


> German restaurant, food, drinks

- [Hear how to pronounce the names of different vegetables in German](#)
- [Hear how to pronounce the names of fruits in German](#)

Photo 'food dictionary' (no text or in German) just learn through pictures - [click the topics at the top IN ORDER](#) only after go to >  'Select language' to translate

Food matching [one](#), [two](#), [three](#), [four](#)

DESCRIPTIONS (Adjectives)

lecker = <i>delicious</i>	köstlich = <i>exquisite</i>	knusprig = <i>crunchy</i>	zart/butterweich = <i>soft, tender</i>
saftig = <i>juicy</i>	salzig = <i>salty</i>	brutal = <i>brutal, mean</i>	eklig = <i>gross / disgusting</i>
gut durchgebraten = <i>well done</i>			teuer = <i>expensive</i>

VERBS (click on verb [verb-conjugation] - for more detail - go to: [Translation](#))

schneiden = to cut	abschneiden = to cut off	braten = to fry
rühren = beat, mix	kochen = to cook /to boil	grillen = to grill or BBQ
hinzugeben = add (ingredients)	würzen = to season	schlagen = to whisk, to beat

In German-speaking countries, as in most of the rest of the world, there are three main **Mahlzeiten** (meals) of the day: **Frühstück** (*fruu-shtuuk*) [n] (breakfast), **Mittagessen** (*mî-tahgk-êsn*) [n] (lunch), and **Abendessen** (*ah-bnt-êsn*) [n] (dinner).

[German Culture - Food & Drink](#) English only

Mahlzeiten:

- das Frühstück**
- das Mittagessen**
- das Abendessen**

Im Restaurant:

- die Vorspeise**
- die Suppe**
- das Hauptgericht / die Hauptspeise**
- die Beilage**
- die Nachspeise (das Dessert/der Nachtisch)**
- Getränke (das Getränk)**

> [German Menu and Dining Guide](#)

Breakfast / das Frühstück

The following items may be offered **zum Frühstück** (*tsûm fruuH-shtuuck*) (for breakfast):

- **das Brot** (*dâs broht*) (bread)
- **das Brötchen** (*dâs bruoht-Hên*) (roll)
- **der Toast** (*dehr tohst*) (toast)
- **der Aufschnitt** (*dehr owf-shnît*) (cold meats and cheese)
- **die Butter** (*dee bû-têr*) (butter)

- **die Cerealien** (*dee tseh-rê-ah-lî-en*) (*cereal*) **das Cereal**
- **das Müsli** (*dâs muus-lee*) (*muesli*)
- **die Milch** (*dee mîlH*) (*milk*)
- **der Saft** (*dehr zâft*) (*juice*)
- **die Wurst** (*dee vûrst*) (*sausage*)
- **das Ei** (*dâs ay*) (*egg*)
- **das Spiegelei** (*dâs shpee-gêl-ay*) (*fried egg*)
- **die Rühreier** (*dee ruuhr-ay-êr*) (*scrambled eggs*)

In Germany, **Brötchen** are very popular for breakfast; however, you may also get all kinds of bread or croissants. It is still very common to eat cold cuts for breakfast, and if you order an egg without specifying that you want it scrambled or sunny side up, you will get it soft-boiled in an egg cup.

[Culinary Delights - Food in Germany](#) English only

Starters/Appetizers / Vorspeisen

For **Vorspeisen** (*fohr-shpy-zen*) (*appetizers*), you might see the following:

- **Gemischter Salat** (*ge-mîsh-ter zâ-laht*) (*mixed salad*)
- **Grüner Salat** (*gruu-ner zâ-laht*) (*green salad*)
- **Melone mit Schinken** (*mê-loh-ne mît shing-ken*) (*melon with ham*)
- **Meeresfrüchtesalat mit Toastecken** (*meh-res-fruuH-te-zâ-laht mît tohst-êkn*) (*seafood salad with toast halves*)

Soups / Suppen

You might see the following **Suppen** (*zû-pen*) (*soups*) on the menu:

- **Tomatensuppe** (*tô-mah-tn-zû-pe*) (*tomato soup*)
- **Bohnensuppe** (*boh-nen-zû-pe*) (*bean soup*)
- **Ochsenschwanzsuppe** (*ok-sên-shvânts-zûp-pe*) (*oxtail soup*)
- **Französische Zwiebelsuppe** (*frân-tsuo-zî-she tsvee-bêl-zû-pe*) (*French onion soup*)

Main dishes / Hauptgerichte (Hauptspeisen)

Hauptspeisen (*howpt-shpy-zen*) (*main dishes*) are as diverse as they are in any culture; here are some you might find on a German menu:

- **Kalbsleber mit Kartoffelpüree** (*kâlps-leh-ber mît kêr-tofl-puu-reh*) (*veal liver with mashed potatoes*)
- **Frischer Spargel mit Kalbsschnitzel oder Räucherschinken / Kochschinken** (*frî-she shpâr-gel mît kâlbs-shnî-tsel oh-der roy-Her-shîng-ken / kôH-shîng-ken*) (*fresh asparagus with veal cutlet or smoked ham / ham*)
- **Rindersteak mit Pommes Frites und gemischtem Gemüse** (*rîn-der-steak mît pôm frît ûnt ge-mîsh-tem ge-muu-ze*) (*beef steak with french fries and mixed vegetables*)
- **Lammkotelett nach Art des Hauses** (*lâm-kôt-lêt nahH ahrt dês how-zes*) (*homestyle lamb chop*)
- **Hühnerfrikassee mit Butterreis** (*huu-ner-frî-kâ-seh mît bû-ter-rys*) (*chicken fricassee with butter rice*)
- **Lachs an Safransoße mit Spinat und Salzkartoffeln** (*laks ân zâf-rahn-zoh-se mît shpî-naht ûnt zâlts-kâr-tofln*) (*salmon in safran sauce with salt potatoes*)
- **Fisch des Tages** (*fish dês tah-ges*) (*fish of the day*)

Side dishes / Beilagen

You can sometimes order **Beilagen** (*by-lah-gen*) (side dishes) separately from your main course:

- **Butterbohnen** (*bû-ter-boh-nen*) (butter beans)
- **Gurkensalat** (*gûr-ken-zâ-laht*) (cucumber salad)
- **Bratkartoffeln** (*braht-kâr-tôfln*) (fried potatoes)

Dessert / die Nachspeise (der Nachtisch)

German restaurants commonly offer many fine dishes **zum Nachtisch** (*ztuhm naH-tîsh*) (for dessert), including the following:

- **Frischer Obstsalat** (*frî-sheh ohbst-zâ-laht*) (fresh fruit salad)
- **Apfelstrudel** (*âpfl-shtroo-del*) (apple strudel)
- **Gemischtes Eis mit Sahne** (*ge-mîsh-tes ays mît zah-ne*) (mixed ice cream with whipped cream)
- **Rote Grütze mit Vanillesoße** (*roh-te gruu-tse mît vâ-nîle-zoh-se*) (red berry compote with vanilla sauce)

Drinks / Getränke

When it comes to ordering **Wasser** (*vâ-ser*) (water), you have the choice between the carbonated or non-carbonated one, which is **ein Wasser mit Kohlensäure** (*ayn vâ-ser mît koh-len-zoy-re*) (carbonated water) or **ein Wasser ohne Kohlensäure** (*ayn vâ-ser oh-ne koh-len-zoy-re*) (non-carbonated water). If you ask the waiter or waitress for **ein Mineralwasser** (*mînê-rahl-vâ-sêr*) (mineral water), you usually get carbonated water.

Wine is usually offered by the bottle — **die Flasche** (*dee flâ-she*) — or by the glass — **das Glas** (*dâs glahs*). Sometimes, you can also get a carafe of wine, which is **die Karaffe** (*dee kah-râ-fe*).

In the following list, you find a couple of common drinks, **Getränke** (*geh-traing-ke*), that you might see on a menu:

- **Bier** (*beer*) (beer)
 - **das Export** (*dâs export*) / **das Kölsch** (*dâs kuolsh*) (less bitter, lager beer)
 - **das Bier vom Fass** (*dâs beer fôm fâs*) (draft beer)
 - **das Pils / Pilsener** (*dâs pîls / pîlze-ner*) (bitter, lager beer)
 - **das Altbier** (*dâs âlt-beer*) (dark beer, similar to British ale)

 - **Wein** (*vyn*) (wine)
 - **der Weißwein** (*dehr vyss-vyn*) (white wine)
 - **der Rotwein** (*dehr roht-vyn*) (red wine)
 - **der Tafelwein** (*dehr tah-fl-vyn*) (table wine, lowest quality)

 - **der Kaffee** (*dehr kâ-fê*) (coffee)
 - **der Tee** (*dehr teh*) (tea)

 - **das Mineralwasser** (mit/ohne Kohlensäure) (*Mîn-eh-rahl-vahs-ser*) (mineral water)
[with/without = carbonated/ non-carbonated water]
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In the restaurant [Overview](#)

practise:

- how to order food in a restaurant
- how to pay for food in a restaurant
- how to count from 21 to 99 in German
- how to express prices in German
- a range of vocabulary for food and drink [Vocabulary: Food and Drink](#)
- about eating out in Germany
- about how the introduction of the Euro is proceeding in Germany

Verb: schmecken (to taste) + Adjektiv: sehr gut, gut, nicht so gut, gar nicht
very good, good, not so good, not at all

schmecken is used to describe taste – so it is only used in the third person singular: **es**

Es (= das Essen) schmeckt gut.

Adjektiv: lecker (yummy) – Das Essen ist lecker. / Es schmeckt lecker.

BBC Education has a special section on eating out in German restaurants. There is an aural interactive exercise with some useful vocabulary. Click on the link below to get started!

[Eating, drinking and socialising](#)
[Essential food and drink phrases](#)

Vocabulary:

[Food & Drink Phrases](#)

[Meat](#)

[Seafood](#)

[Fruit](#)

[Vegetables](#)

[Drinks](#)

[Snacks and Dishes](#)

[Choosing what you Want:](#)

[Restaurants and Cafes](#)

möchten (would like)		hätten (would like to get/have) + gern (like)	
ich möchte	wir möchten	ich hätte	wir hätten
du möchtest	ihr möchtet	du hättest	ihr hättet
er/sie/es/man möchte	sie möchten	er/sie/es/man hätte	sie hätten
<i>formal sing. +pl.same</i>	Sie möchten (polite)	<i>formal sing. +pl.same</i>	Sie hätten (polite)

If you go to a German restaurant, these expressions can come in very handy. Practice them first, so that you can relax and enjoy the dining experience.

English	German	Pronunciation
The menu, please.	Die Speisekarte bitte.	dee shpay-ze kâr-te bi-te.
I'd like....	Ich hätte gern....	iH hê-te gern....
I'd like....	Ich möchte gern....	iH merH-te gern....
Could you recommend something?	Könnten Sie etwas empfehlen?	kern-ten zee êt-vas êm-pfey-len?
Another (beer) please.	Noch (ein Bier) bitte.	noH [ayn beer] bi-te.
Excuse me.	Entschuldigen Sie bitte.	ênt-shool-dee-gen zee bi-te.
The bill, please.	Die Rechnung bitte.	dee rêH-noong bi-te.
A receipt, please.	Eine Quittung bitte.	ayn-e kvi-toong bi-te.
Enjoy your meal.	Guten Appetit.	gooh-ten âp-e-teet .

Placing your order – bestellen (to order)

As in English, you use a variety of common expressions to order your food. Luckily, they aren't too complicated, and you can use them both for ordering anything from food to drinks and for buying food at a store:

- **Ich hätte gern . . .** (I would like to have . . .)
- **Für mich bitte . . .** (For me . . . please)
- **Ich möchte gern . . .** (I would like to have . . .)

When ordering, you may decide to be adventurous and ask the waiter

Können Sie etwas empfehlen? (Can you recommend something?)

Be prepared for him or her to respond at a rapid-fire pace, naming dishes you may have never heard of before. To avoid any confusion with the waiter's response, try holding out your menu for the waiter to point at while responding.

Ordering something special

You may need the following phrases to order something a little out-of-the-ordinary:

- **Haben Sie vegetarische Gerichte?** (Do you have vegetarian dishes?)
- **Ich kann nichts essen, was . . . enthält** (I can't eat anything that contains . . .)
- **Haben Sie Gerichte für Diabetiker?** (Do you have dishes for diabetics?)
- **Haben Sie Kinderportionen?** (Do you have children's portions?)

Replying to "How did you like the food?"

After a meal, it's traditional for the waiter or waitress to ask if you liked the food:

Hat es Ihnen geschmeckt? (Did you like the food?)

Hopefully, you enjoyed your meal and feel compelled to answer that question with one of the following:

- **danke, gut** (thanks, good)
- **sehr gut** (very good)
- **ausgezeichnet** (excellent)

Getting the bill

At the end of your meal, your waiter may ask you the following as a way to bring your meal to a close and to find out if you are ready for the bill:

Sonst noch etwas? (Anything else?)

Unless you'd like to order something else, it's time to pay **die Rechnung** (the bill). You can ask for the bill in the following ways:

- **Ich möchte bezahlen.** (I would like to pay.)
- **Die Rechnung, bitte.** (The bill, please.)

You can pay together — **Alles zusammen, bitte.** (Everything together, please.) — or separately — **Wir möchten getrennt zahlen.** (We would like to pay separately.)

Eating out can be a lot of fun, especially if you know some basic restaurant vocabulary.

Speisekarte (shpy-ze-kâr-tê) (menu [f]) [Pl. Speisekarten]

Rechnung (rêH-nûng) (bill [f]) [Pl. Rechnungen]

Trinkgeld (trîngk-gêld) n (tip [n]) [Pl. Trinkgelder]

Quittung (kvî-tûngk) (receipt [f]) [Pl. Quittungen]

To order something, say **ich möchte ...** or **ich hätte gern ...** (I would like .../...to get...) and then add the food (**Essen**) you want. The following list might help.

Fleisch (meat) (**das Fleisch** /only singular or **Fleischsorten** [variety])

Schweinefleisch (pork)

Hähnchen/Huhn (chicken) (**das Hähnchen** Pl. no change /**das Huhn** Pl. die Hühner)

Fisch (fish) (**der Fisch/e**)

Eier (eggs) (**das Ei/er**)

Gemüse (vegetables) (**das Gemüse** Pl. no change or **Gemüsesorten** [variety])

Obst (fruit) (das Obst /only singular or **Obstsorten** [variety])

Nachtisch (dessert) (**der Nachtisch/e** or **die Nachspeise/n** or **das Dessert/s**)

Butter (butter) (**die Butter** / only singular)

Kuchen (cake) (der Kuchen Pl. no change or **Kuchensorten** [variety])

Suppe (soup) (**die Suppe/n**)

Brot (bread) (**das Brot/e**)

You might want to use the following adjectives to describe to your **der Kellner/die Kellnerin** (waiter/waitress) how you want the food prepared.

heiß (warm; hot) Das Essen ist nicht heiß. (The food isn't hot)

kalt (cold) Die Suppe ist kalt. (The soup is cold)

klein (small; short) Die Portion ist klein. (The serving/helping is small)

groß (big; large) Der Fisch ist groß. (The fish is big)

mild (mild) Das Gericht ist sehr mild. (The dish is very mild)

scharf (spicy; hot) Ich esse gern scharf. (I like to eat spicy food)

To tell someone you're thirsty in German, say **Ich habe Durst**. When you want to ask somebody whether he or she is thirsty, you say **Sie sind durstig** (Are you thirsty?). The following are some of the most common drinks you'll want to order in German.

Bier (beer) [n] (beer)

Wein (vyn) [m] (wine)

Kaffee (kâ-fê) [m] (coffee)

Mineralwasser (Mîn-eh-rahl-vahs-ser) [n] (mineral water)

Milch (mîlH) [f] (milk)

Wasser (vahs-ser) [n] (water)

Tee (the) [m] (tea)

The following phrases might help you when you're eating at a restaurant.

- **Ich habe einen Tisch reserviert.** (I've reserved a table.)
- **Ich möchte bitte etwas Wasser.** (I would like some water please.)
- **Haben Sie ein Tagesmenü?** (What is today's special?)
- **Ich hätte gern ein Glas Milch.** (I'd like a glass of milk.)
- **Zwei Spiegeleier mit Brot, bitte.** (Two fried eggs with bread, please.)
- ***Noch etwas Tee bitte.** (A little more tea, please.) - *noch - another
- **Bedienung!** (Waiter!)
- **Ich möchte eine Tasse Kaffee bitte.** (I'd like a cup of coffee, please.)



[Colours in German](#)

For the very adventurous and advanced food experts: [Who wants to be a millionaire?](#)