

MS 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. The course 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 unit 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, and multimedia 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: German-English dictionary is recommended

Prerequisites: None

Overall Course Objectives

The Middle School German 1 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 unit 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 unit 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 unit 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 a narrative structure to the course as well as a fun and linguistically-rich context for optimal comprehension.
- **“Stretch” Activities**
 - Each unit 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 unit 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 unit students review material from the unit’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 unit’s material. The burden of review for the unit 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 unit, 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 unit 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 and grammar concepts presented that unit, 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 work 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-unit quizzes assess students' mastery of the vocabulary words and grammar concept presented that unit.
 - 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
Unit 1	Greetings and Familiar Phrases	Questions and Commands	<i>Dots, Lines and Figures</i>	Germany
Unit 2	School	Nouns with definite and indefinite articles	<i>German Numbers 1</i>	Germany
Unit 3	Descriptions Colors	Present tense regular verbs	<i>The Broken Window Diglot Weave™ story</i>	Germany
Unit 4	Countries and Nationalities Numbers 0-30	Noun/pronoun relationship	<i>Ditties</i>	Germany

Unit 5	Common Verbs 1	Present tense irregular verbs	<i>German Pronunciation 1: Vowels</i>	Germany
Unit 6	Common regular and irregular verbs	Verb placement in statements	<i>Chatter at a Royal Ball</i>	Germany
Unit 7	Telling Time Prepositions	Possessive adjectives in nominative case	<i>The Key of the King's Kingdom</i>	Switzerland
Unit 8	Days, Months, Seasons Numbers 30-100	Negation with <i>nicht</i> & <i>kein</i>	<i>Conversation Snatches 1</i>	Switzerland

Semester 2

	Vocabulary Topic	Grammar Pattern	"Stretch" Activity*	Culture
Unit 1	Hobbies	Gern with verbs/haben	<i>Discovery of Grammar 1</i>	Switzerland
Unit 2	Food (part 1)	Separable verbs	<i>Conversation Snatches 2</i>	Switzerland
Unit 3	Food (part 2)	Use of kennen/wissen/können	<i>Conversation Snatches 3</i>	Switzerland
Unit 4	Family	Articles in Nominative and Accusative Case	<i>Discovery of Grammar 2</i>	Switzerland
Unit 5	Places	Personal Pronouns in Nominative and Accusative Case	<i>Ditties</i>	Switzerland
Unit 6	Animals	Dieser words	<i>Conversation Snatches 4</i>	Switzerland
Unit 7	Shopping	Prepositions, accusative	<i>Question Words</i>	Switzerland
Unit 8	Weather Expressions	Coordinating conjunctions	<i>Discovery of Grammar 3</i>	Switzerland

*For a general description of "Stretch" Activities, see heading under Recurring Unit Content.