week 13	Family	Articles in Nominative and Accusative Case	<i>Discovery of Grammar 2</i>	Switzerland
Week 14	Places	Personal Pronouns in Nominative and Accusative Case	<i>Ditties</i>	Switzerland
Week 15	Animals	<i>Dieser</i> words	<i>Conversation Snatches 4</i>	Switzerland
Week 16	Shopping	Prepositions, accusative	<i>Question Words</i>	Switzerland
Week 17	Weather Expressions	Coordinating conjunctions	<i>Discovery of Grammar 3</i>	Switzerland
Week 18	Final Review and Test- no topics			

Semester 2

	Vocabulary Topic	Grammar Pattern	"Stretch" Activity*	Culture
Week 1	Professions	Possessive Adjectives	<i>Discovery of Grammar 4</i>	Switzerland
Week 2	Clothing	Common Prepositions	<i>Ditties</i>	Switzerland
Week 3	At Home	Interrogatives and Imperatives	<i>Conversation Snatches 5</i>	Switzerland
Week 4	The Body	Present Tense of Regular and Irregular Verbs	<i>The Bargain</i>	Switzerland
Week 5	Reflexive Verb List	Comparison and Superlative of Adjectives	<i>Discovery of Grammar 5</i>	Switzerland
Week 6	Cognates Numbers 1-1000	<i>Zu Hause/nach Hause</i>	<i>German Numbers 2</i>	Switzerland
Week 7	On Vacation	Modal verbs	<i>Discovery of Grammar 6</i>	Lichtenstein
Week 8	Telephone	Separable verbs	<i>Questions of a Small Child</i>	Lichtenstein
Week 9	Midterm Review and Test - no topics			
Week 10	Directions	Past tense – present perfect	<i>Chatter at a Royal Ball</i>	Lichtenstein
Week 11	Transportation	Review of regular and irregular verbs	<i>Observing Closely How German Works</i>	Lichtenstein
Week 12	Medical Words	More past tense – present perfect + simple past	<i>Discovery of Grammar 7</i>	Lichtenstein
Week 13	Sports	Accusative Review, Dative Introduction	<i>The Key of the King's Kingdom 2</i>	Lichtenstein
Week 14	Outdoor Activities	Verb placement in all types and tenses of sentences	<i>Toward Fluency 1</i>	Lichtenstein
Week 15	Travel	Future tense	<i>An Uncomfortable Interview</i>	Lichtenstein
Week 16	Computers (part 1)	Pattern Review Song -	<i>Scatter</i> Chart	Lichtenstein

Week 17	Computers (part 2)	Pattern Review Song	A Mother Talks With Her Child	Lichtenstein
Week 18	Final Review and Test- no topics			

*For a general description of “Stretch” Activities, see heading under Recurring Content.