

A PRACTICAL PHRASEBOOK · GERMAN FOR WORK · BOOK 2

Warehouse German

The words you really need to work
in a warehouse in Germany

- About 200 words and phrases, with article and plural
- What the team leader says — and what to say back
- Forklift, safety shoes, accidents: the safety words
- Numbers and location codes, so you pick the right item
- Temp work, contract and payslip words explained

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German · English

PART 0

How to use this book

This is not a grammar book. It is the German you actually hear and need in a warehouse in Germany — on your first day, during a busy shift, and when you read your contract or payslip.

Every table has three columns. **German** is what you will hear or say. **English** is the meaning. **When / tip** tells you where it comes up, or a small trap to avoid. Nouns come with their article (der, die, das) and the plural after a slash, because in German you cannot guess them.

Best way to learn: pick one part per day. Read the words out loud three times. Then use two of them at work the same day. Ten words you use beat a hundred you only read.

THE DU / SIE RULE

In most warehouses colleagues say du to each other, also to the team leader. With people in the office, with the agency (Zeitarbeitsfirma), the doctor or the Jobcenter use Sie. If you are not sure, start with Sie. Nobody is angry when you are too polite.

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PART 1

First day — people and places

On day one nobody expects you to be fast. They expect you to work safely and to know who is who.

German	English	When / tip
der Lagerleiter / die Lagerleiter	warehouse manager	The boss of the warehouse. Female: die Lagerleiterin.
der Schichtleiter / die Schichtleiter	shift leader	Tell this person if you are late or sick.
der Teamleiter / die Teamleiter	team leader	Gives you your tasks and your scanner.
der Vorarbeiter / die Vorarbeiter	foreman	Older word, often the same job as Teamleiter.
der Lagerhelfer / die Lagerhelfer	warehouse helper	The most common first job title.
der Kommissionierer / die Kommissionierer	order picker	In job ads: Kommissionierer (m/w/d).
der Staplerfahrer / die Staplerfahrer	forklift driver	Needs a forklift licence (Staplerschein).
der Kollege / die Kollegen	colleague	Female: die Kollegin / die Kolleginnen.
das Lager / die Lager	warehouse	Also: die Halle (the hall).
der Wareneingang	goods in	Where trucks are unloaded.
der Warenausgang	goods out, shipping	Where finished orders leave.
das Tor / die Tore	loading gate	Tor 5 = gate 5. Trucks dock here.
der Gang / die Gänge	aisle	Gang 12 — you will hear this all day.
das Regal / die Regale	shelf, rack	
der Pausenraum / die Pausenräume	break room	Ask: Wann ist meine Pause?
die Umkleide / die Umkleiden	changing room	Your locker: der Spind.
die Stempeluhr / die Stempeluhren	time clock	Hast du gestempelt? = did you clock in?

FROM THE WAREHOUSE

On your first day write down three things: the name of your team leader, your gate or area, and where the first-aid kit (der Verbandskasten) is. Ask: Wo finde ich ...? (Where do I find ...?)

PART 2

Equipment and machines

Learn the name of every machine before you touch it. Many of them you may only use after training.

German	English	When / tip
der Gabelstapler / die Gabelstapler	forklift	Short: der Stapler. Only with training and written permission.
der Handhubwagen / die Handhubwagen	hand pallet truck	Often called die Ameise (the ant).
der Elektrohubwagen / die Elektrohubwagen	electric pallet truck	You need a briefing (Unterweisung) first.
der Schubmaststapler / die Schubmaststapler	reach truck	Short: der Schubmaster.
der Kommissionierwagen / die Kommissionierwagen	picking cart	
der Rollcontainer / die Rollcontainer	roll cage	Very common in supermarket logistics.
der Handscanner / die Handscanner	handheld scanner	Also: das MDE-Gerät. It is expensive — look after it.
das Förderband / die Förderbänder	conveyor belt	Never reach into a running belt.
der Not-Aus	emergency stop	The red button. Learn where it is.
das Cuttermesser / die Cuttermesser	box cutter	Always cut away from your body.
das Klebeband / die Klebebänder	packing tape	Also: das Packband.
die Stretchfolie	stretch film	For wrapping pallets.
die Waage / die Waagen	scales	
der Drucker / die Drucker	printer	For labels and delivery notes.
die Leiter / die Leitern	ladder	Only use the company's safe ladders.
der Akku / die Akkus	battery	Der Akku ist leer. = the battery is empty.
das Ladegerät / die Ladegeräte	charger	

SAY IT BEFORE YOU DRIVE

If someone tells you to take the forklift and you have no licence, say: Ich habe keinen Staplerschein. Driving without training is dangerous and not allowed. A good team leader will understand.

PART 11

25 sentences that save you

Learn these by heart. They cover almost every situation in your first weeks.

German	English
Guten Morgen, ich bin neu hier. Ich heiße ...	Good morning, I'm new here. My name is ...
Wer ist heute mein Teamleiter?	Who is my team leader today?
Wo bekomme ich einen Scanner?	Where do I get a scanner?
Wo ist mein Bereich?	Where is my area?
Kannst du mir das bitte zeigen?	Can you show me, please?
Noch einmal, bitte - langsam.	Once more, please — slowly.
Wie heißt das auf Deutsch?	What is this called in German?
Wo muss ich das hinstellen?	Where do I have to put this?
Ist das für heute oder für morgen?	Is this for today or tomorrow?
Der Artikel fehlt.	The item is missing.
Der Karton ist beschädigt.	The box is damaged.
Das ist zu schwer, hilfst du mir?	That's too heavy, will you help me?
Ich darf keinen Stapler fahren.	I'm not allowed to drive a forklift.
Ich brauche neue Handschuhe.	I need new gloves.
Wo ist der Verbandskasten?	Where is the first-aid kit?
Ich habe mich verletzt.	I've hurt myself.
Wann ist meine Pause?	When is my break?
Bis wann muss das fertig sein?	By when does this have to be done?
Ich bin fertig. Was soll ich jetzt machen?	I'm done. What should I do now?
Kann ich nächste Woche Frühschicht machen?	Can I do early shift next week?
Wie viele Überstunden habe ich?	How much overtime do I have?
Meine Stunden auf der Abrechnung stimmen nicht.	The hours on my payslip are wrong.
Ich bin krank, ich gehe zum Arzt.	I'm sick, I'm going to the doctor.
Danke für deine Hilfe!	Thanks for your help!
Schönen Feierabend!	Have a nice evening! (after work)

ONE LAST TIP

Keep this book or the PDF on your phone in the first weeks. Every evening, read one part again for five minutes. After a month most of these words will feel normal.