Your notes

GCSE German: revision notes

Translation skills

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Translating into English

- Read the whole sentence first, then write it in natural English.
- The verb comes second and a past participle comes at the end, so read to the end of the clause: Ich habe gestern im Park Fußball gespielt = I played football in the park yesterday.
- After weil, dass, wenn and als, the verb is at the end: ..., weil er krank war = ... because he was ill.
- Watch the tense: ich bin gefahren = I went (not "I am gone"); ich fuhr = I went; ich werde fahren = I will go; ich würde fahren = I would go.
- Seit + present = have been doing: Ich wohne seit zehn Jahren hier = I have lived here for ten years.
- Gern means "like doing": Ich schwimme gern = I like swimming.

False friends

- **bekommen** = to get (to become is **werden**), das Handy = mobile phone, **also** = so (therefore), eventuell = possibly (eventually is schließlich), aktuell = current, sensibel = sensitive.
- **das Gift** = poison (a gift is **das Geschenk**), **der Chef** = boss, das Rezept = recipe or prescription, wer = who, wo = where, ich will = I want (not "I will").

Translating into German

- Keep the verb second: Am Wochenende spiele ich Fußball.
- Send the verb to the end after weil, dass and wenn: Ich bin glücklich, weil ich Zeit habe.
- Order extra details as time, manner, place: Ich fahre morgen mit dem Bus in die Stadt.
- Give nouns capital letters and the right gender: der Hund, die Katze, das Haus.

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- Use the right case: the accusative after es gibt and most verbs (Ich habe einen Bruder); the dative after mit, bei, von, zu, aus, nach and seit (mit meinem Bruder).
- Modal verbs and **werden** send the infinitive to the end: Ich muss meine Hausaufgaben machen.

Exam technique

- Translate every idea: each part carries a mark. Don't add or leave out detail.
- If you don't know a word, use a similar word you know rather than leaving a gap.
- Check capital letters on nouns, verb endings, and the position of the verb.
- Read your translation back to check that it makes sense.

Key terms

ein falscher Freund	a false friend: a word that looks like English but means something else
bekommen	to get (receive)
werden	to become (also used for the future)
also	so (therefore)
eventuell	possibly
aktuell	current
das Gift	poison
das Geschenk	present (gift)
der Chef	boss
wer	who
wo	where
ich will	I want

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. What does "Ich bekomme ein Geschenk" mean?
2. What does "also" mean in German?
3. What does "eventuell" mean?
4. What is "das Gift"?
5. What does "Ich will nach Hause gehen" mean?
6. What does "wer" mean?
7. What does "sensibel" mean?
8. How do you translate "Ich habe gestern im Park Fußball gespielt"?

Your notes

Answers

1. I get a present
2. so (therefore)
3. possibly
4. poison
5. I want to go home
6. who
7. sensitive
8. I played football in the park yesterday

What to do next

Practise 14 questions on this topic

Try 4 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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