

From: german.about.com

Word Frequency (*Worthäufigkeit*) in German The Top 100 German Words

The Most Important German Words Ranked by Frequency of Use (1-100)

About This List

The words ranked here are taken from German newspapers, magazines and other online publications in German. A similar ranking for **spoken** German would be quite different. Although it is based on it, unlike the word frequency compilation from the **Universität Leipzig**, this edited Top 100 list of the most common German words **in print** eliminates duplicates (*dass/daß, der/Der*) and considers conjugated verb forms as a single verb (i.e., *ist* represents all forms of *sein*, "to be") to arrive at the **100 most common German words** you should know (for reading). However, most personal pronouns have their various forms listed separately. For example, the first-person singular forms *ich, mich, mir* are listed as separate words, each with its own rank. Alternative forms of other words (in parentheses) are listed in order of occurrence. The ranking below is based on the University of Leipzig compilation as of 8 Jan. 2001 (link below). See the [Introduction](#) to **The German Top 1000** for more information.

Top 100 German Words (1-50) Ranked by frequency of use German Reading Vocabulary		
Rank	Word	Comment/Link
1	der (den, dem, des)	"the" <i>m.</i> - definite article See Nouns and Gender
2	die (der, den)	"the" <i>f.</i> - definite article See Nouns and Gender
3	und	"and" - coordinating conjunction
4	in (im)	"in, into" (in the) See Two-Way Prepositions
5	von (vom)	"of, from" See Dative Prepositions
6	zu (zum, zur)	"to, at" See Dative Prepositions
7	das (dem, des)	"the" <i>n.</i> - definite article See Nouns and Gender
8	mit	"with" - See Dative Prepositions
9	sich	"himself, itself, yourself" See Reflexive Verbs
10	auf	See Two-Way Prepositions
11	für	See Accusative Prepositions

12	ist (sein, sind, war, sei, etc.)	"is" (to be, are, was, be, etc.) Verbs: sein
13	nicht	"not"
14	ein (eine, einen, einer, einem, eines)	"a, an" - <i>indefinite article</i> See Nouns and Gender
15	als	"as, than, when"
16	auch	"also, too"
17	es	"it"
18	an (am/ans)	"to, at, by" - See Two-Way Prepositions
19	werden (wurde, wird)	"become, get" Verbs: werden
20	aus	"from, out of" - See Dative Prepositions
21	er	"he, it" - <i>personal pronoun</i> See Personal Pronouns
22	hat (haben, hatte, habe)	Verbs: haben
23	dass / daß	"that" - See Double-s words and Subordinating conjunctions
24	sie	"she, it; they" - <i>personal pronoun</i> See Personal Pronouns
25	nach	"to, after" - See Dative Prepositions
26	bei	"at, by" - See Dative Prepositions
27	um	"around, at" See Accusative Prepositions
28	noch	"still, yet"
29	wie	"as, how"
30	über	"about, over, via" See Two-Way Prepositions
31	so	"so, such, thus"
32	Sie	"you" (<i>formal</i>) See Personal Pronouns
33	nur	"only"
34	oder	"or" - <i>coordinating conjunction</i>
35	aber	"but" - <i>coordinating conjunction</i>
36	vor (vorm, vors)	"before, in front of; of" See Two-Way Prepositions
37	bis	"by, until" See Accusative Prepositions

38	mehr	"more"
39	durch	"by, through" See Accusative Prepositions
40	man	"one, they" Personal Pronouns
41	Prozent (das)	"percent"
42	kann (können, konnte, etc.)	"be able, can" Modal Verbs: können
43	gegen	"against; around" See Accusative Prepositions
44	schon	"already"
45	wenn	"if, when" See Subordinating conjunctions
46	sein (seine, seinen, etc.)	"his" - <i>possessive pronoun</i>
47	Mark (Euro)	<i>Der Euro</i> was put into circulation in Jan. 2002, so "Mark" (<i>Deutsche Mark</i> , DM) is less frequent now. See: Der Euro kommt
48	ihre/ihr	"her, their" - <i>possessive pronoun</i>
49	dann	"then"
50	unter	"under, among" See Two-Way Prepositions
Also see the (unedited) Top 1000 German Words .		

A few observations about the Top 100 German Words:

- In this edited list of the Top 100 German Words, there are only **11 nouns** (in ranked order): *Prozent, Mark, Jahr/Jahren, Uhr, Millionen, Mensch/Menschen, Deutschland, Ende, Zeit, Stadt, Berlin*. These nouns reflect common news and business content in German-language periodicals.
- Since several **simple past tense** forms (Imperfekt, *war, wurde, sagte*) appear in the top 100, it might be better to introduce the past tense earlier in German instruction/learning. In German reading material, the simple past is used more than in conversation.
- **Zipf's Law** seems to hold true: There is an inverse relationship between the length of a word and its frequency. The most frequent words are monosyllabic. The longer the word, the less it's used, and vice versa.