

Oxford German Dictionary Skills Resource Pack

Glossary

Abbreviation *abbr(s), Abk* A shortened form of a word or **phrase**: **etc.** = *usw.*

Absolute use *abs.* The use of a **transitive verb** without an expressed **object**, as in: **I didn't realize**

Accusative *Akk.* The **case** of a **direct object**; some German prepositions take the accusative

Active In the active form the **subject** of the **verb** performs the action: **he asked** = *er fragte*

Adjective *adj(s), Adj.* A word describing a **noun**: **a red pencil** = *ein roter Stift*

Adverb *adv., Adv.* A word that describes or changes the meaning of a **verb**, an **adjective**, or another adverb: **she sings beautifully** = *sie singt schön*

Article *art., Art.* The **definite article**, **the** = *der/die/das*, and **indefinite article**, **a/an** = *ein/eine/ein* are used in front of a **noun**

Attributive *attrib., attr.* An **adjective** or **noun**. is attributive when it is used directly before a **noun**: **the black dog** = *der schwarze Hund*; **farewell speech** = *Abschiedsrede*

Auxiliary verb *v. aux, Hilfsv.* One of the **verbs** —as German **haben**, **sein**, **werden**—used to form the **perfect** or **future tenses** and **passive forms**: **I will help** = *ich werde helfen*

Cardinal number A whole number representing a quantity: **one/two/three** = *eins/zwei/drei*

Case The form of a **noun**, **pronoun**, **adjective**, or **article** that shows the part it plays in a **sentence**; there are four cases in German—**nominative**, **accusative**, **genitive**, and **dative**

Clause A self-contained section of a **sentence** that contains a **subject** and a **verb**

Collective noun *collect.* A **noun** that is **singular** in form but refers to a group of individual persons or things, e.g. **royalty**, **grain**

Collocate A word that regularly occurs with another ; in German, **Buch** is a typical collocate of the **verb lesen**. In the *Oxford-Duden German Dictionary* typical collocates are shown in italics within angle brackets

Comparative *compar., Komp.* The form of an **adjective** or **adverb** that makes it “more” or “less”: **smaller** = *kleiner*, **more clearly** = *klarer*, **less pleasant** = *weniger erfreulich*

Compound adjective An **adjective** formed from two or more separate words: **selbstbewusst** (**selbst** + **bewusst**) = *self-confident*

Compound noun A **noun** formed from two or more separate words: **der Flughafen** (**Flug** + **Hafen**) = *airport*

Compound verb A **verb** formed by adding a **prefix** to a simple verb; in German, some compound verbs are **separable** (**anfangen**), and some are **inseparable** (**verlassen**)

Conditional tense *condit.* A **tense** of a **verb** that expresses what might happen if something else occurred: **he would go** = *er würde gehen*

Conjugation Variation of the form of a **verb** to show **tense**, **person**, **mood**, etc.

Conjunction *conj., Konj.* A word used to join clauses together: **and** = *und*, **because** = *weil*

Copula A **verb**, such as **be** or **become**, which links a **subject** and **predicate**

Dative *Dat.* The **case** of an **indirect object**; many German prepositions take the dative

Declension *Dekl.* The form of a **noun**, **pronoun**, or **adjective** that corresponds to a particular **case**, **number**, or **gender**; some German **nouns** decline like **adjectives**, e.g. **Abgeordnete**, **Kranke**

Definite article *def. art., best. Art.*: **the** = *der/die/das*

Demonstrative pronoun *Demonstrativpron.* A **pronoun** indicating the person or thing referred to: **this is my bicycle** = *das ist mein Fahrrad*

Direct object The **noun** or **pronoun** directly affected by the **verb**: **he caught the ball** = *er fing den Ball*

Direct speech A speaker's actual words or the use of these in writing

Elliptical Having a word or words omitted, especially where the sense can be guessed from the context

Ending Letters added to the **stem** of **verbs**, as well as to **nouns** and **adjectives**, according to **tense**, **case**, etc.

Feminine *fem., Fem.* One of the three **noun** genders in German: **die Frau** = *the woman*; **die Bank** = *the bench*

Future tense The **tense** of a **verb** that refers to something that will happen in the future: **I will go** = *ich werde gehen*

Gender One of the three groups of nouns in German: **masculine**, **feminine**, or **neuter**

Genitive *Gen.* The **case** that shows possession; some prepositions in German take the genitive

Imperative *imper.,* A form of a **verb** that expresses a command: **go away!** = *geh weg!*

Imperfect tense The **tense** of a **verb** that refers to an uncompleted or a habitual action in the past: **I went there every Friday** = *ich ging jeden Freitag dorthin*

Impersonal verb *impers., unpers.* A **verb** in English used only with **it**, and in German only with **es**: **it is raining** = *es regnet*

Indeclinable adjective *indekl. Adj.* An **adjective** that has no **inflected** forms, as German **klasse**, **Moskauer**

Indefinite article *indef. art., unbest. Art.*: **a/an** = *ein/eine/ein*

Indefinite pronoun *indef. pron., Indefinitpron.* A **pronoun** that does not identify a specific person or object: **one** = *man*, **something** = *etwas*

Indicative The **mood** of a **verb** used when making a statement of fact or asking questions of fact: **he is just coming** = *er kommt gleich*

Indirect object The **noun** or **pronoun** indirectly affected by the **verb**, at which the **direct object** is aimed: **I gave him the book** = *ich gab ihm das Buch*

Indirect speech A report of what someone has said which does not reproduce the exact words

Infinitive *Inf.* The basic part of a **verb**: **to play** = *spielen*

Inflect To change the **ending** or form of a word to show its **tense** or its grammatical relation to other words: **gehe** and **gehst** are inflected forms of the **verb gehen**

Inseparable verb A **verb** with a **prefix** that can never be separated from it: **verstehen**, **ich verstehe**

Interjection *int., Interj.* A sound, word, or remark expressing a strong feeling such as anger, fear, or joy: **oh!** = *ach!*

Interrogative pronoun *interrog. pron.* A **pronoun** that asks a question: **who?** = *wer?*

Intransitive verb *v.i., itr.* V. A **verb** that does not have a **direct object**: **he died suddenly** = *er ist plötzlich gestorben*

Irregular verb *unr. V.* A **verb** that does not follow one of the set patterns and has its own individual forms

Masculine *masc., Mask.* One of the three **noun** genders in German: **der Mann** = *the man*, **der Stuhl** = *the chair*

Modal verb *Modalv.* A **verb** that is used with another verb (not a modal) to express permission, obligation, possibility, etc., as German **können**, **sollen**, English **might**, **should**

Mood The form of a **verb** which indicates whether the verb expresses a fact (**indicative mood**), a condition or a wish (**subjunctive mood**), a question (**interrogative mood**), or a command (**imperative mood**)

Neuter *Neutr.* One of the three **noun** genders in German: **das Buch** = *the book*, **das Kind** = *the child*

Nominative *Nom.* The **case** of the **subject** of a **sentence**; in sentences with **sein** and **werden** the **noun** after the **verb** is in the nominative: **that is my car** = *das ist mein Auto*

Noun *n., Subst.* A word that names a person or a thing

Number The state of being either **singular** or **plural**

Object *obj.* The word or words naming the person or thing acted upon by a **verb**, as **Buch** in **er las das Buch**, or **ihm** in **ich traue ihm**

Ordinal number A number that shows a person's or thing's position in a series: **the twenty-first century** = *das einundzwanzigste Jahrhundert*, **the second door on the left** = *die zweite Tür links*

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Part of speech A grammatical term for the function of a word; **noun, verb, adjective**, etc. are parts of speech

Passive *pass.* In the passive form the **subject** of the **verb** experiences the action rather than performs it: **he was asked** = *er wurde gefragt*

Past participle *p.p., 2. Part.* The part of a **verb** used to form past tenses: **she had gone, er hat gelogen**

Perfect tense The **tense** of a **verb** that refers to a completed action in the past or an action that started in the past and is still going on: **I have already eaten** = *ich habe schon gegessen*; **I have been reading all day** = *ich habe den ganzen Tag gelesen*

Person Any of the three groups of **personal pronouns** and forms taken by **verbs**; the **first person** (e.g. *I/ich*) refers to the person(s) speaking, the **second person** (e.g. *you/du* or *Sie*) refers to the person(s) spoken to; the **third person** (e.g. *he/er*) refers to the persons spoken about. The corresponding plural forms are **we/wir, you/ihr or *Sie, they/sie*.**

Personal pronoun A **pronoun** that refers to a person or thing: **he/she/it** = *er/sie/es*

Phrasal verb A **verb** in English combined with a **preposition** or an **adverb** to have a particular meaning: **run away** = *weglaufen*

Phrase *phr(s).* A self-contained section of a **sentence** that does not contain a full **verb**

Pluperfect tense The **tense** of a **verb** that refers to something that happened before a particular point in the past: **als ich ankam, war er schon losgefahren** = *when I arrived, he had already left*

Plural *pl., Pl.* Of **nouns** etc., referring to more than one: **the trees** = *die Bäume*

Possessive adjective *poss. adj.* An **adjective** that shows possession, belonging to someone or something; **my** = *mein/meine/mein*

Possessive pronoun *poss. pron.* A **pronoun** that shows possession, belonging to someone or something: **mine** = *meiner/meine/meins*

Postpositive *postpos., nachgestellt* Placed after the word to which it relates, as **in stock** in the phrase **items in stock**

Predicate The part of a **sentence** that says something about the **subject**, e.g. **went home** in **John went home**

Predicative *pred., präd.* An **adjective** is predicative when it comes after a **verb** such as **be** or **become** in English, or after **sein** or **werden** in German: **she is beautiful** = *sie ist schön*

Prefix *pref.* A letter or group of letters added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning, as **Ge-** in **Geschrei** in German. The prefix can move from **separable verbs (anfangen)**, but stays fixed to **inseparable verbs (verlassen)**

Preposition *prep., Präp.* A word that stands in front of a **noun** or **pronoun**, relating it to the rest of the **sentence**; in German prepositions are always followed by a particular **case**, usually either the **accusative** or **dative**, but occasionally the **genitive**: **with** = *mit* (+ **dative**), **for** = *für* (+ **accusative**), **because of** = *wegen* (+ **genitive**)

Present participle *pres. p., 1. Part.* The part of a **verb** that in English ends in **-ing**, and in German adds **-d** to the **infinitive**: **asking** = *fragend*

Present tense *pres., Präs.* The **tense** of a **verb** that refers to something happening now: **I make** = *ich mache*

Pronoun *pron., Pron.* A word that stands instead of a **noun**: **he** = *er*, **she** = *sie*, **mine** = *meiner/meine/meins*

Proper noun *pr. n.* A name of a person, place, institution, etc., in English written with a capital letter at the start; **Germany, the Atlantic, Karl, Europäische Union** are all proper nouns

Reflexive pronoun *refl. pron., Reflexivpron.* A **pronoun** that goes with a **reflexive verb**: in German **mich, dich, sich, uns, euch, sich, mir, dir**

Reflexive verb *v. refl., refl. V.* A **verb** whose **object** is the same as its **subject**; in German, it is used with a **reflexive pronoun**: **du sollst dich waschen** = *you should wash yourself*

Regular verb A **verb** that follows a set pattern in its different forms

Relative pronoun *rel. pron., Relativpron.* A **pronoun** that introduces a **subordinate clause**, relating to a person or thing mentioned in the main clause: **the man who visited us** = *der Mann, der uns besucht hat*

Reported speech Another name for **Indirect speech**

Root The part of a word that has the main meaning and on which its other forms are based; **fahr-** is the root of the **verb fahren**

Sentence A sequence of words, with a **subject** and a **verb**, that can stand on their own to make a statement, ask a question, or give a command

Separable verb A **verb** with a **prefix** that can be separated from it in some **tenses**: **anfangen, ich fange an, du fängst an, anzufangen, angefangen**

Singular *sing., Sg.* Of **nouns** etc., referring to just one: **the tree** = *der Baum*

Stem The part of a **verb** to which endings are added; **fahr-** is the stem of **fahren**

Subject In a **clause** or **sentence**, the **noun** or **pronoun** that causes the action of the **verb**: **he caught the ball** = *er fing den Ball*

Subjunctive The **mood** of a **verb** that is used to express doubt or unlikelihood: **if I were to tell you that ...** = *wenn ich dir sagen würde, dass ...*

Subordinate clause A **clause** which adds information to the main clause of a **sentence** but cannot be used as a sentence by itself

Suffix *suf., Suffix.* A letter or group of letters joined to the end of a word to make another word, as **-heit** in **Schönheit**

Superlative *superl., Sup.* The form of an **adjective** or **adverb** that makes it "most" or "least": **the smallest house** = *das kleinste Haus*, **most clearly** = *am klarsten*, **least developed** = *am wenigsten entwickelt*

Tense The form of a **verb** that tells when the action takes place: present, future, imperfect, perfect, pluperfect

Transitive verb *v.t., tr. V.* A **verb** that is used with a direct object: **she read the book** = *sie las das Buch*

Verb *v., V.* A word or group of words that describes an action: **the children are playing** = *die Kinder spielen*