

WORD ORDER IN GERMAN

DECLARATIVE STATEMENTS:

An independent clause can stand by itself: it is grammatically complete

I am going to the store. *Ich gehe zum Supermarkt.*

German WO: Subject Verb Prepositional phrase

1 2 3

alternative: *Zum Supermarkt gehe ich.*
 Prep. phrase Verb subject
 1 2 3

Note that in both sentences (which mean the same thing!), the verb is always in the second position in the sentence.

Rules: Any part of speech can occupy the first position in an independent clause, **but** the conjugated verb must always be in second position.

Position 1

2: Verb

3- : additional elements

subject	Wir	haben	unserem Bruder einen Hund zum Geburtstag geschenkt.
direct object	Einen Hund	haben	wir unserem Bruder zum Geburtstag geschenkt.
prepositional phrase	Zum Geburtstag	haben	wir unserem Bruder einen Hund geschenkt.
indirect object	Unserem Bruder	haben	wir einen Hund zum Geburtstag geschenkt.
past participle	Geschenkt	haben	wir unserem Bruder einen Hund zum Geburtstag.

A dependent clause requires an independent clause: it is grammatically incomplete

He said that I was going to the store. *Er hat bemerkt , daß ich zum Supermarkt gehe.*
 1 2 conjunction subject prep. phrase verb

Daß ich zum Supermarkt gehe, hat er bemerkt.

 conjunction subj. prep. phrase verb , verb subject past participle
 1 2

In the second sentence here, note that because the dependent clause (signaled by the subordinating conjunction “daß”) is the first element in the sentence, the verb follows directly after the comma which separates the two clauses.

Rules: subordinating conjunctions force the conjugated verb to the end of the clause
a comma is absolutely necessary to separate the dependent and the independent clauses

Subordinating conjunctions

*als (<i>when</i>)	bevor (<i>before</i>)	bis (<i>until</i>)
*damit (<i>so that</i>)	*daß (<i>that</i>)	nachdem (<i>after</i>)
ob (<i>whether</i>)	obwohl (<i>although</i>)	während (<i>during</i>)
*weil (<i>because</i>)	*wenn (<i>if, when(ever)</i>)	

QUESTIONS

Direct questions

There are two basic kinds of direct questions: those that ask for more information
 those that ask for a yes or no answer

yes/no questions: Simply reverse the order of subject and verb to create this kind of question
Note that the verb **begins** the question.

Du fährst heute früh nach Hause. → Fährst du heute früh nach Hause?

information questions: These use an interrogative (question word) to elicit specific kinds of information.
The question **begins** with the interrogative which is directly followed by the **verb** and the **subject**.

Wohin fährst du? (To) Where are you going/driving?
Warum fährst du? Why are you going?
Womit fährst du? With what (form of transportation) are you going?
Wann fährst du? When (at what time) are you going?

Interrogatives (Fragewörter):

wann (when, at what time)	wer (who)/ wen (whom: direct object) wem (to whom: indirect object)	wo-compounds: woran, worüber, etc.
was (what)	wo (where)	wohin (to where)
wie (how)	warum (why)	woher (from where)
wie viel (how many, how much)	welch- (which, what + Noun)	wie lange (how long)

Indirect questions

Indirect questions are introduced by a phrase such as *Wissen Sie, ...* (which creates another question) or *Ich weiß nicht, ...* (which is a declarative statement)

yes/no questions: Following the introductory phrase, the question is introduced with the subordinating conjunction "*ob*" (whether or not). The verb moves from first position to last.

Fährst du früh nach Hause?

Ich weiß nicht, **ob** du früh nach Hause **fährst**.
I don't know, whether or not you are driving home early.

information questions: Following the introductory phrase, the question word functions as a subordinating conjunction which means that the verb moves from 2nd to last position.

Wohin fährst du?
Warum fährst du nach Hause?
Womit fährst du nach Hause?
Wann fährst du nach Hause?
Mit wem fährst du nach Hause?

Ich weiß nicht, **wohin** du **fährst**.
Ich weiß nicht, **warum** du nach Hause **fährst**.
Weißt du, **womit** du nach Hause **fährst**?
Weißt du, **wann** du nach Hause **fährst**?
Weißt du, **mit wem** du nach Hause **fährst**?

COMMANDS

Commands in German use the *Imperative* form of the verb.

There are four kinds of commands:

to someone else: formal (Sie)
 informal, singular (du)
 informal, plural (ihr)
 to a group you are part of: (wir)

• SIE- AND WIR-IMPERATIVE FORMS

Sie-Imperativ is used with a person or persons towards whom one is being polite or formal; it is used for both singular and plural addressees.

The wir-Imperativ is used to address one's own group. It corresponds to English "Let's . . ."

Both forms are constructed using the conjugated Verb followed by the pronoun.

1 **2** **3...**
 Kontrollieren Sie bitte das Öl! *Please check my oil.*
 Gehen wir doch heute ins Kino! *Let's go to the movies today!*

• DU-IMPERATIVE

Du-Imperativ is a singular command for someone you know well (first-name basis), a child, animal, family member.

The du-Imperativ is formed by taking the du-form of the verb without the -(s)t ending and without the pronoun **du**.

1 **....**
 du tanzt ==> Tanz!
 du arbeitest ==> Arbeite!

Remember that some of the verbs that have a vowel shift in 2nd person singular in the present tense lose their umlauts in the du-Imperativ.

1 **....**
 du fährst schnell ==> Fahr nicht so schnell! BUT:
 du läufst 5 km ==> Lauf 10 Kilometer! du ißt viel Eis ==>Iß viel Eis!

• IHR-IMPERATIVE

The ihr-Imperative is used to command a group (2+) of people with whom you are on informal terms.

The familiar plural imperative consists of the present tense **ihr**-form of the verb without the pronoun "ihr".

1 **....**
 ihr geht ins Restaurant ==> Geht ins Restaurant!
 ihr schläft zu lange ==> Schlaft nicht so lange!

• IMPERATIVE FORMS OF THE VERB "SEIN"

The imperative forms of the Verb "sein" are all irregular and must be memorized.

du ==> sei wir ==> seien
 ihr ==> seid Sie ==> seien