

Thema 1: STUDENT/IN

Communicative Goals: In this unit, you will focus on your life as a student. Specifically, you will

- present basic biographical information about yourself (e.g., name, age, birthplace, address);
- describe your daily routine as a student;
- discuss your class schedule and subjects of interest to you;
- describe your possible career plans;
- describe your living situation, eating habits and preferences, and wardrobe.

Cultural Knowledge: This unit will expose you to certain aspects of university life in the German-speaking world, such as eating habits, living options, and courses of study. You will also learn about the German educational system and the success that different societal groups have in the system. You will also become familiar with how young Germans might spend a typical week when in school.

Genres: You will study graphs and figures, read personal stories and descriptions about how students in the German-speaking world live.

Structures: At the end of the unit, you will have familiarized yourself with

- present tense verb conjugation
- the nominative and accusative case
- gender and number of nouns
- word order
- question formation
- negation

Approaches: It is important that you relax and expose yourself to as much German as possible. There will be moments early on when the language will seem very foreign to you, but you want to be patient and gradually get used to hearing and using the language. Whether you listen to your instructor or read short texts, go for global understanding. At this point, you need to understand only the general gist; do not insist on understanding every.

Make good use of your time outside of class studying the relevant vocabulary and grammar (i.e., not just looking over the material). Class time will be spent on both of these areas as well, but that will not be enough time for you to get a firm grasp of the material. Make a point of reviewing class material each day and look to build up an arsenal of expressions that you are comfortable using to talk about your life as a student.

For each class make sure that you make the most out of all your partner work, that you come to class fully prepared, and that you participate energetically.

Assessment: At the end of this unit, there will be a 50-minute test and a take-home writing assignment consisting of two drafts. In addition, your instructor might choose to give short in-class quizzes to test your understanding of specific topics.

Thema 2: HOBBYIST/IN

Communicative Goals: In this unit, you will focus on talking about yourself as someone who has interests and pursuits beyond the classroom and your studies. Specifically, you will

- learn to talk about your hobbies and your interest in outdoor activities during different times of the year and weather conditions
- learn to talk about the role that sports play in your life
- learn to talk about organizations and clubs that you belong to
- learn to talk about evening activities that you enjoy
- learn to talk about your part-time work experiences and spending habits
- describe your professional interests and the type of workplace you would like

Cultural Knowledge: This unit will expose you to how free time is spent in the German-speaking world, which sports are popular, which current global issues interest German students, and what is important to Germans regarding their future careers. You will also hear and read a classic German *Wanderlied* (hiking song).

Genres: You will study graphs and figures, listen to a *Wanderlied* as well as read personal stories and interviews about how young adults in the German-speaking world spend their time.

Structures: At the end of the unit, you will have familiarized yourself with

- the dative case
- accusative, dative, and 2-way prepositions
- dependent word order
- modal verbs

Approaches: Whether in class listening to your instructor or reading a text, focus first and foremost on the general meaning of the message. Pay attention to what the text is trying to do (e.g., describe, persuade, explain) and see if you can't identify some examples of how this is being done. There will be some words in the texts that you will not understand. Do not let that worry you, but try to get the gist/the most important information from the text without insisting on understanding everything -- this is an extremely important precondition for "getting into" German.

Continue to spend time outside of class studying (i.e., not just reading passively) the relevant vocabulary and grammar. Class time will be spent on both of these areas as well, but that will not be enough time for you to get a firm grasp of the material. Make a point of reviewing class material each day and look to build up an arsenal of expressions that you are comfortable using to talk about how you use your time.

For each class make sure that you make the most out of all your partner work, that you come to class fully prepared, and that you participate energetically. This will give you ample opportunities to practice, and repractice, and repractice the new materials!

Assessment: Roughly halfway through the unit, there will be a short (5 minute) interview with your instructor outside of class. At the end of this unit, there will be a 50-minute test and a take-home writing assignment consisting of two drafts. In addition, your instructor might choose to give short in-class quizzes to test your understanding of specific topics.

Thema 3: FAMILIENMITGLIED

Communicative Goals: In this unit, you will focus on talking about your role as a family member. Specifically, you will

- learn to talk about your family and your relatives, their biographical information, and their interests
- learn to talk about your relationship to particular members of your family
- learn to talk about family traditions and celebrations
- learn to talk about your childhood in your family, including childhood celebrations, childhood trips, childhood privileges and constraints

Cultural Knowledge: This unit will expose you to how families are configured in the German-speaking world and which holidays and celebrations are popular. You will also read two classic texts involving children and a poem by one of the great German poets of the 20th century.

Genres: You will study graphs and figures, read a poem, listen to and read a ballad, and read a classic children's story, all about families and relationships.

Structures: At the end of the unit, you will have familiarized yourself with

- the genitive case
- genitive prepositions
- the present perfect tense
- the imperfect tense of modal verbs and 'sein' and 'haben'
- ordinal numbers
- the imperative mood

Approaches: You are getting to the point where you are starting to feel somewhat comfortable about talking and writing about basic, everyday topics. You will get a chance to practice these again in the 3rd person when you talk about family members. When you learn the past tense, you will also review the many expressions that you have been practicing all semester, only this time you will need to put the expressions in the past tense.

You will be asked to spend more time outside of class reading the texts assigned in this unit. They will receive full attention in class, but you will also be expected to start making some sense of them on your own. Pay attention to what the text is trying to do (e.g., describe, persuade, explain) and see if you can't identify some examples of how this is being done. There will be some words in the texts that you will not understand. Do not let that worry you, but try to get the gist/the most important information from the text without insisting on understanding everything. Also, once the text has been discussed more thoroughly in class, look to note specific vocabulary or phrases that you might be able to recycle in your own language production.

Continue to spend time outside of class studying (i.e., not just reading passively) the relevant vocabulary and grammar. Class time will be spent on both of these areas as well, but that will not be enough time for you to get a firm grasp of the material. Make a point of reviewing class material each day and look to build up an arsenal of expressions that you are comfortable using to talk about how you use your time.

Assessment: At the end of this unit, there will be a take-home writing assignment consisting of two drafts. In addition, your instructor might choose to give short in-class quizzes to test your understanding of

specific topics, particularly past participles. There is no unit test for this unit; rather, your knowledge of this unit will be tested on the written and oral final exams.