

## APPENDIX I: Vocabulary Building

Much of language learning consists of memorizing new words. To facilitate this task one must learn to recognize certain features that make the recalling of words easier. There are three kinds of word categories: basic root words, compounds and derivatives.

### I. BASIC ROOT WORDS

The meanings of basic root words have to be learned. Remember, however, that many English words are of German origin. Therefore, one will find many German words that bear some relation to the English although these so-called cognates are not always precisely synonymous.

#### **Note:**

1. Cognates may be easily recognizable if we consider that certain laut changes (sound shifts) have taken place in the development of modern German which account for the following consonant relationship between German and English. Here are the principal patterns of change:

English - German    English - German Examples

<i>d</i> > <b>t(tt)</b>	<i>God</i> > <b>Gott</b> ; <i>deep</i> > <b>tief</b> ; <i>dream</i> > <b>Traum</b>
<i>t</i> > <b>z</b>	<i>to</i> > <b>zu</b> ; <i>ten</i> > <b>zehn</b> ; <i>salt</i> > <b>Salz</b>
<i>t</i> > <b>s, ss</b>	<i>water</i> > <b>Wasser</b> ; <i>great</i> > <b>groß</b> ; <i>lot (fate)</i> > <b>Los</b>
<i>th</i> > <b>d</b>	<i>the</i> > <b>der</b> ; <i>brother</i> > <b>Bruder</b> ; <i>earth</i> > <b>Erde</b>
<i>p</i> > <b>f, ff, pf</b>	<i>harp</i> > <b>Harfe</b> ; <i>deep</i> > <b>tief</b> ; <i>ship</i> > <b>Schiff</b> ; <i>open</i> > <b>offen</b>
<i>f, v</i> > <b>b</b>	<i>life</i> > <b>Leben</b> ; <i>live</i> > <b>leben</b>
<i>c, k</i> > <b>ch</b>	<i>monk</i> > <b>Mönch</b> ; <i>secure</i> > <b>sicher</b> ; <i>arc</i> > <b>Arche</b>
<i>(gh)t</i> > <b>cht</b>	<i>not</i> > <b>nicht</b> ; <i>right</i> > <b>recht</b> ; <i>light</i> > <b>Licht</b>
<i>c, c(h)</i> > <b>k</b>	<i>class</i> > <b>Klasse</b> ; <i>church</i> > <b>Kirche</b>
<i>y, i</i> > <b>g</b>	<i>way</i> > <b>Weg</b> ; <i>day</i> > <b>Tag</b>

#### **Translate:**

Ding, Schaf, Dieb, alt, Recht, öffnen, selten, offen, Bischof, Nacht, Wort, wach, Pfund, Macht, Pfeiler, Hund, Tod, Zunge, zwölf, hassen, dann, Hilfe, suchen, grüßen, hoffen, pflanzen, Woche, Joch, unter, Tür, tot, Buch, Mitte, tief, Mittag, Flut, Pfuhl; Hüfte, Apfel, Laut, machen, Seite, dan-

ken, Nord, Salz, Blut, beide, gut, lassen, halten, Brust, Busen, dick, drei, Tochter, brechen, Dorn, denken, Gedanke, Schlaf, besser, kalt, gleiten, Schatten, Leuchte, Kirche, Harfe.

2. Cognates may often be similar when compared with old English terms, e.g.:

**schmerzen** < *to smart* (to hurt)  
**Land** < *land* (country)  
**riechen** < *to reek* (to smell)  
**Hund** < *hound* (dog)

or they may have an additional meaning, e.g.:

**sagen** < *to say*, but also *to tell*  
**lernen** < *to learn*, but also *to study*  
**scheinen** < *to shine*, but also *to seem*, *to appear*  
**Seite** < *side*, but also *page* (of a book)  
**Feder** < *feather*, but also *pen*

**Note:** In these cases, either the context will convey the meaning or a dictionary will need to be consulted. Use your intuition!

3. There are also a number of false cognates which can not be recognized and, therefore, must be memorized, e.g.:

**bekommen** < *to receive* (*to become* = **werden**)  
**bilden** < *to form, educate* (*to build* = **bauen**)  
**Gift** < *poison* (*gift* = **Gabe**)  
**Kind** < *child* (*kind* = **Art, gütig**)

## II. COMPOUNDS

An extremely large number of compounds are found in the German language. They are almost always written as one word, resulting at times in long awkward-sounding constructions. Their given meaning is perfectly clear to those who know the basic meaning of the various elements such as adjectives, adverbs, nouns, numerals, prepositions and pronouns of which the compound is composed, and to those who are familiar with the system by which these elements are put together. Since many compounds are not found in a dictionary, one must learn how to identify these various word elements and how to derive meaning from their combined construction. Here again, use your imagination!

**Note:**

1. The basic element of a compound word is the base or stem word which usually gives the main meaning of a compound and determines its part of speech, e.g.:

**auf** (*on, up*) + **recht** (*right*) = **aufrecht** (*upright*)  
**stehen** (*to stand*) + **bleiben** (*to remain*) = **stehenbleiben**  
 (*to remain standing*)  
**bitten** (*to ask*) + **Gebet** (*prayer*) = **Bittgebet** (*petitionary prayer*)  
**wieder** (*again*) + **Täufer** (*baptize*) = **Wiedertäufer**  
 (*anabaptist - the one who is baptized again*)

as well as its grammatical forms:

**frei** (*free*) + **machen** (*to make*) = **freimachen** (*to make free, redeem*)  
**frei** (*free*) + **gemacht** (*past prt: made*) = **freigemacht**  
 (*made free, redeemed*)  
**frei** (*free*) + **machend** (*pr. prt: making*) = **freimachend**  
 (*making free*)

2. The last element of a noun compound also determines the gender, number, and case of the compound, e.g.:

**der Abend** (*evening*) + **das Gebet** (*prayer*) = **das Abendgebet**  
 (*evening prayer*)

**die Abendgebete** (*evening prayers*)  
**in den Abendgebeten** (*in the evening prayers*)

3. The meaning must be extricated from the translation of all elements of the compounds. Then a suitable English word or phrase must be found which renders this description most accurately. It often helps to mentally relate the individual facts expressed in this word by word translation to an historical and factual concept which may have a relationship to the context of the entire passage which may be called a figurative rendering. Many times, depending on the context, either a word by word translation or a figurative rendering may be acceptable, e.g.:

**Abend - mahl** (*literally: evening meal*) = *Lord's Supper*  
 (the supper or meal partaken by the Lord and His disciples in the upper room in the evening before His betrayal)

4. Modifying words may often not appear in the same grammatical form as would be expected in the English, e.g., a counterpart singular form may be found where a plural form might be used in the English or vice versa:

**Bischofs**(gen.)-konferenz (*Bishops' conference*)

**Herzens**(gen.)-lust (*to one's heart's content*)

**Kirchen**(pl.)-lied (*church song*)

**Ohren**(pl.)-beichte (*auricular confession*)

or a modifier may appear in a short form, generally by the dropping of a word ending, e.g.:

**Kirch**(en)-turm (*church tower*)

5. A connective **-(e)s-** or **-(e)n-** can be found frequently between modifying word(s) and the base or stem word:

**Liebe-s-gabe** (*gift of love, love offering*)

**Frau-en-kirche** (*Church of Our Lady*)

6. Important elements in the coining of new words are the various prefixes and suffixes that may be attached to a given basic word. See below!

### III. PREFIXES USED IN DERIVATION:

**ab-** may suggest either:

- a) a movement downwards as in:

**abfallen** - *to fall down; to fall off*

**ablegen** - *to lay down/aside*

**absteigen** - *to descend*

**abstürzen-** *to plunge down*

- b) a movement away from something or a kind of separation from something:

**abgeben** - *to give up, to give off*

**ableiten** - *to derive from*

**abschaffen** - *to do away with*

- c)** a movement that denotes a completion of an action which is expressed by the verb, similar to the English use of *off*:

**abkürzen** - *to shorten (off)*

**ablesen** - *to read (off)*

**abschließen** - *to cut off*

**an-** may suggest:

- a)** a motion toward or against something in a literal or figurative sense, with the English meaning of *of, at, on, or upon*:

**anrufen** - *to call upon*

**anvertrauen** - *to entrust to*

- b)** the beginning of an activity, e.g.:

**anfangen** - *to begin*

**anstimmen** - *to strike up*

**be-** may change a verb, noun, adjective or adverb into a transitive verb (a verb that takes a direct object):

**Mitleid** - *compassion*

**bemitleiden** - *to be compassionate*

**ja** - *yes*; **bejahen** - *to affirm*

**zeugen** - *to testify*; **bezeugen** - *to attest, declare*

**ent-** may suggest:

- a)** separation away from something, e.g.:

**fahren** - *to lead*

**entfahren** - *to lead away from*

**gehen** - *to go*; **entgehen** - *to escape (abduct)*

**ziehen** - *to pull, draw*  
**entziehen** - *to pull away from; to withdraw*

**b)** the opposite from what the stem indicates:

**hüllen** - *to cover, to veil*  
**enthüllen** - *to uncover, unveil*

**heilig** - *holy*  
**entheiligen** - *to profane, desecrate*

**c)** a change into a new condition or the beginning of a new action:

**schlafen** - *to sleep*  
**entschlafen** - *to die, go to rest*  
**stehen** - *to stand*  
**entstehen** - *to arise; to develop*

**flammen** - *to flame; entflammen* - *to enflame*

**rücken** - *to move*  
**entrücken** - *to move away, remove;*  
*to enrapture, entrance*

**er-** may suggest a process of completing an action:

**füllen** - *to fill; erfüllen* - *to fulfill*  
**klar** - *clear; erklären* - *to explain, make clear*  
**neu** - *new; erneuern* - *to make new*  
**retten** - *to save; erretten* - *to save, rescue*  
**reichen** - *to reach; erreichen* - *to attain, reach the goal*

**erz-** may suggest an intensification of the meaning expressed in the stem word. In the English translation, *very* or *arch(-)* may be either a positive or negative intensifier:

**Erzengel** - *archangel*  
**Erzbischof** - *archbishop*  
**Erzfeind** - *arch enemy*  
**erzfaul** - *very lazy*

**ge-** may suggest a successfully completed task as indicated through the past participle in many verbs

**machen** - *to make*

**gemacht** - *made*

**miß-** indicates the opposite of the meaning of the stem in the sense of being false or wrong corresponding to the English *mal-*, *mis-*, or *dis-*:

**trauen** - *to trust*

**mißtrauen** - *to distrust*

**verstehen** - *to understand*

**mißverstehen** - *to misunderstand*

**un-** indicates the negative meaning of the stem, corresponding to the English *un-*, *in-*, or *non-*:

**aufrichtig** - *sincere*

**unaufrichtig** - *insincere*

**Gläubiger** - *believer*

**Ungläubiger** - *nonbeliever*

**interessant** - *interesting*

**uninteressant** - *uninteresting*

**ur-** may suggest:

**a)** the origin of something, the original or primeval character:

**Sache** - *thing*; **Ursache** - *the cause* (the original thing)

**Schrift** - *text*; **Urschrift** - *original (text)*

**Zustand** - *condition*; **Urzustand** - *original condition*

**Mensch** - *man, being*; **Urmensch** - *primitive man*

**Kunde** - *news*; **Urkunde** - *document* (original source of the news)

**b)** intensification of the meaning expressed through the stem:

**kräftig** - *powerful*; **urkräftig** - *very, extremely powerful*  
**alt** - *old*; **uralt** - *very old*

**ver-** may suggest:

**a)** that the action of the verb has been improperly carried out:

**führen** - *to lead*  
**verführen** - *to seduce, lead astray*

**kennen** - *to know; to understand*  
**verkennen** - *to mistake; to misunderstand*

**sprechen** - *to speak*  
**versprechen** - *to make a mistake in speaking*

**b)** to change verbs into transitive verbs:

**künden** - *to announce*  
**verkünden** - *to announce, make known*

**c)** a completion of the action to its logical conclusion as indicated by the stem:

**brennen** - *to burn*  
**verbrennen** - *to burn up*

**hungern** - *to hunger*  
**verhungern** - *to starve, die of hunger*

**zer-** indicates destruction by means of what is expressed in the verb stem:

**beißen** - *to bite*; **zerbeißen** - *to bite to pieces*  
**fallen** - *to fall*; **zerfallen** - *to fall to pieces/apart*  
**treten** - *to step*; **zertreten** - *to trample to pieces*  
**stören** - *to disturb*; **zerstören** - *to destroy*



## IV. SUFFIXES USED IN DERIVATION:

Suffixes have essentially the same function in German as in English. They are added to the end of a noun, verb, adjective or adverb or to the stem to form a new word.

### I. Suffixes which are used to form nouns from verbs, adjectives or other nouns.

#### 1. Most important suffixes which form masculine nouns are:

**-er** forms nouns from verbs indicating occupations:

**hören** - *to hear*; **der Hörer** - *listener; hearer*  
**lehren** - *to teach*; **der Lehrer** - *teacher*

**Note:** the same **-er** suffix is used in English

**-ling** forms nouns which may:

a) have a diminutive or derogatory connotation:

**der Jüngling** - *young man; stripling*  
**der Dichterling** - *would-be poet, poetaster*  
**der Feigling** - *coward*

b) indicates a person characterized by the activity or condition expressed through the stem:

**der Liebling** - *favor, darling*  
**der Sträfling** - *prisoner*

#### 2. Suffixes which form neuter nouns are:

**-chen,-lein** form diminutives:

**der Teil** - *part, place*; **das Teilchen** - *small part*  
**die Magd** - *maid*; **das Mägdlein** - *little maiden/girl*  
**das Kind** - *child*; **das Kindlein/chen** - *little child*

3. Suffixes which form feminine nouns are:

**-ei** forms nouns from verbs and other nouns indicating a place of activity, occupation or business:

**der Abt** - abbot; **die Abtei** - abbey  
**das Buch** - book; **die Bücherei** - library  
**einsiedeln** - to settle in; **die Einsiedelei** - hermitage

**-heit, -keit** form nouns from adjectives, participles and other nouns

**Christ** - Christian; **die Christenheit** - Christianity  
**dankbar** - thankful; **die Dankbarkeit** - thankfulness  
**Gott** - God; **die Gottheit** - Godhead  
**menschlich** - human; humane; **die Menschlichkeit** - humanity, human quality

**Note:** **-keit** is used primarily after other suffixes such as **-bar, -ig, -sam** and **-er**.

**-in** forms nouns to indicate a female being. This suffix may be added to an already existing male counterpart suffix, **-er**:

**der Freund** - friend; **die Freundin** - (female) friend  
**der Hörer** - listener; **die Hörerin** - (female) listener

**-schaft** forms nouns which may suggest a condition or group:

**gemein** - common; **die Gemeinschaft** - brotherhood  
**Brüder** - brothers; **die Brüderschaft** - brotherhood  
**Freund** - friend; **die Freundschaft** - friendship

**-ung** forms nouns from verbs which often also have a prefix:

**beerdigen** - to bury; **die Beerdigung** - funeral  
**darreichen** - to offer, present

**die Darreichung** - offering; presentation (of)  
**hoffen** - to hope; **die Hoffnung** - hope

4. Suffixes which are used to form nouns of different gender:

**-e** forms nouns from adjectives and verbs:

**bitten** - *to ask*; **die Bitte** - *the request*  
**glauben** - *to believe*; **der Glaube** - *belief*  
**sprechen** - *to speak*; **die Sprache** - *speech, language*

**-nis** (pl. **-nisse**) forms nouns from adjectives, verbs or other nouns:

**binden** - *to bind*; **das Bündnis** - *agreement; alliance*

**-sal** forms nouns from verbs. They are generally neuter:

**schicken** - *to send*; **das Schicksal** - *fate*

**trüben** - *to trouble; to sadden*  
**die Trübsal** - *distress, grief, misery*

**-tum** generally forms neuter nouns which may indicate a group or territory:

**das Alter** - *age*; **das Altertum** - *antiquity*  
**Bürger** - *burgher*; **das Bürgertum** - *middle class*

or a condition:

**wachsen** - *grow*; **das Wachstum** - *growth*  
**reich** - *rich*; **der Reichtum** - *richness; riches*

II. There is only one important suffix (**-ieren**) which is used to form verbs from nouns which are mostly of foreign origin:

**-ieren**

**Amt** - *office*; **amtieren** - *to hold office; to officiate*  
**Diskussion** - *discussion*; **diskutieren** - *to discuss*  
**Musik** - *music*; **musizieren** - *to make music*

III. Most important suffixes which form adjectives from nouns, verbs and adverbs:

**Note:** These new words may also have a corresponding adjective ending attached to them except in a predicate construction.

Die Handschrift ist **lesbar**. - The handwriting is *readable*.

Die **lesbare** Handschrift . . . The *readable* handwriting . .

**-bar** forms adjectives which may indicate:

a) someone or something full of that which is suggested by the stem:

**der Dank** - *thanks*; **dankbar** - *thankful*

**die Furcht** - *fear*; **furchtbar** - *terrible*

b) the possibility of an action expressed in the stem as through the English suffixes -*able*, -*ible*:

**lesen** - *to read*; **lesbar** - *readable*

**heilen** - *to heal*; **heilbar** - *curable*

**sehen** - *to see*; **sichtbar** - *visible*

**-en, -ern** forms adjectives from nouns indicating material which is suggested by the stem:

**Gold** - *gold*; **golden** - *made of gold*

**Eisen** - *iron*; **eisern** - *iron, made of iron*

**-gemäß (or -mäßig)** forms adjectives from nouns indicating something in accordance with or like:

**das Gesetz** - *law*

**gesetzmäßig** - *legal (in accord. with the law)*

**die Regel** - *rule*

**regelmäßig** - *regular (in accordance with rules)*

**-haft** forms adjectives from nouns or other adjectives indicating the quality expressed in the stem:

**glauben** - *to believe*; **glaubhaft** - *believable*

**der Fehler** - *the mistake*; **fehlerhaft** - *full of error (mistakes)*

**zweifeln** - *to doubt*; **zweifelhaft** - *dubious*

**-ig** forms of adjectives from nouns, verbs or adverbs:

**die Freude** - *joy*; **freudig** - *joyous*

**glauben** - *believe*; **gläubig** - *believing*

**die Macht** - *might*; **mächtig** - *mighty*

**-isch** forms adjectives from nouns indicating a corresponding belonging in meaning to that which is indicated by the noun as expressed through the English suffixes *-ic*, *-cal*, *-ly*, *-ish*:

**Erde** - *earth; world*; **irdisch** - *earthly; worldly*

**Jude** - *Jew*; **jüdisch** - *jewish*

**Kult** - *cult*; **kultisch** - *cultic*

**Mythe** - *myth*; **mythisch** - *mythical*

**Theologie** - *theology*; **theologisch** - *theological*

**-lich** forms adjectives indicating:

**a)** time, e.g.:

**Ende** - *end*; **endlich** - *finally, at the end*

**Jahr** - *year*; **jährlich** - *annual*

**b)** resemblance or a characteristic of the basic adjective or noun meaning, e.g.:

**arm** - *poor*; **ärmlich** - *poorly*

**Friede** - *peace*; **friedlich** - *peaceful*

**Gefahr** - *danger*; **gefährlich** - *dangerous*

**Tod** - *death*; **tödlich** - *deadly*

**c)** possibility of the meaning expressed in the verb from which the adjective is derived, e.g.:

**kaufen** - *to buy*; **käuflich** - *purchasable*

**sterben** - *to die*; **sterblich** - *mortal*

**vermuten** - *to suppose*; **vermutlich** - *presumable*

**-los** forms adjectives which are similar in meaning to those in English which are expressed through the suffixes *-less, without*, e.g.:

**Gott** - *God*; **gottlos** - *godless*

**Grenzen** - *boundaries*; **grenzenlos** - *boundless, unlimited, limitless*

**zählen** - *to count*; **zahllos** - *countless*

#### IV. Suffixes used to form adverbs from nouns and adjectives:

**-ens** forms adverbs from superlative construction of an adjective:

**frühest** - *earliest*; **frühestens** - *at the earliest*

**meist** - *most*; **meistens** - *mostly*

**wenigst** - *at least*; **wenigstens** - *at least*

**-s** forms adverbs of time occurring repeatedly:

**Abend** - *evening*; **abends** - *evenings*

**Morgen** - *morning*; **morgens** - *mornings*

**Tag** - *day*; **tags** - *during the day (daily)*

**-weise** forms adverbs often expressed in English through the suffix *-ly*, or the expression *by the way of*, e.g.:

**Ausnahme** - *exception*; **ausnahmsweise** - *by way of exception*

**glücklich** - *lucky*; **glücklicherweise** - *luckily*

**normal** - *normal*; **normalerweise** - *normally*