

1.1

Greetings

Guten Tag



ACTIVITY 1 is on the recording.

ACTIVITY 2

When did these three conversations take place? Pick the correct time of day (morning, afternoon, or evening) for each conversation.

DIALOGUE 1

- Guten Tag, Frau Herbst.
- Ah, Herr Müller, guten Tag.
- Guten Abend, ich heie Herbst, Peter Herbst. Und wie heien Sie?
- Ich heie Mller, Johann Mller.
- Guten Morgen, ich heie Ingrid. Und wie heit du?
- Ich heie Karin.

VOCABULARY

guten Tag	hello [<i>literally</i> good day]
guten Abend	good evening
guten Morgen	good morning
Herr	Mr
Frau	Mrs
ich heie	I'm called
wie heien Sie?	what are you called?
Sie	you [<i>formal</i>]
und	and

✓ Capital letters

In German, all nouns are capitalized.

guten **Abend** good evening

guten **Morgen** good morning

✓ The letter ß

Note the use of the letter **ß** in the word **heißen**. This is an extra letter in the German alphabet, called **eszett**, or **scharfes s**. It sounds like 'ss'. You often find **ß** instead of **ss** after diphthongs (double vowels): **ei**, **au**, **ie**, **eu**.

✓ How to ask a question

In a statement, the subject ('I' / 'you' / 'he' / 'she', etc.) usually comes before the verb.

Ich heiße Müller. I'm called Müller.
subject verb

In a question the word order changes: the subject follows the verb.

Wie heißen Sie? What are you called?
verb subject

There is more on word order on pages 113 and 137.

✓ Formal and informal address

There are various ways of saying 'you' in German, depending on the level of formality.

Sie ('you') is used in formal situations. As a general rule, you should keep using this form until you are on first-name terms, which doesn't happen as readily as in Britain or the United States. It is often the case that people who have known each other for years still use the formal **Sie** form. Note that **Sie** is always written with a capital.

The informal **du** ('you') is used when you are talking to close friends or children. If you're not sure whether to use **Sie** or **du**, follow the lead of the German person you're talking to. Note that the verb endings for **Sie** and **du** are different: **Sie heißen**, but **du heißt**. For more on verb endings see page 5.



Now do activities 3 and 4 on the recording.