# Where does the verb go?

Build simple German statements and questions with one finite verb.

**YOUR GOAL** Keep the conjugated verb in position two, or first in a yes/no question.

## V2

In a simple statement, the finite verb is second. The first unit may contain several words.

**Ich lerne Deutsch.**

I'm learning German.

**Heute lerne ich Deutsch.**

Today I'm learning German.

**In Berlin wohne ich.**

I live in Berlin.

## V1 / V2

Yes/no question: verb first. With wo or was: question word, verb, subject.

**Lernst du Deutsch?**

Are you learning German?

**Wohnst du in Berlin?**

Do you live in Berlin?

**Wo wohnst du?**

Where do you live?

## Three useful patterns

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Subject first** | Ich lerne Deutsch. | I'm learning German. |
| **Time first** | Heute lerne ich. | Today I study. |
| **Yes/no question** | Lernst du Deutsch? | Are you learning German? |

The verb changes with the subject: ich lerne, du lernst; ich wohne, du wohnst. This guide covers simple main clauses only.

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# Make it a conversation.

Read the meaning, choose a form, then check why it fits.

### Second unit, not second word

**Morgen früh lerne ich Deutsch.**
Tomorrow morning I'm learning German.

**In Berlin wohne ich.**
I live in Berlin.

Morgen früh and in Berlin each fill one position. The subject follows the verb here.

### Two question patterns

**Lernst du Deutsch?**
Are you learning German?

**Was lernst du?**
What are you learning?

Use verb-first order for yes/no. Keep the verb second after was or wo.

## Your turn

Fill the gaps with ich, lerne, wohne, Lernst, wohnst, or lernst. Use the meaning and word order.

**01** Ich _____ Deutsch.
I'm learning German.

**02** Heute lerne _____.
Today I study.

**03** In Berlin _____ ich.
I live in Berlin.

**04** _____ du Deutsch?
Are you learning German?

**05** Wo _____ du?
Where do you live?

**06** Am Montag lerne _____.
On Monday I study.

**07** Morgen _____ ich.
Tomorrow I study.

**08** Was _____ du?
What are you learning?

## Check your answers

1. lerne  Finite verb in position two: ich + lerne.

2. ich  Finite verb in position two: heute | lerne | ich.

3. wohne  Finite verb in position two: in Berlin | wohne | ich.

4. Lernst  Yes/no question: verb first: lernst | du.

5. wohnst  Finite verb in position two: wo | wohnst | du.

6. ich  Finite verb in position two: am Montag | lerne | ich.

7. lerne  Finite verb in position two: morgen | lerne | ich.

8. lernst  Finite verb in position two: was | lernst | du.

**MAKE IT YOURS** Say what you study. Start again with heute, then ask a yes/no question about studying.

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