

Welcome to Crystal Hunters!

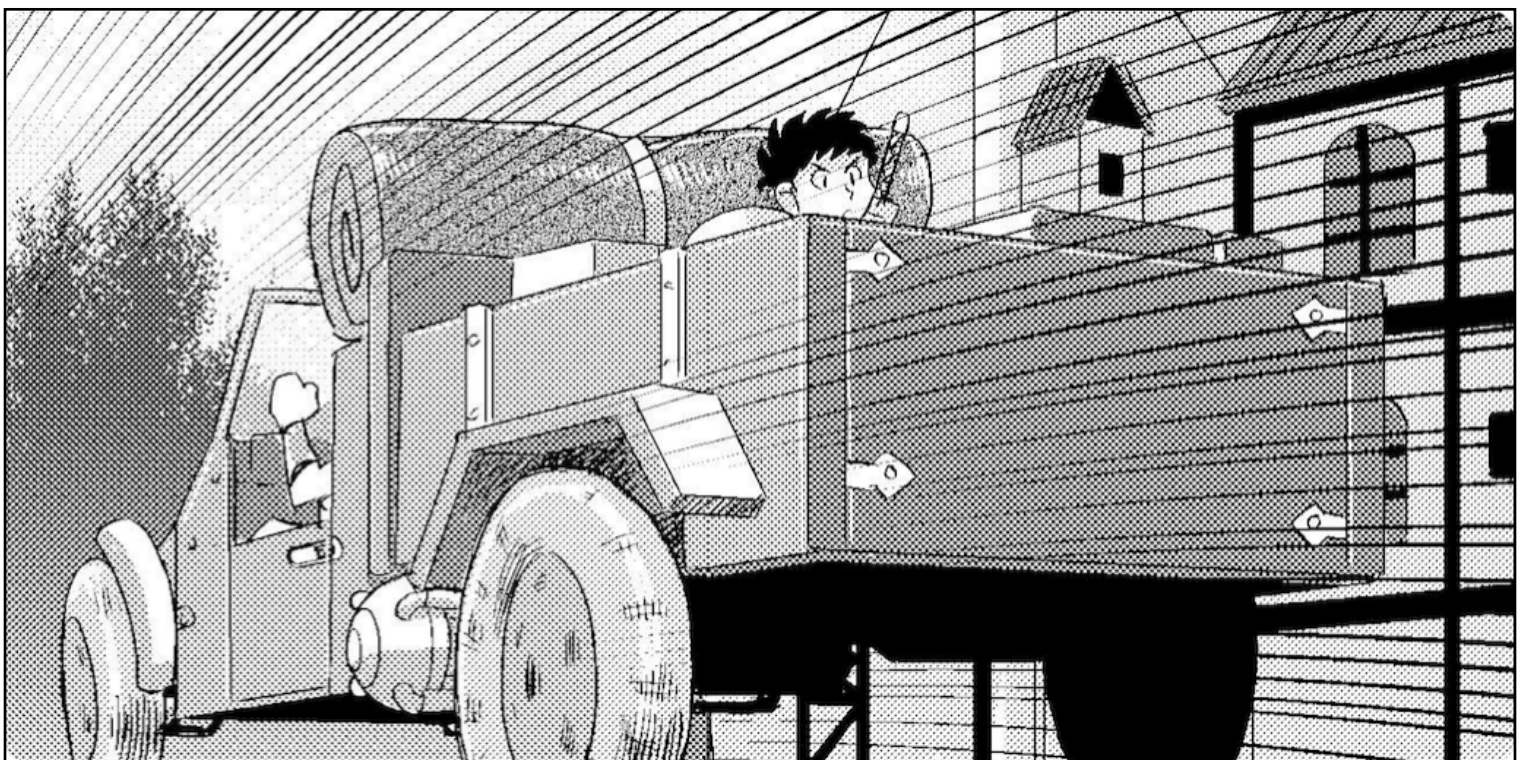
We are the world's first epic manga created for the express purpose of learning German from zero. Our goal is to translate this manga into as many languages as we can (including the sci-fi and fantasy ones!) so that anyone can learn to read this awesome manga in any language they want in a very short amount of time.

According to the Foreign Service Institute, German is a moderately easy language for native English speakers to learn since they're both "Germanic" languages. Even if you are learning from zero, we believe you can read the first 100+ pages of Crystal Hunters in a weekend if you study at a brisk pace, or maybe in an afternoon if you blitz it. So clear your schedule for the day and join us for a fantastical adventure that will give you a sense of accomplishment for life.



Reading in German

Let's jump in! German is a much more phonetically consistent language than English, which means that words are generally pronounced exactly as they're spelled, so you'll be able to pronounce most words without any problem.



The Alphabet

The German alphabet is very similar to the English alphabet. There are only four extra letters: Ä, Ö, Ü, ß.

How to Pronounce Letters in German

Each letter usually only has one sound, although a select few have two or three sounds. Let's go through the alphabet real quick.

a - like the 'a' in father

b - same as in English

c - same as in English, usually sounds like a 'k'

d - same as in English

e - like the 'e' in set; when at the end of a word, it will often be pronounced more like "eh" or the 'e' in "hey"

f - same as in English

g - same as in English

h - same as in English

i - usually pronounced like the "ee" in "peek;"

- sometimes pronounced like the 'i' in "chill"

j - pronounced like the 'y' in "yes"

- for some English origin words it is pronounced the same as in English

k - same as in English

l - same as in English but a little harder

m - same as in English

n - same as in English

o - pronounced like "oh"

p - same as in English

q - pronounced like a 'k'

r - we don't have this sound in English. Explained below.

s - usually pronounced like a 'z' when followed by a vowel or at the end of a word

- usually pronounced like a "sh" when followed by a consonant

- pronounced like the "ss" in "hiss" when followed by an 's'

t - same as in English

u - pronounced like the "oo" in pool



v - pronounced like the 'f' in fan
w- pronounced like the 'v' in van
x - pronounced like "ks"
y - pronounced like the "oo" in pool
z - pronounced like "ts"
ä - pronounced like the 'e' in "set"
ö - we don't have this sound in English. Explained below.
ü - we don't have this sound in English. Explained below.
ß - this symbol simply stands for two of the letter "s" and should be pronounced like the "ss" in "hiss"



Letter Combinations and Sounds We Don't Have in English

Vowels

ai - pronounced like "eye"
au - pronounced like "ow"
ei - pronounced like "eye"
ie - pronounced like the "ee" in "feet"
*Tip: when pronouncing "ei" or "ie" you say the name of the letter that comes last
eu - pronounced like "oy"
äu - pronounced like "oy"
ö - pronounced making an "ay" sound in the your front of the mouth (instead of the back where we normally say it). Also touch your tongue to the back of your bottom teeth and make your lips into an 'O' or whistle shape. The resulting sound should sound fairly different from "ay", but is relatively similar to how 'ü' sounds, although 'ü' has a slightly higher sound.
- in an unstressed syllable, 'ö' gets reduced to a much shorter sound. We do similar reductions in English.
*For example: the 2nd 'o' in choc(o)late, or the 'i' in b(i)rd.
ü - pronounced by making an "ee" sound in the front of your mouth with your tongue touching your teeth, and making your lips into an 'O' or whistle shape. It ends up sounding a bit like "oo" in English, but higher.

Consonants

ch - pronounced like the 'h' in "huge," kind of like a cat hissing sound

dt - pronounced like 't'

kn - pronounced like "kn," there's no silent "k"

pf - pronounced like "pf," there is no silent "p"

r - sometimes 'r' is pronounced like a rolling 'r' in the back of your throat. Almost like gargling. You want your uvula – the little thing in the back of your throat - to vibrate.

- But 'r' can also be much softer when it comes after a vowel. This usually happens to 'r' when 'er' is at the end of a word, but can also happen after any vowel if the vowel+'r' pair is not followed by a vowel or another 'r' (though there are exceptions). When 'r' changes like this, it sounds more like the British "r" pronunciation, which is similar to "ah", "eh", "oh", or "uh" depending on the vowel before it.

*For example: the 'r's in "monster" and "horn" are soft, but both 'r's in "traurig" (sad) are hard.

sch - pronounced like "sh"

th - pronounced like "t", but in some compound words you pronounce both the 't' and the 'h' as individual letters.

*For example: "dorthin" is pronounced like "dort-hin"

tsch - pronounced like how we say "ch" in English

qw - pronounced like "kv"



German Stress

Like English, German also stresses certain syllables in their words. Luckily, stress in German is pretty easy and the stress is almost always placed on the first syllable of the word. The only exceptions to this are:

1. Words of foreign origin are normally pronounced and stressed in the same way as their native language.
2. Words beginning with certain prefixes, such as "be-" are stressed on the root of the word. Example: Benutzen
3. Words containing "hin" are stressed on the first syllable of the second element. Example: dorthin

Vocabulary List

Note: unless otherwise specified, the first word of each line is the root word. Words following the root word in italics are conjugations or other forms of the root word, and words following in parentheses are plural forms of nouns and pronouns.

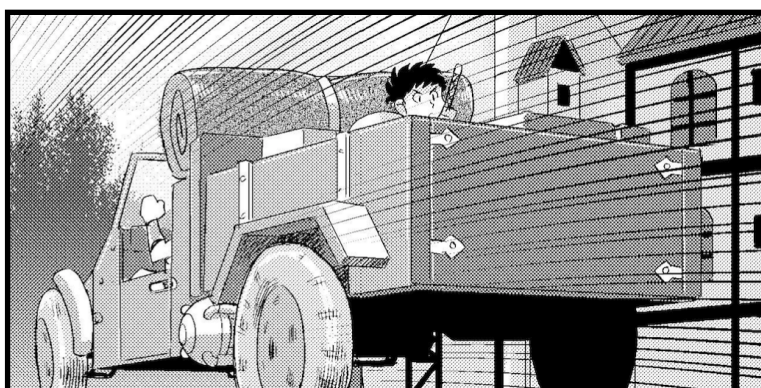
Chapter 1		
German Word	Gender	Meaning in English
aber		but
AHHH!		AHHH!
auch		also
Bansom		Bansom [character]
Baum (Bäume)	masculine	tree(s)
benutzen / <i>benutzt</i>		to use
<i>bin / bist</i> [conjugations of sein]		to be
bitte		here you go / please / you're welcome
da		there*
danke		thank you
das		this / that*
dein		your*
denken / <i>denkt</i>		to think
der / <i>das / dem</i>		the*
dich		you [direct object of the sentence]
dieser / <i>diese / dieses</i>		this / that / these / those*
dorthin		there / to there*
du		you [subject of the sentence]
dürfen / <i>darf / darfst</i>		to be allowed / may
ein / <i>eine / einem / einen</i>		a / an*
fallen / <i>fällt</i>		to fall
froh		happy
gehen / <i>geht</i>		to go
Geld	neutral	money [usually singular]
haben / <i>habe / hast / hat</i>		to have
hallo		hello
halten / <i>hält</i>		to stop
heißen / <i>heiße</i>		to be called / to be named
hier		here
ich		I
in		in
<i>ist</i> [conjugation of sein]		to be
ja		yes

Chapter 1		
German Word	Gender	Meaning in English
jetzt		now
Jäger (Jäger)	masculine	hunter(s)
Kal		Kal [character]
Kapitel (Kapitel)	neutral	chapter(s)
kein / <i>keine</i>		none / not any / no*
kennenzulernen		to get to know
können / <i>kann</i> / <i>kannst</i>		to be able / can
Kristall (Kristalle)	masculine	crystal(s)
laufen / <i>läuft</i>		to run
Leute		people [only plural]
LKW (LKW) - pronounced like "el-kah-vay"	masculine	truck(s)
Mann (Männer)	masculine	man (men)
Maschine (Maschinen)	feminine	machine(s)
mein / <i>meine</i> / <i>meinem</i> / <i>meinen</i>		my
Monster (Monster) -pronounced the same as in English, but with a softer "r"	neutral	monster(s)
mögen / <i>mag</i>		to like
nein		no
nicht		no / not*
OK -pronounced the same as in English		OK
Schlag (Schläge)	masculine	punch(es)
schlagen / <i>schlag</i>		to hit / to punch
Schwert (Schwerte)	neutral	sword(s)
schön		nice / fine
sehen / <i>sehe</i> / <i>siehst</i> / <i>sieht</i>		to see
sein / <i>sind</i> / <i>bin</i> / <i>bist</i> / <i>ist</i>		to be
<i>sein</i> / <i>seine</i>		his
sie		she / her / they / them
Team (Teams) -pronounced the same as in English	neutral	team(s)
traurig		sad
und		and
warum		why
was		what
wer		who
wissen / <i>weiß</i>		to know
wir		we
wo		where
wollen / <i>will</i> / <i>willst</i>		to want
zu		to

Chapter 2		
German Word	Gender	Meaning in English
<i>benutze</i> [conjugation of benutzen]		to use
<i>deine</i> [form of dein]		your
<i>die / den</i> [forms of der]		the
Frau (Frauen)	feminine	woman (women)
<i>geh</i> [conjugation of gehen]		to go
<i>halt</i> [conjugation of halten]		to stop
<i>ihr / ihre</i>		her / their [possessive pronoun]
Kraft/ (Kräfte)	feminine	power
Kristallen [form of Kristalle]		crystals
<i>lauf</i> [conjugation of laufen]		to run
<i>neu / neue</i>		new
Pfeil (Pfeile)	masculine	arrow(s)
<i>seinem</i> [form of sein]		his
Subasa		Subasa [character]
tschüss		bye

Chapter 3		
German Word	Gender	Meaning in English
Devan		Devan [character]
Haus (Häuser)	neutral	house(s)
<i>heißt</i> [conjugation of heißen]		to be called / to be named
Horn (Hörner)	neutral	horn(s)
<i>ihren</i> [form of ihr]		her / their [possessive pronoun]
Knites -pronounced like in English with a silent “k”, long “i” and silent “e”.		Knites (character)
mich		me
Schwanz (Schwänze)	masculine	tail(s)
Stadt (Städte)	feminine	city (cities)
Qualia		Qualia [city]
wie		how

**means there will be further clarification in the sections below.*



Changelings Part 1 – Verb Conjugations

German words like to change! Different situations require different forms for them.

That said, verbs are not the most complicated of the German changers and are pretty easy to get a handle on. We only have a total of 5 kinds of verb conjugations in Crystal Hunters (plus one super irregular verb), so learning them won't be hard at all.

Present Tense

And what better way to start going over the 5 types of verb conjugations in Crystal Hunters, than to master the first 4 of those in the present tense.

In German, almost all verbs end in “en”, although there are a few exceptions. We only have one exception in Crystal Hunters (the super irregular one), and we'll get to that in a bit. For now though, just know that there are both regular verbs which follow the rules, and irregular verbs which desire to make our lives more difficult and do their own thing.

Regular Verbs

Regular verbs all follow the exact same rules, so while we need to learn the rules, you can apply these across all regular verbs (and to some extent most irregular verbs too), which is pretty nice.

Conjugating is based on who the subject of the sentence is. So, depending on who the sentence is about, the present tense conjugation of the sentence changes. The six different categories of subject are:



First person singular ("I") "ich"	First person plural ("We") "wir"
Second person singular ("You") "du"	Second person plural ("You all")*
Third person singular ("She")* "sie"	Third person plural ("They")* "sie"

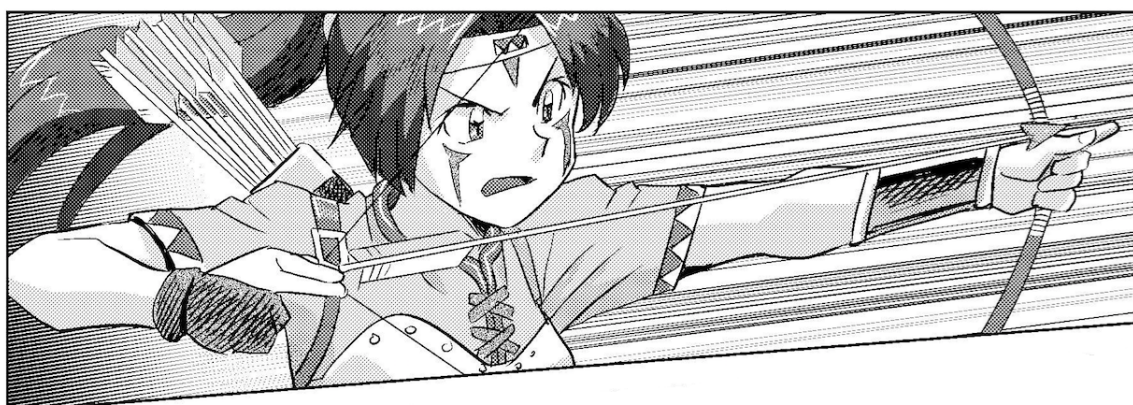
**Note: We only added German pronouns which appear in Crystal Hunters. There are other pronouns which fit in these categories. Also, yes, "she" and "they" are the same word in German ("sie").*

Although there are six categories of subject, we're only going to deal with 4! For both the "We" and the "They" categories you don't have to conjugate the verb! They stay exactly the same as the dictionary form. Not only that, but two of the conjugations are the same, so we're actually only dealing with 3 conjugations for regular verbs. Even easier!

To make these three types of conjugations, chop off the -en ending of the dictionary form of the verb, and then add the appropriate ending based on the subject.

Using our chart from before, it looks like this:

+ "e"	XXXX
+ "st" (or only + "t" if preceded by "s", "z", or "ß")	+ "t" (or + "et" if preceded by "d" or "t")
+ "t" (or + "et" if preceded by "d" or "t")	XXXX



We use a total of 4 regular verbs in Crystal Hunters, and here are the completed charts for each of them.



“benutzen” (to use)

benutze	benutzen
benutzt	benutzt
benutzt	benutzen

“denken” (to think)

denke	denken
denkst	denkt
denkt	denken

“gehen” (to go)

gehe	gehen
gehst	geht
geht	gehen

“heißen” (to be called / to be named)

heiße	heißen
heißt	heißt
heißt	heißen

The Half Irregulars

The vast majority of German verbs are regular, but the more common the word, the more likely it is to be irregular. Since Crystal Hunters primarily uses very common words, the large majority of our verbs (11 of 16) are half irregulars.

But as the name implies, a conjugation half irregular isn’t totally irregular, so not everything will need to be learned from scratch. In fact, all of the half irregulars’ plural conjugations (“we”, “you all”, “they”) are all regular.

It's only their singular conjugations that might be irregular. Not only that, but there are a lot of conjugations for these verbs that Crystal Hunters just doesn't use, so don't worry about immediately cramming all of these into your memory.

Here are the charts for all 11 of our half irregular verbs, and we've highlighted the conjugations which are irregular. The white boxes are all rule-following conjugations.

"dürfen" (to be allowed / may)

darf	dürfen
darfst	dürft
darf	dürfen

"fallen" (to fall)

falle	fallen
fällst	fallt
fällt	fallen

"haben" (to have)

habe	haben
hast	habt
hat	haben

"halten" (to stop)

halte	halten
hältst	haltet
hält	halten



“können” (to be able / can)

kann	können
kannst	könnt
kann	können

“laufen” (to run)

laufe	laufen
läufst	läuft
läuft	laufen

“mögen” (to like)

mag	mögen
magst	mögt
mag	mögen

“schlagen” (to punch)

schlage	schlagen
schlägst	schlägt
schlägt	schlagen

“sehen” (to see)

sehe	sehen
siehst	seht
sieht	sehen

“wissen” (to know)

weiß	wissen
weißt	wisst
weiß	wissen

“wollen” (to want)

will	wollen
willst	wollt
will	wollen



The Super Irregular

“sein” (to be)

bin	sind
bist	seid
ist	sind

“sein” is the last of our verbs in Crystal Hunters. As you can see, “sein” pretty much does what it wants, and present tense is not the only place where it basically does its own thing. It also does its own thing for some command forms, and even acts weird with some grammar forms too, so watch out for it!

Grammar in Action!

Although we haven’t finished going over all the different German conjugations in Crystal Hunters, this is a good time to take a break from those and to start learning how to use everything we’ve learned so far.

In general, German follows the same basic word order as English:
Subject -> Verb -> Object

For example:

“Kal will sein Schwert.” = “Kal wants his sword.”

(All German nouns are capitalized, not just proper nouns like in English.)



There are some differences from English though, and one of those differences is that the verb usually comes second in a German sentence. One example of this is with place and time. In English, we might put the

verb at the end of the sentence for place and time, but in German it stays in slot 2!

For example:

“Hier sind sie!” = “Here they are!”



By the way, when we say the verb comes second, we mean in terms of categories like subject/verb/object. If, for example, there is an article attached to the subject, the verb will be the third word, but still the second category.

Example:

“Der Kristall ist hier!” = “The crystal is here!”



The verb often comes second in German questions too, just like they do in English.

For example:

“Wo ist mein Geld?” = “Where is my money?”



However, yes/no questions are a bit different. German doesn't have a word like “do” which starts their yes/no questions like English does. German questions are still easy though. All you have to do is move a conjugated verb to the front.

For example:

“Siehst du das?” = “Do you see that?”



A Little Bit of This, A Little Bit of That

Before we get into the next main section, let's take a quick detour.

As you may have noticed, there are two words in the vocab list which can mean "this/that", and these words are "dieser" and "das."

The basic difference between these two is that "dieser" is used when you want to say "this/that <thing>", and "das" is used when you want to say "this/that" only.

Examples:

"Dieser Jäger ist froh." = "This/that hunter is happy."

"Das ist Geld." = "This/that is money."



A few more things to note about "dieser" and "das":

1. "Dieser" can change forms and can also be plural ("these/those"). (More detail on this in the next section.)
2. "Das" does not change forms and cannot be plural.
3. "Das" ("this/that") is not the same word as "das" ("the"). (More detail on the "the" version of "das" in the next section.)

Noun Alliances & Their Influence

Now that we've got a handle on basic grammar, let's start getting to know German nouns.

One thing you need to know about German nouns, is that they are really proud of their uniqueness. Not only are they all capitalized (as seen above), but they come in 4 different categories.

1. Masculine
2. Feminine
3. Neutral
4. Plural



Noun categories are important because they have influence over articles (a / the), and possessive pronouns (my / your/ his / her). These noun

categories wield their power to force the articles and possessive pronouns to change their forms. The articles and possessive pronouns all start in their dictionary form, but once they attach to a noun, the noun exercises its power and changes them!

Luckily though, these noun categories make alliances with each other, and knowing these alliances means we don't have to memorize as much.

The "e" alliance

The primary alliance for nouns is between Feminine and Plural. They made a simple alliance and just decided that in all basic sentences these two categories will just add "e" to the dictionary form of their article or possessive pronoun. This alliance is easy and consistent.

For example:

"Eine Frau will ihre Pfeile." = "A woman wants her arrows."

"Bansom benutzt seine Maschine." = "Bansom uses his machine."

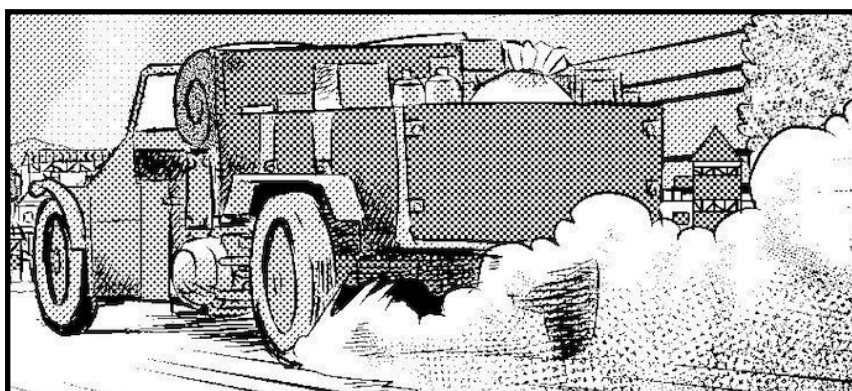
(Since "sein" = "his", it seems like "sein" should always be masculine, but it is not. The noun following it controls its gender, which makes it "seine" here.)

While the "e" alliance is very consistent in almost every instance, there is one irregularity to it, and that irregularity has to do with "der" ("the") & "dieser" ("this/that"). "Der" and "Dieser" are partners in crime and they kinda do what they want, so instead of adding an "e" to either of these, we use "die" and "diese". (But at least they still both end in "e"!)

Example:

"Die Leute wollen die Kraft." = "The people want the power."

"Ich mag diese LKW." = "I like these/those trucks."



The Tentative Dictionary Alliance

The other alliance is between Masculine and Neutral, and the best part of this alliance is that they allow articles and possessive pronouns to stay in their dictionary form. Easy for the articles and possessive pronouns, and easy for us!

Example:

“Ein Mann sieht sein Haus” = “A man sees his house.”

Again, “der” & “dieser” do their own thing here, but luckily their masculine form doesn’t change. Only their neutral forms change, and they change to “das” & “dieses”. (They like “s” in their neutral forms.)

Example:

“Der Mann benutzt das Schwert.” = “The man uses the sword.”

“Dieser Jäger schlägt dieses Monster.” = “This/that hunter punches this/that monster.”



The Men’s Club

Unfortunately, while the neutral nouns follow their alliance for everything but “der” & “dieser”, the masculine nouns make a huge break in their alliance for objects.

Yes, that’s right, although they have a 0% change rate from dictionary form for subjects, they have a 100% change rate for objects.

Luckily though, it’s super easy to remember. Masculine object nouns want their articles and possessive pronouns to look more like verbs, so they add “-en” to everything.

Examples:

“Subasa will einen LKW” = “Subasa wants a truck.”

“Hat Bansom seinen Kristall?” = “Does Bansom have his crystal.”

And of course, “der” & “dieser” do their own thing again, but they keep with the “-en” theme, so they change to “den” & “diesen”.

Example:

“Das Monster sieht den Mann.” = “The monster sees the man.”



The Super Irregular – Part 2!

Now, you may be looking at the example sentences at the beginning of the “Grammar in Action!” section, and be thinking “Hey! There is a masculine object noun (“LKV”) in those sentences! Why doesn’t it change!?”

Well, the answer to that is that while the “objects” after “sein” act like objects in terms of word placement. They act like subjects in terms of noun alliances. The reasoning for this is that “sein” acts like an equals sign, so the thing a subject is equal to should also be a subject, and not an object. (officially, these types of “sein” object words are called “complements”).

Examples:

“Das ist ihr Pfeil.” = That is her arrow. (“sein” object)

“Subasa benutzt ihren Pfeil.” = Subasa uses her arrow. (regular object)

Unfortunately, there is further craziness due to “sein” acting all selfish and doing its own thing with object nouns. However, we will cover that later in “The Super Irregular – Part 4!” section.

Alliances Review

Just to make sure that it’s easy to come back and look up all the noun alliances, here they are in review form.

Feminine & Plural -> +“e”

Neutral -> no change

Masculine (subjects + “sein” objects) -> no change

Masculine (objects) -> +“en”



And here are the many irregularities of “der” in chart form
(form changes highlighted)

	Masculine	Feminine	Neutral	Plural
Subject	der	die	das	die
Object	den	die	das	die

	Masculine	Feminine	Neutral	Plural
Subject	dieser	diese	dieses	diese
Object	diesen	diese	dieses	diese

(For a full chart with all the article and possessive pronoun forms listed, look at the end of the guide in the appendix.)

Intro to Adjectives

Adjectives are pretty crazy in German. But don’t worry, we’re going to take the easiest possible first steps on this journey to learn all about how adjectives work.

Luckily, the first step is the easiest. Sometimes when we use adjectives they aren’t attached to a noun. Instead we use them after “sein” as “sein” objects (AKA “complements”). When this happens, they just stay in their dictionary form. The noun can’t influence them because there isn’t one! Hurray for no changes!

For example:

“Ich bin froh” = “I am happy.”

“Das ist neu.” = “This is new.”



Singular Adjectives Want the “Dieser”

Singular Adjectives in German love to be with “dieser” or “der” or one of their forms. They love these two so much, that when they are not near them they wrap themselves in their memory so that they can remember what it was like when they used to be together.

Remember the “dieser” chart above? Well, singular adjectives without a “dieser” or “der” pair make additions to the end of their dictionary form identically to the “dieser” chart.

	Masculine	Feminine	Neutral
Subject	+ “er”	+ “e”	+ “es”
Object	+ “en”	+ “e”	+ “es”

Here are some examples of “dieser/der” hungry adjectives. And take note, the nouns here are influencing both the adjectives and the articles/possessive pronouns:

Examples:

“Siehst du sein trauriges Monster?” = “Do you see his sad monster?”

“Mein neuer LKW hat eine neue Maschine.” = “My new truck has a new machine.”

That’s enough about adjectives for now. Let’s keep it simple! We’ll learn more about adjectives in German in later guides as the language for Crystal Hunters gets more complicated.



With Our Powers Combined!

Let's move on to the best part of German grammar, its famous compound nouns! Making compound nouns is really easy, just take any number of nouns and stick them together to make one word!

The only things you need to keep in mind when you do this are:

1. The gender of the final noun decides the gender of the compound noun.
2. Nouns that are not the final noun should end in a consonant. As a result, sometimes the plural forms of words are used because those are the ones that end in consonants.

For example:

die Maschine(n) + der Mann = der Maschinenmann = the machine man.

You can see that the plural form for "Maschine" ("Maschinen") is used here because it ends in a consonant. Also, "Maschine" is feminine but "Maschinenmann" is masculine.

C-c-c-combo!

The number of nouns that can be added on is basically infinite, just remember the two rules above and combine away!

We only have one instance of a compound word longer than 2 words in chapters 1-3. But don't worry, we will definitely get more adventurous with our use of compound nouns as the Crystal Hunters story progresses and we up the difficulty level. For now though, here is the 3-word compound noun in chapters 1-3:

der Kristall + der Jäger + das Team = das Kristalljägerteam = the crystal hunter team



Do as I Say! Command Form Trio!

Almost done with basic grammar! Let's do commands and finish it up!

Commands in German are almost identical to the forms we've already learned, and we only need to learn 1 new conjugation even though there are 3 types of commands.

You do You

The first command form is what we consider "normal" for a command in English. Say a verb - with an implied singular "you" as the subject - to get meaning across as quickly and as forcefully as possible.

This is the last of our conjugations, and it's pretty easy. All you have to do is take the "en" off the dictionary form of the verb, and that's it!

For example:

"Lauf!" = "Run!" (talking to one person)



Directing the Masses

Now if we want to start ordering around a bunch of people at once, we need to use a different verb conjugation. But luckily, it's one we already know. Just plug in the second person plural ("you all") conjugation, and off you go!

For example:

"Haltet!" = "Stop!" (talking to multiple people)



This is a Command?

So, we've covered commands for both singular and plural, what other commands could there be? Well, in German "Let's" is considered a command form too. And honestly, it's not a command - in English or in German - but in German it behaves like one grammatically. Just roll with it, it'll be OK.

Anyway, all you have to do for the "let's" command is take the dictionary form and then add "wir" after it. Super easy!

For Example:

"Gehen wir." = "Let's go."



The Super Irregular – Part 3!

Just when everything is seeming all easy and manageable, "sein" goes and does it's own thing again. Now, we don't use "sein" this way in chapters 1-3 of Crystal Hunters, so you don't need to memorize these or anything, but we'll just list them real quick so they're there if you want to know.

The command conjugations of "sein" are: "sei", "seid", and "seien".

Examples:

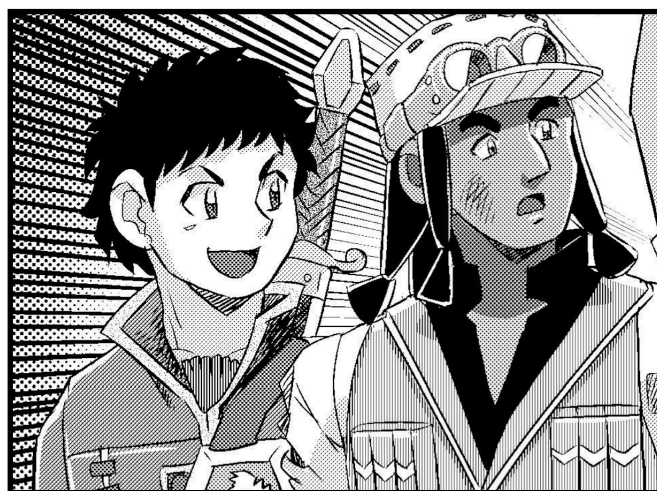
"Sei froh!" = "Be happy!" (talking to one person)

"Seid froh!" = "Be happy!" (talking to multiple people)

"Seien wir froh!" = "Let's be happy!"



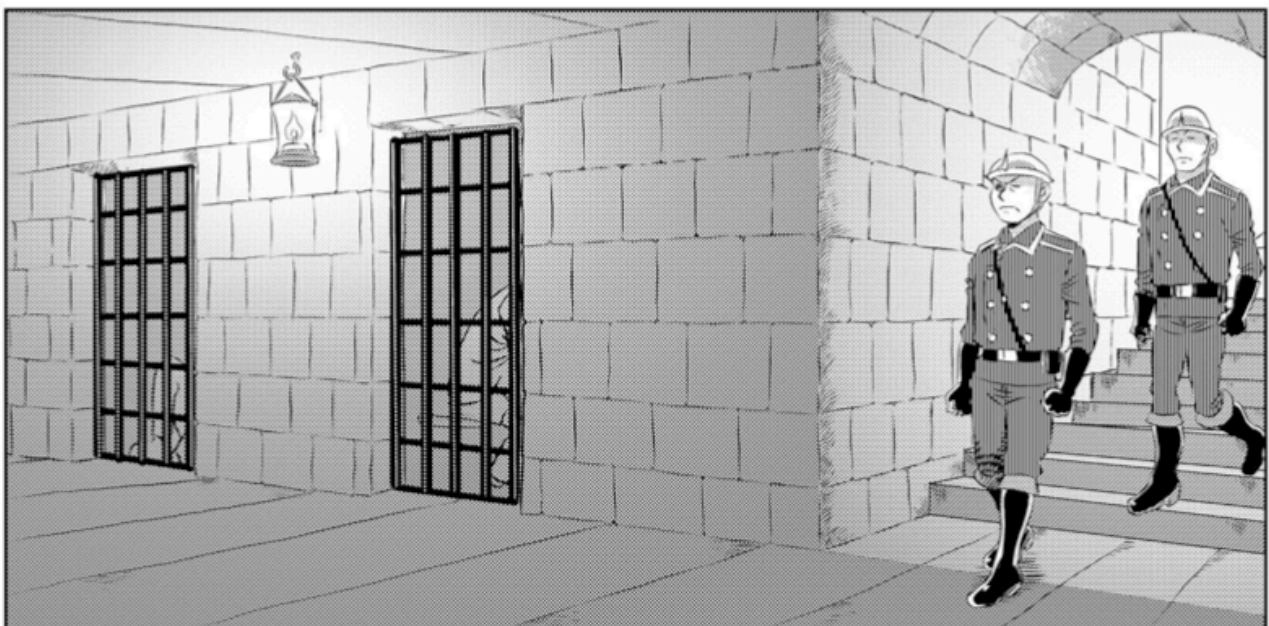
And with that covered, all the basic grammar is done! All of our verb conjugations are done too! Just a bit more and you'll be through this guide and on to the manga!



But, before we move on, we'll just leave all the command conjugations here if you want a quick reference for them:
(Irregular conjugations are highlighted)

Dictionary form	"you" form	"you all" form	"let's" form
benutzen	benutz	benutzt	benutzen
denken	denk	denkt	denken
fallen	fall	fallt	fallen
gehen	geh	geht	gehen
haben	hab	habt	haben
halten	halt	haltet	halten
heißen	heiß	heißt	heißen
laufen	lauf	lauft	laufen
schlagen	schlag	schlagt	schlagen
sehen	sieh	seht	sehen
sein	sei	seid	seien
wissen	wisse	wisst	wissen

Note: dürfen, mögen, können, and wollen can't be used as commands.





THE MAGIC LINE

We've definitely been on a German learning adventure so far in this guide, but it's about to get magical!

There is a point in German sentences that, when crossed, changes everything. This line is located directly after the object of a sentence, or if there isn't one, after the verb.

Half Negative on One Side, Half Negative on the Other

The easiest way to ease into understanding the magic line is with negatives, and this is because some negatives come before the magic line, and some negatives come after.

The first negative is "kein", and this is the negative that comes before the magic line. "Kein" looks a lot like "ein", and there is a good reason for this. "Ein" means "a/an" and has numerical value of "one". "Kein" also has a numerical value, and that number is "zero".

"Kein" also goes in the same place that articles and possessive pronouns go, and nouns add endings to it in the same way too.

Example:

"Ich sehe keine Kristalle" = "I see no crystals." = "I don't see any crystals."

"Kal hat keinen LKW." = "Kal has no truck." = "Kal doesn't have a truck."

As you can see in the examples above, we can say equivalent sentences in two different ways in English. However, making negative sentences in two ways like this is not a thing in German. When you are making a sentence where the value of an object is zero, you use "kein" or one of its forms.

It seems counterintuitive, but this also holds true for negative commands when the object has a value of zero. As English speakers, it really feels like we should be negating the verb, but in German we negate the object for these situations.



For example:

“Schlag keine Leute!” = “Punch no people!” = “Don’t punch people!”

However! If there is already an article or possessive pronoun before the noun (that is not “ein” or one of its forms), then we can’t use “kein”.

It gets too crowded and the “kein” can’t get in.



So, let’s see how we negate these other kinds of sentences with...

The Negative that Crosses the Line

For all situations where we can’t use “kein”, we use “nicht”. “Nicht” comes directly after the magic line, and unlike it’s pre-magic line counterpart, it does not change forms.

Examples:

“Ich weiß nicht.” = “I know not.” = “I don’t know.”

“Bansom hat seinen Kristall nicht.” = “Bansom does not have his crystal.”

The Super Irregular – Part 4!

It’s “sein” again! And it has come to make things harder!



As we said before, “sein” objects are not objects (they’re “complements”!), and in German, they’re considered subjects in every way but word placement. Because of this, the magic line after a “sein” verb comes directly after the verb, not the “object”.

Example:

“Ich bin nicht OK.” = “I am not OK.”

This use of “nicht” actually mirrors English word order better than regular verbs do, so although it’s an irregularity that we need to remember, at least it’s one we’re familiar with.



Crossing the Magic Line & Entering Preposition Wonderland

This is where the real magic begins. Prepositions are magicians. Prepositions use the power of the magic line to cast a spell over all articles & possessive pronouns, and even some other words. Not only that, but they break one alliance and strengthen another.

Luckily, while preposition magic is strong, its power to create is limited. Even though all of the articles and possessive pronouns change, we only need to learn one new form (and it's our last new form in this guide!) Not only that, but even the "der" forms follow the new rules for the most part! So let's do a quick run through prepositional wizardry, and then we're almost done with the tutorial and off to the manga!

A Broken Alliance & Male "Der" Envy

When the Feminine-Plural alliance crosses the magic line, prepositional wizardry casts their powerful magic and breaks their alliance! Both feminines and plurals are damaged heavily by this attack, and in attempt to bolster their defenses they each try to scavenge a new form from the strong masculine "der".

The feminines secure the "der" base, so on this side of the magic line, all feminine articles and possessive pronouns end in "er". The feminine "die" & "diese" forms return to their dictionary forms of "der" & "dieser", and everything else adds "er" to the end of their base form.

Examples:

"Bansom benutzt seine Maschine in dieser Stadt." = "Bansom uses his machine in this/that city."

"Das Monster läuft zu einer Frau." = "The monster runs to a woman."

As for the plurals, they enjoy being in numbers so they secure the men's club. They all move into the club and take on an "en" ending. Plural "die" & "diese" become "den" & "diesen", and everything else adds "en" to the end of their base form.

But that's not all! The plural nouns are really jealous of all the fun that their articles and prepositions are having in the men's club. So they half join too! In preposition wonderland, plural nouns add "n" to the end of their plural form.



Example:

"Bist du in den Bäumen?" = "Are you in the trees?"

"Subasa geht zu ihren Pfeilen." = "Subasa goes to her arrows."

A Strengthened Alliance & A New Form

Since both of the masculine form's territories have been taken by the feminines and the plurals, the masculines fully commit to their alliance with the neutrals.

Now that they are together, they use the wizardry of the prepositions to the best of their ability and they create a new form, the "em" form. The "em" form is a point of solidarity for masculines and neutrals, so "der" and "dieser" change to "dem" & "diesem", and all their other articles and possessive pronouns add "em" to the end of their base form.

Examples:

"Kal läuft zu dem Mann." = "Kal runs to the man."

"Bansom ist nicht in seinem LKW." = "Bansom isn't in his truck."

You have now learned all of your article and possessive pronoun forms for this guide! Congratulations! You're almost to the end!

(By the way, if you want to quick check all the article and possessive pronoun forms, look at the end of this guide in the appendix.)



Magic Line Immunity

In some situations, there are prepositions that choose not to cast their magic. And the reason for this is that some German prepositions are pulling double shifts.

In English, we can be “in” a truck, or we can go “into” a truck. However, in German there is only “in” for both of these situations, there is no “into”. So, in order to distinguish these two meanings of the German “in”, German uses magic line magic with the “in” meaning, but not with the “into” meaning.

Since the “into” use of “in” doesn’t cast any magic, the articles and possessive pronouns act like they do with objects.

Examples:

“Ich gehe in diesen LKW.” = “I go into this/that truck.”

“Ich bin in diesem LKW.” = “I am in this/that truck.”



The Word That Changes

As you have just seen, adding the meaning of “to” to “in” caused a disturbance in the magic. Unfortunately, “in” is not the only victim of “to”. “There” can also be one of its victims.

When we add the meaning of “to” to “there”, magic happens and we get the word “dorthin”.

Examples:

“Da sind die Kristalle.” = “There are the crystals.”

“Gehen wir dorthin.” = “Let’s go to there.” = “Let’s go there.”



German Language Quirks

Last section!! Just skim this quick and go read the manga!!

It's not "Can I", it's "May I"

Aside from when we talk to people who are sticklers for grammar, we can use "can" to mean "may" in English. For example: "Can I have that?"

However, in German "können" only means "to be able to". In order to get the "may" meaning, we have to use "dürfen".

Also, when we use either "können" or "dürfen" in German, we conjugate them and then use the dictionary form of the following verb.

Examples:

"Du darfst gehen." = "You may (are allowed to) go."

"Ich kann laufen." = "I can (am able to) run."

There's also one more thing that happens with "können" and "dürfen" in German that doesn't happen in English (this happens with other German helping verbs too!)

What happens is that the verb which comes after the helping verb always comes at the very end of the sentence in German (instead of immediately after the helping verb like in English).

Examples:

"Subasa darf in sein Haus gehen." = "Subasa may go into his house."

"Wir können Maschinen in dem LKW benutzen." = "We can use machines in the truck."

I Want to, too!

In German, "wollen" ("to want") can also be used as a helping verb like "können" and "dürfen".

Example:

"Willst du ein Team sein?" = "Do you want to be a team?"



The “B” that’s There to Please

“Bitte” is a multipurpose wonderful word that we can use in a lot of situations. It can mean “Please”, “You’re welcome”, “Here you are”, “May I help you?”, and if you didn’t quite catch what someone said, “Pardon?”.

We only use it as “Here you are” in chapters 1-3 of Crystal Hunters, but we love our “bitte”, so it’ll get more opportunities to shine in the chapters to come.

No Apostrophes for Thee!

Last quirk! And it’s easy! Possession is marked by “ ’s ” in English, but only as “ s ” in German.

Example:

“Daphnes Maschinen” = “Daphne’s machines.”

TUTORIAL COMPLETE!!

You are now ready to read Crystal Hunters! Have fun being bilingual enough to be able to read an over 100-page manga in German! This is an accomplishment, be proud of yourself!



Easy German Version: (ebook)

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08WR5X4LT>

Easy German Version: (free)

<https://www.pixiv.net/artworks/88026410>

And, if you want a natural version:

Natural German Version: (ebook)

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08WRC3H75>

Natural German Version: (free)

<https://www.pixiv.net/en/artworks/88026570>



Book 2 of Crystal Hunters is available now!

Book 2 Guide (free)

<https://crystalhuntersmanga.files.wordpress.com/2022/03/german-guide-4-5-v6.pdf>

Easy German (ebook)

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09BW181PP>

Natural German (ebook)

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09BVZ75TW>

Appendix

Here are the form charts of all the articles and possessive pronouns in Crystal Hunters for easy reference:

“der”

	Masculine	Feminine	Neutral	Plural
Subject	der	die	das	die
Object	den	die	das	die
Preposition	dem	der	dem	den

“dieser”

	Masculine	Feminine	Neutral	Plural
Subject	dieser	diese	dieses	diese
Object	diesen	diese	dieses	diese
Preposition	diesem	dieser	diesem	diesen

“ein”

	Masculine	Feminine	Neutral	Plural
Subject	ein	eine	ein	XXX
Object	einen	eine	ein	XXX
Preposition	einem	einer	einem	XXX

“mein”/“dein”/“sein”/“kein”

	Masculine	Feminine	Neutral	Plural
Subject	-ein	-eine	-ein	-eine
Object	-einen	-eine	-ein	-eine
Preposition	-einem	-einer	-einem	-einen

“ihr”

(same ending additions as the previous chart)

	Masculine	Feminine	Neutral	Plural
Subject	ihr	ihre	ihr	ihre
Object	ihren	ihre	ihr	ihre
Preposition	ihrem	ihrer	ihrem	ihren