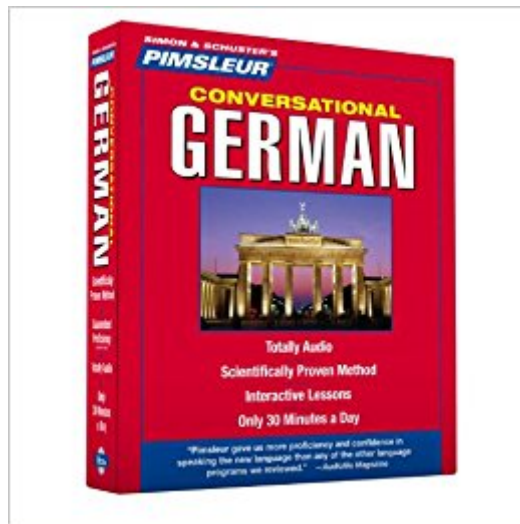


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# Pimsleur German Conversational Course - Level 1 Lessons 1-16 CD: Learn To Speak And Understand German With Pimsleur Language Programs



## Synopsis

Pimsleur® equals success. Just one 30-minute lesson a day gets you speaking and understanding like no other program. This course includes Lessons 1-16 from the German Level 1 program - 8 hours of audio-only effective language learning with real-life spoken practice sessions. Each lesson provides 30 minutes of spoken language practice, with an introductory conversation, and new vocabulary and structures. Detailed instructions enable you to understand and participate in the conversation. Practice for vocabulary introduced in previous lessons is included in each lesson. Topics include: greetings, numbers, meals, shopping, telling time, scheduling activities, and asking and giving directions. The emphasis is on pronunciation and comprehension, and on learning to speak German. Reading instruction begins in Lesson 10 to provide you with an introduction to reading German. A Reading Booklet PDF must be downloaded. The German Language German is the official language of Germany and Austria and is one of the official languages of Switzerland. It is also an official language in Belgium, Lichtenstein, and Luxembourg. Nearly 100 million people speak German as their first language: about 77 million in Germany, 8 million in Austria, and 4.5 million in Switzerland.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Pimsleur programs provide plenty of positive reinforcement that will keep learners on track, and we found that Pimsleur gave us more proficiency and confidence in speaking the new language than any of the other language programs we reviewed." -- AudioFile Magazine"EXTREMELY

ACCESSIBLE...each section within the lessons is short enough to hold our attention, and there is enough repetition to teach even those who consider themselves slow learners...Pimsleur [programs] are extremely thorough and easy to use -- quite lively!" -- Boston Herald"Learn French while commuting, German while jogging, Spanish (or Russian, Italian, and Japanese) while cooking all with NO WRITTEN MATERIALS!" -- New York Daily News"Designed for the ear and not the eye...the lessons provide PERFECT 30-minute bites of work." -- St Louis Post-Dispatch"Learn to habla espaÑol or parlez franÃ§ais before your next trip aboard. The interactive LESSONS CHALLENGE STUDENTS to use new words in conversation instead of memorize them." -- American Way (American Airlines inflight magazine)"I tried other language programs with little success...This is the best by far!" -- Pamela A. Mitchell, Pilot, International Society of Women Airline Pilots

Dr. Paul Pimsleur devoted his life to language teaching and testing and was one of the world's leading experts in applied linguistics. After years of experience and research, Dr. Pimsleur developed The Pimsleur Method based on two key principles: the Principle of Anticipation and a scientific principle of memory training that he called "Graduated Interval Recall." This Method has been applied to the many levels and languages of the Pimsleur Programs.

The company I worked for had its primary manufacturing facility located in Germany, and though most of my German colleagues spoke good English, I always felt at a disadvantage in meetings when they reverted to discussing amongst themselves in German. I also felt that it was unfair that they were REQUIRED to speak English fluently (since they worked for a company with U.S. headquarters), however we were not required to learn any German. I purchased this introductory level course, and used it during my commute to work. Each CD is ~30 minutes, which I found is a practical limit for the amount of foreign language practice that you can absorb in one session. After my long 10-12 work days, I found that I couldn't muster sufficient concentration to do the course on the way home. Within a matter of weeks, I was able to greet my colleagues in their native language, though we soon had to revert to English to conduct our business. Eventually, I could carry on slightly longer conversations in German, and during my trips to Dresden I was actually able to converse enough to order a glass of wine or beer, order from menus, and to tell store clerks that I spoke only a little Deutsch. The Pimsleur method focuses on mastering the spoken language in a natural German accent. My colleagues actually commented that I spoke German without an American accent, and I took that as high praise. If you are trying to pronounce German words that

you are reading in print, you will definitely apply American English pronunciation patterns, which will be difficult to eradicate later when you hear the proper German pronunciation. There is no exposure to the written language in the Pimsleur system. It would be nice if there was at least a vocabulary book that showed you what the words look like in German. From time to time, I was copied on an e-mail written in German, and wished that I had had more exposure to German word spellings. They don't all look like they sound ! I didn't know how well the Pimsleur system would work for me, so I only purchased the Conversational program. I wish I had purchased the Level I program instead. In summary, the Pimsleur method works ! If you can devote 15-30 minutes a day to practicing, you will be conversant in no time at all.

My last German language experience was the three years I took in high school back in 1969. The German language has always fascinated me and lately my wife and I have discussed taking a trip to Germany and I looked around until I found this course to help me brush up on the language. The technique works. I was amazed at how fast what I had learned 38 years ago came back to me. Even had I not remembered any German, the lessons would still have been easy to learn. However, some lessons you will probably have to listen to a couple of times to be sure you master at least 80% of the lesson. This particular short course is good for one reason and that is to see if you want to learn the German language, never having studied it before. It's an inexpensive way to "get your feet wet". However, if you already know you that want to learn enough to get you past ordering food, asking directions or dealing with vendors, get Level I of the Pimsleur comprehensive course. This Conversational German course is the same as the first 16 lessons of the 30-lesson Level I course. I wish I had discovered that before I ordered this shorter course but that's my fault.

I am going to Germany & Austria for two weeks. Second time. I also had two years of high school German 35-years ago and so had a latent knowledge of conjugations, grammar and some vocabulary. I chose an audio course rather than phrase books because book learning the language did not seem the best route for a tourist. Before arriving this time, I wanted my ears tuned up. I did get through the 16 half-hour units of Pimsleur: German conversation. This brand is completely audio on these early units. The method uses a particular style of repetition that requires you to both mimic the voice actors and answer simple questions posed by the narrator. Although there is repetition, it's important to characterize it as "revisits". The Pimsleur theory is that words repeated too much lose their meaning and the brain tunes repetition out. Instead it revisits, typically in the form of a question, at ever increasing intervals. Just when your brain thinks it's ok to delete from short term memory,

you're confronted. This seems to not only establish a particular object in memory but also strengthens the brains skill or mechanisms for recalling what is almost out of reach. This method plus format does not produce deep vocabulary or grammar within the 16 lessons, but its good for training your brains ability to deal with the audio portion of language. It works for me. Typically in a unit, on the first pass I would feel like an observer, struggling to overhear a conversation between the two actors. Then the next day, without any additional effort, I would find that my audio processing had been rewired enough that I felt inside the conversation rather than outside. There was this delay to get rewired, but the results were satisfying. To pick up vocabulary and grammar, yes you will need to supplement this with flash cards and books. My understanding is that Pimsleur's follow on units have some written content. I'm also not done with Pimsleur. Next Italian, then Cantonese.

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