

German Weak and Strong Verbs for Beginners

198 words - 2026-07-07

Word	Type	Meaning
machen → machte		to do, make
lernen → lernte		to learn
wohnen → wohnte		to live
fragen → fragte		to ask
arbeiten → arbeitete		to work
gehen – ging – gegangen		GAY-en / ging / guh-GAH-ngen
sehen – sah – gesehen		ZAY-en / zah / guh-ZAY-en
nehmen – nahm – genommen		NAY-men / nahm / guh-NOH-men
sprechen – sprach – gesprochen		SHPREKH-en / shprakh / guh-SHPROKH-en
kommen – kam – gekommen		KOM-en / kahm / guh-KOH-men
fahren – fuhr – gefahren		FAH-ren / foor / guh-FAH-ren
finden – fand – gefunden		FIN-den / fahnd / guh-FUN-den
geben – gab – gegeben		GAY-ben / gahb / guh-GAY-ben
helfen – half – geholfen		HEL-fen / half / guh-HOL-fen
essen – aß – gegessen		ES-en / ahss / guh-GES-en
denken – dachte – gedacht		DENK-en / DAHKH-te / guh-DAHKHT
bringen – brachte – gebracht		BRING-en / BRAHKH-te / guh-BRAHKHT
kennen – kannte – gekannt		KEN-en / KAN-te / guh-KANT
nennen – nannte – genannt		NEN-en / NAN-te / guh-NANT
rennen – rannte – gerannt		REN-en / RAN-te / guh-RANT
Question		Weak Verb
Does the stem vowel change?		No
Does the simple past use -te?		Usually yes
Does the past participle often end in -t or -en?		Often -t
Is it predictable?		Mostly yes
Verb		ich
machen		mache
gehen		gehe
sehen		sehe
nehmen		nehme
kommen		KOM-en
wissen		VISS-en
kennen		KEN-en
haben		HAH-ben
sein		SINE
sprechen		SHPREKH-en
lernen		LEHR-nen
fragen		FRAH-gen
Weak		stem + -te
Strong		often vowel change, no -te
Mixed		vowel change + regular ending

Word	Type	Meaning
Wrong		Better
Ich gehen nach Hause.		Ich gehe nach Hause.
Er machte seine Hausaufgaben.		Er machte seine Hausaufgaben.
Ich gehe gestern nach Hause.		Ich ging gestern nach Hause.
Ich kenne es.		Ich weiß es.
Er half mich.		Er half mir.
Ich sehe gestern den Film.		Ich sah gestern den Film.
Task		Prompt
1. Weak or strong?		lernen
2. Weak or strong?		gehen
3. Past form		machen → ?
4. Past form		sehen → ?
5. Past form		denken → ?
6. Present tense		Ich ____ Deutsch. (lernen)
7. Present tense		Er ____ schnell. (rennen)
8. Translation		I found the key.
9. Translation		She brought coffee.
10. Translation		We lived in Berlin.
Operation	Other	operation
Homepage	Other	home page
Paris	Other	Paris
ja wohl	Verb	yes
bullen	Verb	be on heat
Lee	Other	lee, leeward
gleichen	Verb	be like, resemble
Antike	Other	classical antiquity, ancient world
gespielt	Adjective	studied indifference
Stecker	Other	plug
schlachten	Verb	slaughter, kill, butcher
feind	Adjective	to remain an enemy of...
losfahren	Verb	depart, drive off, set off, leave
genannt	Other	named, called
worauf	Other	what are you still waiting for?
Mission	Other	mission
Grundstück	Other	property, real estate, realty
weihnachten	Verb	Christmas is coming
trauen	Verb	marry, wed
gebeten	Other	invited
einzahlen	Verb	pay in, deposit
verschlafen	Verb	sleep in, oversleep
überrascht	Adjective	surprised
veranstalten	Verb	organize -s-
entschieden	Other	decided, settled
Hintern	Other	bottom, behind, backside

Word	Type	Meaning
Enttäuschung	Other	disappointment
übel	Adjective	bad, nasty
Monster	Other	monster
Köchin	Other	female cook, chef
Volk	Other	people, nation
schamlos	Adjective	shameless, unashamed, unabashed
zelten	Verb	camp
übersetzt	Adjective	excessive
Güte	Other	kindness, goodness
gefangen	Other	caught
geschlagen	Other	defeated, beaten
FBI	Other	FBI
Friede	Other	peace
Größte	Other	tallest person
brät	Other	pork sausage meat
einigermaßen	Verb	somewhat, to some extent , in some degree
vierzehn	Other	fourteen
entspannend	Adjective	relaxing
konservativ	Adjective	conservative
verpacken	Verb	pack up, package
Kate	Other	cottage
Henry	Other	henry
Jesus	Other	Jesus
weißen	Verb	whitewash
schwamm	Other	sponge
flüchtig	Adjective	fleeing, in flight
verpasst	Adjective	lost, missed, wasted
worüber	Other	what ... about
Van	Other	MPV, people carrier
Pferd	Other	horse, equine
Verdienst	Other	earnings
Schmutz	Other	dirt
betragen	Verb	amount to, total, come to, work out at, run to
wegziehen	Verb	pull off
vorlegen	Verb	put across
üblich	Adjective	usual, customary, normal
jedoch	Conjunction	however, but, still, nevertheless, notwithstanding
Falle	Other	trap, pitfall, snare
Fang	Other	catch, haul, take
Lady	Other	lady
langfristig	Adjective	long-term
begleichen	Verb	settle, pay off, discharge, square, honor, honour, pay
voraussichtlich	Adjective	prospective, expected
zumal	Verb	particularly, especially, above all

Word	Type	Meaning
treten	Verb	kick
Wirt	Other	innkeeper, landlord, host
Fräulein	Other	young lady, girl, young woman
gewusst	Other	you've just got to know where to look
Helfe	Other	heddle
Steig	Other	narrow path
beschweren	Verb	weight down
schonen	Verb	take good care of, look after, treat
wöchentlich	Adjective	weekly
deren	Noun	whose, of which
einsperren	Verb	lock up
Ehepartner	Other	marriage partner, spouse
eurer	Noun	your
jüdisch	Adjective	Jewish
kariert	Adjective	checkered, chequered, checked
einschreiben	Verb	register
erstaunlich	Adjective	surprising, amazing, astonishing, astounding
verhaftet	Adjective	arrested, apprehended, under arrest
darunter	Verb	underneath (, underneath, below it
au	Other	ouch! ow!
Weißer	Other	white man
Monsieur	Other	Monsieur, M
Eröffnung	Other	inauguration
Vermittlung	Other	procurement, obtaining
erstatten	Verb	refund, repay, reimburse
ha	Other	ah!
nicken	Verb	nod
gebaut	Adjective	built
auslegen	Verb	lay out, spread out
Vermisste	Other	missing person
tritt	Other	footstep, footfall
begrenzt	Adjective	limited, restricted
Majestät	Other	majesty, grandeur
schmerzen	Verb	smart, sting
Schwarze	Other	priest, blackcoat, cassock, sky pilot
dessen	Noun	whose, of which
Drink	Other	drink
Drehbuch	Other	film script, screenplay
Portion	Other	portion, helping, serving
Mami	Other	mother, momma, mommy, mummy
Neuigkeit	Other	news, piece of news
gemeint	Adjective	serious
Sportplatz	Other	sports field, playing field
Schätzchen	Other	you're a fine one!

Word	Type	Meaning
irgendwer	Noun	anyone, anybody
drüber	Verb	let's forget it...
Schmerzmittel	Other	pain-killer, analgesic
erklärt	Adjective	declared, avowed, professed
absichtlich	Adjective	intentional, deliberate, willful, intended, wilful
Sergeant	Other	sergeant
unprofessionell	Adjective	unprofessional
Elektrische	Other	streetcar, tram-car
Major	Other	major
stumpf	Adjective	blunt, dull
demnach	Verb	thus, so, consequently, therefore
reichen	Verb	reach, pass, hand, give
Zitrone	Other	lemon tree
Kakao	Other	cocoa, chocolate milk, hot chocolate
größer	Other	I am a head taller than you...
verstoßen	Verb	to expel from...
vorläufig	Adjective	temporary, provisional, interim
roger	Other	roger!
Salon	Other	drawing room, parlor, parlour, salon
gnadenlos	Adjective	merciless, pitiless
nachfragen	Verb	inquire, enquire, ask
murmeln	Verb	murmur, mutter, mumble
Lord	Other	lord
erschießen	Verb	dead
irgendjemand	Noun	someone, somebody