

Thema 4: KONSUMENT/IN

Communicative Goals: In this unit, you will focus on exploring your role as a consumer in contemporary society. Specifically, you will

- describe your expenditures, income sources, and general monetary needs as a student;
- explain how you might have managed your finances differently in the past;
- discuss your wishes and desires as a consumer;
- describe where and what you buy and the significance of those purchases for larger global issues;
- describe how much time and money you invest in your health and health care;
- discuss your use, views, and relationship to money

Cultural Knowledge: This unit will expose you to how students in the German-speaking world receive and allocate money, how some German pop musicians thematize money, how different social groups in Germany approach money, how young Germans view organic and fair-trade products, how young Germans view the importance of money in their lives, and how health care functions in German society. You will also read two classic older tales about the role of money and wealth in society.

Genres: You will study graphs and figures, listen to two pop songs, read interviews with how young adults in the German-speaking world view money, and read a fairy tale and a “calendar story”.

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

- the subjunctive mood
- *da-* and *wo-*compounds
- the simple or narrative past tense
- infinitive clauses

In addition, you will have reviewed closely the previously learned structures:

- the present perfect tense
- the imperative mood
- two-way prepositions
- reflexive verbs
- verbs that require a dative object

Approaches: At the start of the semester you might feel a bit rusty after the long winter break, but you will find that all that you learned last semester will come back as long as you prepare thoroughly for each class and review those topics that give you difficulty. At the end of last semester you had reached a point where you were starting to gain confidence in your ability to express yourself about the topics discussed in class. This unit will introduce some new structures and topics, but you will find that you will use much that you learned last semester and, in some cases, you will be asked to review very closely some of the grammar introduced last semester. This approach reflects the belief in the German Department that language learning is a long-term process and that material learned at some earlier point for one topic most likely needs to be reviewed if it is to be used effectively in discussing a new topic.

In the second half of the unit, you will spend more time reading texts both inside and outside of class. 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.

Time outside of class needs to be used effectively to learn 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 your role as a consumer.

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, repractice, and repractice the new materials!

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 5: REISENDE/R

Communicative Goals: In this unit, you will focus on exploring your role as a traveler and tourist. Specifically, you will

- describe major sights and geographical features of the German-speaking world;
- describe different modes of transportation;
- describe the characteristics of a city;
- give and receive directions within a locale;
- describe trips you have taken or would like to take;
- discuss reasons for travel and immigration

Cultural Knowledge: This unit will expose you to some of the geographical and sightseeing highlights of the German-speaking world. In addition, you will learn about the travel preferences of German speakers and their views on traveling versus staying at home. You will also read about why Germany is a destination for illegal immigrants and how travel is portrayed in a popular children's book.

Genres: You will study graphs and figures, visit travel-related websites, read interviews with how young adults view travel and immigration, and read a popular children's story.

Structures: In this unit you will spend a good deal of time describing nouns. For that reason, at the end of the unit you will have familiarized yourself with

- relative clauses
- adjective endings
- adjectives as nouns
- comparative and superlative forms of adjectives

In addition, you will have reviewed closely the previously learned structures:

- the present perfect tense
- the imperfect tense
- two-way prepositions

Approaches: The approach to language learning in this unit follows the pattern established last semester and in the last unit. You will be asked to read up on grammar and vocabulary in the textbook before class

and then come to class ready to use those forms in meaningful situations related to the thematic focus of the unit. You are not expected to “master” the forms before class, but gaining some familiarity with the concepts is expected. Once those forms have been practiced in class, you will be asked to practice them on worksheets that integrate the new forms with specific content. There will be a lot of recycling and revisiting of the forms over the course of the unit, so you will get plenty of exposure to the forms, but to be successful you will also need to study those forms consistently and conscientiously outside of class. Exposure and practice in class is not enough. Not only is language learning a long-term process, but it is also hard work! We will continue reading texts both inside and outside of class, and you should view the texts not only as an introduction to German-speaking culture but also as wonderful sources for specific vocabulary or phrases that you might be able to appropriate for your own language production.

Assessment: At the end of this unit, there will be a 50-minute test and a take-home writing assignment consisting of two drafts. Your instructor might choose to give short in-class quizzes to test your understanding of specific topics. In addition, there will be a mid-term speaking task roughly halfway through the unit. This speaking event will take place outside of class.

Thema 6: STAATSBÜRGER/IN

Communicative Goals: In this unit, you will focus on exploring your role as a person who belongs and has allegiances to places, people, and institutions. Specifically, you will

- describe and explain where you feel at home;
- describe moments when you have been without a sense of belonging;
- discuss the advantages and disadvantages of city vs. country life and where you are most likely to feel at home;
- discuss the counter-intuitive appeal of locations that at first glance do not seem very attractive;
- describe a sense of belonging to a place in the face of numerous outside influences that have the potential of rendering that place insignificant;
- formulate your own notion of where you are at home.

Cultural Knowledge: This unit will expose you to culturally and historically loaded notion of “Heimat.” You will trace how different German speakers have conceptualized this idea at different times in German history. You will listen to three songs on this topic by famous post-war German musicians.

Genres: You will read definitions, personal narratives, pop songs, interviews with Germans about their notions of *Heimat*.

Structures: In this unit you will call upon much of the grammar that you have studied all year. In particular, you will continue to work on developing your ability to extend and expand your sentence structure by reviewing

- relative clauses
- adjective endings
- comparative forms of adjectives
- subordinating and coordinating conjunctions

Approaches: This last unit of the year serves to summarize both the themes and structures that you have studied all year. By focusing on the notion of “Heimat” and belonging, you will re-examine the different roles that you have explored all year in order to articulate where you feel at home, particularly after a long year away from one would normally consider “home.” More so than any other unit this year, you will be asked to read texts outside of class and come to class with a general understanding of the basic message

of the texts. Worksheets to accompany the reading will assist you in working through the text outside of class. In addition, because discussing your notion of “Heimat” will require more sophisticated thinking on your part, you will be asked to draw on a range of conjunctions and other structural devices to form more complex sentences. This more complex sentence structure will allow you to practice further the different grammatical topics that you have focused on during the year. We will also continue to view the texts not only as an introduction to German-speaking culture but also as wonderful sources for specific vocabulary or phrases that you might be able to appropriate for your own language production.

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